## Automotive Technology 6th Edition

### Chapter 71 Ignition System Components & Operation

### Opening Your Class

<table>
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<th>KEY ELEMENT</th>
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<td>Introduce Content</td>
<td>This Automotive Technology 6th text provides complete coverage of automotive components, operation, design, and troubleshooting. It correlates material to task lists specified by ASE and ASEEducation (NATEF) and emphasizes a problem-solving approach. Chapter features include Tech Tips, Frequently Asked Questions, Case Studies, Videos, Animations, and ASEEducation (NATEF) Task Sheets.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motivate Learners</td>
<td>Explain how the knowledge of how something works translates into the ability to use that knowledge to figure why the engine does not work correctly and how this saves diagnosis time, which translates into more money.</td>
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| State the learning objectives for the chapter or course you are about to cover and explain this is what they should be able to do as a result of attending this session or class. | Explain learning objectives to students as listed below:  
1. Explain how the ignition system and ignition coils work.  
2. Discuss crankshaft position sensor and pickup coil operation.  
3. Describe the operation of distributor ignition.  
4. Describe the operation of waste-spark and coil-on-plug ignition systems.  
5. Discuss knock sensors and ignition control circuits. |
| Establish the Mood or Climate | Provide a WELCOME, Avoid put downs and bad jokes. |
| Complete Essentials | Restrooms, breaks, registration, tests, etc. |
| Clarify and Establish Knowledge Base | Do a round robin of the class by going around the room and having each student give their backgrounds, years of experience, family, hobbies, career goals, or anything they want to share. |

**NOTE:** Lesson plan is based on 6th Edition Chapter Images found on Jim’s web site @ [www.jameshalderman.com](http://www.jameshalderman.com)  
**DOWNLOAD Chapter 71 Chapter Images: From** [http://www.jameshalderman.com/automotive_principles.html](http://www.jameshalderman.com/automotive_principles.html)  
**NOTE:** You can use Chapter Images or possibly Power Point files:
1. SLIDE 1 CH69 IGNITION SYSTEM COMPONENTS & OPERATION

2. SLIDE 2 EXPLAIN Figure 71-1 point-type distributor from a hot rod being tested on a distributor machine.

**Check for ADDITIONAL VIDEOS & ANIMATIONS @ http://www.jameshalderman.com/**

WEB SITE IS CONSTANTLY UPDATED
http://www.jameshalderman.com/automotive_principles.html

DOWNLOAD
Crossword Puzzle (Microsoft Word) (PDF)
Word Search Puzzle (Microsoft Word) (PDF)

**Videos**

**DEMONSTRATION:** Show a point-type distributor. Review its major components & SHOW HOW TO SET AIR GAP. Show major components of a distributor ignition system.

**HANDS-ON TASK:** Pass around the point-type distributor & have students SET AIR GAP

3. SLIDE 3 EXPLAIN Figure 71-2 primary ignition system is used to trigger and therefore create the secondary (high-voltage) spark from ignition coil. Some ignition coils are electrically connected, called married (top figure) whereas others use separated primary and secondary windings, called divorced (lower figure)

**DISCUSSION:** Have the students talk about the primary & secondary ignition circuits. How do the 2 circuits function independently and how do they interact? **FIGURE 71-2**

4. SLIDE 4 EXPLAIN Figure 71-3 steel laminations used in an E coil helps increase the magnetic field strength, which helps the coil produce higher energy output for a more complete combustion in the cylinders.

