

Accessory Drive Tensioner

by Al Steadman, Litens

It appears that the worldwide electrical rebuilding industry still has not learned that cutting corners may have serious consequences and end up costing the owner more in the long run. VW Europe has just recently issued a technical service bulletin (see below) regarding the substitution of solid alternator pulleys for one-way clutch pulleys. The swapping in of the cheaper solid pulley in a belt drive system that has been designed with a one-way clutch pulley or Litens OAD may cause the tensioner to break apart.

The tensioner failing is directly related to the increased vibration levels within the belt drive system once the solid pulley is installed. Bottom line is, you should always check the Lester Kwikfinder (www.kwikfinder.net) or your local dealership to see if the alternator you are rebuilding requires a one-way clutch or a Litens OAD. Use only what the manufacturer has designed for the system.

VW Europe TSB: Accessory Drive Tensioner Ineffective, Broken

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