TROUBLE SHOOTING GUIDE
MAGNETIC TRIGGERED DISTRIBUTORS

This Trouble Shooting Guide is designed for use with magnetic trigger equipped distributors that are also equipped with a module, such as Mallory 42, 50, 57, 75, 80 and 87 Series distributors along with ACCEL 52, 60 and 71 Series.

ALWAYS BEGIN BY CHECKING ALL OF THE BASICS:

• Check all applicable wiring, both power and ground for broken or loose wiring.

• Check the general condition of the distributor cap, rotor and coil. Visually check for carbon tracking, cracks, or signs of arcing on the distributor cap, rotor and coil. Include a check of the terminals for the spark plug and coil wires.

• Check the spark plug wires by using an Ohm meter to measure the resistance per foot based on the wire manufacturer's specifications. At the same time, look for burned or discolored areas on the wires or boots which could indicate they have been arcing to ground.

• Check the condition of the charging system and the battery. Low voltage during cranking can cause the module to fail to trigger.

• To check the module and pickup assembly, you will need a screwdriver and a low voltage, 5-50 volt bulb type AC/DC tester which are available from most home improvement or auto parts store for a couple of dollars.

TO CHECK:

1. Begin the test by removing the distributor cap and rotor to allow easy access to the magnetic pickup. Carefully move it out of the way to allow plenty of working room for the next phase of the test.

2. Check the air gap between the reluctor and the magnetic pickup. Adjust if necessary to the manufacturer's specification for your exact model of distributor. Too wide of an air gap will cause a lack of trigger signal, especially at cranking.

3. Connect the red (positive “+” ) lead from your low voltage tester to the coil negative terminal. Connect the black (negative “-”) lead to a good, clean engine ground.

4. Once the air gap has been verified, turn the ignition switch to the “On” position. Do not try to start the engine. On Mallory 42, 50, 57, and 87 Series Distributors, the light should be off at this time. On Mallory 75 and 80 Series and ACCEL 52, 60 and 71 Series, the light should be on.
5. Keeping your hands away from the coil leads, tap the blade of your screwdriver to the metal strip of the magnetic pickup assembly where you measured the air gap. Each time you tap the blade to the metal strip, the light on your tester should flicker. If the light flickers off or on, your magnetic pickup and module are functioning correctly.

6. On distributors with the pickup separate from the module assembly, you can check the pickup using your Ohm meter. Connect the leads from your Ohm meter to the 2 leads of the pickup. If you show a resistance of 50 to 200 Ohms, the pickup is functioning correctly. If the Ohm meter shows an open circuit, the pickup should be replaced. Once replaced, perform the module and pickup assembly test procedure again as shown above.