5. SLIDE 5 EXPLAIN Figure 71-4 primary windings are inside secondary windings on this General Motors coil.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICONS</th>
<th>Ch71 Ignition System Operation</th>
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<tr>
<td>![Question]</td>
<td>6. <strong>SLIDE 6 EXPLAIN</strong> FIGURE 71–5 primary ignition system is used to trigger and, therefore, create the secondary (high-voltage) spark from ignition coil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>![Question]</td>
<td><strong>DISCUSSION:</strong> Have the students talk about <strong>ignition coil operation</strong>. What process does an ignition use to produce a high-voltage spark from an ignition coil?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>![Question]</td>
<td><strong>DISCUSSION:</strong> Have the students discuss the construction of an ignition coil. What is at the core of an ignition coil? What is the purpose of core?</td>
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| ![Hands-on Task] | **FIGURES 71-3, 4, & 5**
**HANDS-ON TASK:** Have students **disassemble old coils**. Have them identify internal components and point out electrical connections. **OPTION:** students draw or describe the primary and secondary circuits. **Refer to Figures 71–3, 71–4, and 71–5 as needed.** |
| ![Demonstration] | **DEMONSTRATION:** Review with students how to use a **hand-held oscilloscope (GMM)**, including setup and interpreting waveform patterns. Then show them how to check pickup on an electronic ignition system using **oscilloscope: DEMO DSO**
**DSO** uses advanced OBD II diagnostic capabilities including Domestic & Asian Import Vehicle Communication Software, plus Fast-Track Troubleshooter. Integrates experience-based information with scan tool instrumentation. **4-channel lab scope with multiple secondary ignition capabilities & GMM built into a common architecture with expandable ports.**
**DISCUSSION:** Using an ignition system wiring diagram, have the students **locate triggering device**. How does this triggering device work? |
| ![Question] | 55. **SLIDE 55 EXPLAIN** FIGURE 71–6 Hall-effect sensor produces a digital on-off voltage signal whether it is used with a blade or a notched wheel. |
| ![Demo] | **DEMONSTRATION:** Using **oscilloscope** show **waveform pattern** of a pulse generator. Compare pattern with **Figure 71–6** |
DISCUSS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION: How Does the Computer Control the Ignition?
The PCM plays a key role in final functioning of ignition circuits. PCM receives signals from all of the engine sensors and, based on this information, uses an algorithm (computer program) to determine best time to fire spark plugs. For example, the sensors and how they could affect when spark occurs include:

- **Engine Coolant Temperature (ECT)**—The colder the engine, more spark advance may be needed to achieve the highest possible engine output torque with lowest exhaust emissions.
- **Throttle Position (TP) sensor**—PCM uses TP sensor information to not only determine where the accelerator position is located, but also at what rate it is changing. If the accelerator pedal is rapidly being depressed, then spark timing may be delayed (retarded slightly) to help prevent spark knock.
- **Manifold Absolute Pressure (MAP) sensor**—MAP sensor is used to detect engine load. During a heavy load, less spark advance is needed to help prevent spark knock, whereas more spark advance is needed under light load conditions for the engine to achieve maximum fuel economy and the lowest possible exhaust emissions.

8. **SLIDE 8 EXPLAIN FIGURE 71–7** Some Hall-effect sensors look like magnetic sensors. This Hall-effect camshaft reference sensor and crankshaft position sensor have an electronic circuit built in that creates a 0- to 5-volt signal, as shown at the bottom. These Hall-effect sensors have three wires: a power supply (8 volts) from the computer (controller); a signal (0 to 5 volts); and a signal ground.

9. **SLIDE 9 EXPLAIN FIGURE 71–8** A magnetic sensor uses a permanent magnet surrounded by a coil of wire. The notches of the crankshaft (or camshaft) create a variable magnetic field strength around the coil. When a
metallic section is close to the sensor, the magnetic field is stronger because metal is a better conductor of magnetic lines of force than air.

10. SLIDE 10 EXPLAIN FIGURE 71–9 A typical magnetic crankshaft position sensor.

**DEMONSTRATION:** Using an **DSO** show waveform patterns of magnetic sensor & Hall-effect sensor. Compare these scope patterns with **FIGURES 71–7 and 71–8**

**DISCUSSION:** discuss **Hall Effect**. How is Hall-effect switch different from magnetic pulse generator? **FIGURES 71-7 & 8**

11. SLIDE 11 EXPLAIN FIGURE 71–10 (a) A cutaway of a Ford distributor showing Hall-effect shutter blade that is used to trigger the ignition control module and the rotor. (b) A rotor from a GM HEI system.

**HANDS-ON TASK:** Have students remove a distributor from a vehicle with **Optical Sensor**, first review OEM SVC INFO. Have them identify distributor components & test crank angle sensor. Have them disassemble distributor, removing shaft and noting bushing/bearing & seal areas:

**DEMONSTRATION:** Show how to inspect a **torque converter drive plate**. Highlight importance of a thorough inspection to avoid a driveability condition.

