



# NAPA Tech TIPS

SUPPORTING TODAY'S PROFESSIONAL TECHNICIAN

## Wrong Pedal Rod or Brake Light Switch Adjustment Problem?

**Application:** All vehicles with firewall-mounted brake boosters.

**Problem:** Brake light stays on, as if the pedal rod is too short on the replacement unit.

**Cause:** Possible misadjusted brake pedal rod, misadjusted brake light switch, or the wrong unit.

**Solution:** First, verify the application and the unit ordered. Next, verify the unit received is correct. Finally, inspect the switch and pedal rod and adjust if possible

### Verifying the application and unit:

Check the vehicle information using the VIN and registration if available. Look for a pedal rod number on original unit. Many vacuum and hydroboost units have a code number stamped or molded on the flattened end of the pedal rod or on the shaft between the boot and the end of the shaft. The code can be any combination of letters or numbers from one to five digits. Compare the codes found on both the original and replacement units, in most case they will match. Please refer to the Pedal Rod ID chart in our Brake Booster catalog for the complete list of cross-reference codes and unit part numbers.



### Adjust the pedal rod or switch:

Refer to the vehicle service manual for installation and adjustment procedures that may apply to the application. Some boosters may appear to have no adjustment or only a single adjustment. However in some vehicles, such as Hondas and Acuras, their pedal rods have two adjustments, one of which is not readily apparent. Please refer to Tech Tip TT 53-0001N for more details.

If the rod itself isn't adjustable, the brake light switch probably is. A 1999 Chrysler 300M is a good example—the adjustment procedure is outlined below. For your application, please check the vehicle service manual for possible adjustment procedures.

### Brake Light Switch Adjustment: 1999 Chrysler 300M

1. Remove stop lamp switch from its bracket by rotating it approximately 30° in a counter-clockwise direction.
2. Disconnect wiring harness connector from stop lamp switch.
3. Hold stop lamp switch firmly in one hand. Then using the other hand, pull outward on the plunger of the stop lamp switch until it has ratcheted out to its fully extended position.
4. Install the stop lamp switch into the bracket using the following procedure. Depress the brake pedal as far down as possible. Then while keeping the brake pedal depressed, install the stop lamp switch into the bracket by aligning the index key on the switch with slot at the top of the square hole in the mounting bracket. When the switch is fully installed in the square hole of the bracket, rotate switch clockwise approximately 30° to lock the switch into the bracket.
5. Connect the wiring harness connector to the stop lamp switch.
6. Gently pull back on brake pedal until the pedal stops moving. This will cause the switch plunger to ratchet backward to the correct position. **CAUTION:** Do not use excessive force when pulling back on brake pedal to adjust the stop lamp switch. If too much force is used, damage to the vacuum booster, stop lamp switch or striker can result. Procedure complete.
7. Finish installation following service manual and any supplied installation instructions.

**Note:** This Tech Tip bulletin is supplied as technical information only and is not an authorization for repair.