



ALTERNATOR DIODE DIAGNOSIS TIPS

Applies to ALL Alternators

COMMON RETURN FOR ALTERNATORS

The Problem:

Single diode malfunction - either the diode is at fault, or the soldering of the diode has failed.

Multiple diode malfunction - indication of a voltage spike or a short circuit. A high level of alternator returns show signs of more than one blown diode.

Potential Causes:

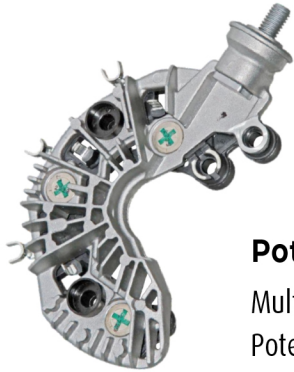
Multiple blown diodes on the rectifier can be confirmation that an external event has short circuited the diodes. Potential causes of this issue can include but are not limited to:

- Jump starting the vehicle using a portable power which can pack result in voltage spikes at the alternator
- Incorrect installation of the alternator wiring
- Reverse installation of the battery wires
- Welding repairs being carried out on the vehicle while the battery is left connected

Conclusion:

Alternators found to have all the diodes blown or faulty will not be the result of a manufacturing defect or defective diodes.

- Always disconnect the ground cable from the battery, not the positive cable, when performing repairs on any electrical components or when welding
- Battery power packs and jump starting from another vehicle can cause damaging voltage spikes
- Ensure the battery is fully charged when the new alternator is fitted



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