**DEMONSTRATION:** Show how to replace **Crankshaft (CKP)/camshaft position sensors (CMP)** & make adjustments using a gauging tool. Show how to monitor crankshaft/camshaft position sensors using scan tool

**DEMONSTRATION:** Review importance of **camshaft & crankshaft timing**. Use opened timing cover to emphasize timing markings and what is happening to piston & and valve positions

13. SLIDE 13 EXPLAIN FIGURE 71–11 firing order is cast or stamped on the intake manifold on most engines that have a distributor ignition.
14. SLIDE 14 EXPLAIN FIGURE 71–12 typical General Motors HEI coil installed in distributor cap. When the coil or distributor cap is replaced, check that ground clip is transferred from the old distributor cap to the new. Without proper grounding, coil damage is likely. There are two designs of HEI coils. One uses red and white wire as shown, and the other design, which has reversed polarity, uses red and yellow wire for the coil primary.

HANDS-ON TASK: Have students identify Proper Firing Order for a selected vehicle in the shop. Then have them verify the spark plug wire routing. Grade them on their understanding of where to find the firing order and location of the spark plug wires.

15. SLIDE 15 EXPLAIN FIGURE 71–13 This distributor ignition system uses a remotely mounted ignition coil.

DEMONSTRATION: DEMO WASTE-SPARK IGNITION SYSTEM OPERATION


17. SLIDE 17 EXPLAIN FIGURE 71–15 Chrysler electronic ignition distributor. This unit is equipped with a vacuum advance mechanism that advances ignition timing under light engine load conditions.

Hall Effect Sensor (View) (Download)
Waste Spark Ignition System 1 (View) (Download)
Waste Spark Ignition System 2 (View) (Download)
Cylinder Deactivation System (View)

DISCUSSION: Have the students talk about WASTE-SPARK IGNITION SYSTEMS. Review reverse polarity that is occurring in a DIS. What is the path of the current?

HANDS-ON TASK: OPTIONAL DIS Trainer
DISCUSSION: Have the students review the purpose of a crankshaft sensor (CKP). Why is there adjustment on some engines?

DEMONSTRATION: Using ignition oscilloscope, show students typical connecting procedure for obtaining ignition patterns.

DEMONSTRATION: Show LAB vehicle with an ignition module under coil pack. Remove ignition module & DEMO testing pin locations.

You should not check for spark by pulling plug wire on running engine. In addition to risking personal injury, you could damage or shorten electronic ignition components life. Method of checking for cylinder firing was used on older systems.

18. SLIDE 18 EXPLAIN FIGURE 71–16 waste-spark system fires one cylinder while its piston is on compression stroke and into paired or companion cylinders while it is on exhaust stroke. In a typical engine, it requires only about 2 to 3 kV to fire cylinder on the exhaust strokes. Remaining coil energy is available to fire spark plug under compression (typically about 8 to 12 kV).

19. SLIDE 19 EXPLAIN FIGURE 71–17 left-hand rule states that if a coil is grasped with the left hand, the fingers point in the direction of current flow and thumb points toward the north pole.

EXPLAIN TECH TIP: Odds Fire Straight

Waste-spark ignition systems fire two spark plugs at same time. Most vehicle manufacturers use a waste spark system that fires the odd-numbered cylinders (1, 3, and 5) by straight polarity (current flow from the top of spark plug through gap and to the ground electrode). Even-numbered cylinders (2, 4, and 6) are fired reverse polarity, meaning that the spark jumps from the side electrode to center electrode. Some OEMS equip their vehicles with platinum plugs with expensive platinum alloy only on one electrode as follows:
### Ch71 Ignition System Operation

- On odd-numbered cylinders (1, 3, 5), the platinum is on the center electrode.
- On even-numbered cylinders (2, 4, 6), the platinum is on ground electrode.

Replacement spark plugs use platinum on both electrodes (double platinum) and can, therefore, be placed in any cylinder location.

**Coil-On-Plug Ignition System (View)**
**Cylinder Deactivation System (View)**

**DISCUSSION:** Have students study and discuss Figure 71–18. What does the coil-on-plug (COP) ignition system eliminate?

**WARNING:** Never Disconnect a Spark Plug Wire When Engine Is Running! Ignition systems produce a high-voltage pulse necessary to ignite a lean air–fuel mixture. If you disconnect a spark plug wire when engine is running, this high-voltage spark could cause personal injury or damage to the ignition coil and/or ignition module.

20. **SLIDE 20** **EXPLAIN** **FIGURE 71–18** typical two-wire coil-on-plug ignition system showing the triggering and switching being performed by PCM from input from the crankshaft position sensor.

21. **SLIDE 21** **EXPLAIN** **FIGURE 71–19** An overhead camshaft engine equipped with variable valve timing on both the intake and exhaust camshafts and coil-on-plug ignition.

22. **SLIDE 22** **EXPLAIN** **FIGURE 71-20** Chrysler Hemi V-8 that has two spark plugs per cylinder. The coil on top of one spark plug fires that plug and, through a spark plug wire, fires a plug in the companion cylinder.

**DEMONSTRATION:** Show the students COP ignition systems with 2 & 3 primary wires and explain the differences.
23. SLIDE 23 EXPLAIN FIGURE 71–21 slight (5 microsecond) difference in the firing of companion cylinders is enough time to allow PCM to determine which cylinder is firing on compression stroke. The compression sensing ignition (CSI) signal is then processed by PCM, which then determines which cylinder is on compression stroke.

HANDS-ON TASK: Have students draw wiring diagrams of 2 & 3 wire COP primary ignition systems. Grade them on accuracy

DISCUSSION: study FIGURE 71–21 discuss ion-sensing ignition systems. What is the purpose of measuring electricity conducted by the ionized combustion flame?

24. SLIDE 24 EXPLAIN FIGURE 71–22 Typical wiring diagram of a V-6 distributorless (direct fire) ignition system.

DISCUSSION: Discuss bypass ignition control. What controls timing?

DISCUSSION: discuss up-integrated ignition control. What is difference between a bypass ignition control circuit and Upintegrated Ignition?

HANDS-ON TASK: Have the students test knock sensors on shop vehicles using DSO OR GMM & SCAN TOOL). Have them draw waveforms they detect to start building a library of known-good knock sensor waveforms.

25. SLIDE 25 EXPLAIN FIGURE 71–23 DC voltage is applied across the spark plug gap after plug fires and circuit can determine the correct air–fuel ratio was present in the cylinder and if knock occurred.

26. SLIDE 26 EXPLAIN FIGURE 71–24 initial timing is where spark plug fires at idle speed. Computer then advances timing based on engine speed and other factors.

27. SLIDE 27 EXPLAIN FIGURE 71–25 Ignition timing marks are found on the harmonic balancers that are equipped with distributor ignition.
**DEMONSTRATION:** Show location of knock sensor and demonstrate testing procedure. Discuss knock sensor’s purpose. **FIGURE 71–26**

**USE LAB VEHICLE OR TRAINER**

28. SLIDE 28 **EXPLAIN** **FIGURE 71–26** knock sensor that is used by the powertrain control module (PCM) to detect engine detonation.

**DISCUSSION:** Have the students talk about what happens with some engine computers when they detect *knock sensor signals* at idle speed. Why should *knock sensors* be checked at off idle in order to isolate a true engine knock condition?

29. SLIDE 29 **EXPLAIN** **FIGURE 71–27** A typical waveform from a knock sensor during a spark knock event. This signal is sent to the computer, which in turn retards the ignition timing. This timing retard is accomplished by an output command from the computer to either a spark advance control unit or directly to the ignition module.

30. SLIDE 30 **EXPLAIN** **FIGURE 71–28** Parts of a typical spark plug.

31. SLIDE 31 **EXPLAIN** **FIGURE 71–29** The heat range of a spark plug is determined by the distance the heat has to flow from the tip to the cylinder head.

**ON-VEHICLE ASE EDUCATION TASK** Research applicable vehicle and service information, such as **Ignition System Identification (P-1)**