

785927

From: feedback@cartalk.com
To: Alberto <NHTSA> Jimenez
Date: 3/22/02 5:35PM
Subject: Car Talk VOQ submission

* This data was submitted via a fill-in form at the Cartalk web site
 * (<http://www.cartalk.cars.com/Tools/nhtsa.pl>) If you have any problems
 * or suggestions regarding the format of this submission, send email
 * to webmaster@cartalk.com

SUBMISSION DATE: Friday, March 22nd 2002 at 5:34:16 PM

VEHICLE OWNER'S QUESTIONNAIRE

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OWNER INFORMATION



NHTSA authorized to send a copy of this report to the manufacturer: Yes

VEHICLE INFORMATION

VIN: JT2EL46S6P0318768
 MAKE: Toyota
 MODEL: Tercel
 YEAR: 1993

ODOMETER: 102000
 PURCHASE DATE: 01/30/02
 NEW OR USED: Used

DEALER NAME: King Credit Auto
 ADDRESS: Thornton, CO 80229

ENGINE SIZE:
 CYLINDERS: 4

FUEL INJECTION: No
 TURBO: No
 FUEL TYPE: Gas
 ANTILOCK BRAKES: Yes
 CRUISE CONTROL: Yes

DRIVETRAIN: Front
DRIVER AIRBAG: Yes
PASSENGER AIRBAG: No
3-POINT BELT: No
MOTOR BELT: No
2-POINT BELT: Yes
BODY STYLE: 2-Door

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

COMPONENT: Engine rings

PART NAME(S):

LOCATION:

NUMBER OF FAILURES:

DATE(S) OF FAILURES: approx. 2/20/02 and onward (gradually worsening-->non-driveable)

MILEAGE AT FAILURE(S): 102000

SPEED AT FAILURE(S): n/a

MANUFACTURER CONTACTED: No

NHTSA CONTACTED: No

APPLICABLE ACCIDENT INFORMATION

ACCIDENT: No

FIRE: No

NUMBER OF PERSONS INJURED:

NUMBER OF FATALITIES:

ESTIMATED PROPERTY DAMAGE: \$

DRIVER AIRBAG DEPLOYED:

PASSENGER AIRBAG DEPLOYED:

REPORTED TO POLICE:

INFORMATION ON TIRE FAILURE(S) (IF APPLICABLE)

DOT NUMBER: DOT

TIRE MANUFACTURER:

TIRE NAME:

TIRE SIZE:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

I bought this car used, after having it *thoroughly* checked by a mechanic to whom I was referred by the State of Colorado. The mechanic, Best Auto in Arvada, CO, did a computer diagnostic (on a \$30K machine) as well as a visual inspection that took an hour; they subsequently HIGHLY recommended the car. The morning after I bought it, I came down sick and didn't drive it for three weeks. Soon after I recovered and began driving it, the car started smoking – white smoke similar to normal water condensation during cold weather, but it hung in the air for some time, which proved that it was smoke and not condensation. I eventually had to have the car towed in to Best to find out what the problem was. Their verdict: the rings are shot...get a new ENGINE.

Due to circumstances, I ended up having the car towed to another mechanic, who told me that his diagnosis showed that the rings are indeed shot, and the best route is probably engine replacement. However, they also said that the rings should NOT have gone so soon, yet there is no evidence that the engine has been overheated, which could have caused such a problem. Since this particular mechanic has been in business for over 40 years, it seems he would know what he is talking about.

So after following all the advice of having a used car thoroughly checked by a reputable mechanic (and if you can't trust a mechanic recommended by the STATE OF COLORADO, who can you trust??), I have now been without my car for three weeks and am looking at a HUGE repair bill, which I may not even be able to afford, since I am currently unemployed. I don't know if this information will be helpful to anyone, but I thought someone should know.

END OF FORM



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

Auto Safety Hotline

Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire

**NATIONWIDE 1-800-424-9393
DC METRO AREA (202) 366-0123
INTERNET: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>**

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 778

Date Received

22-MAR-2002

Ord. or
rt. dt
od. rt
ip. ltr

Reference No.

785927

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? YES NO
In the absence of an authorization, NHTSA WILL NOT provide your name and address to the vehicle manufacturer.

Signature of Owner _____ Date ____/____/____

VEHICLE INFORMATION

Vehicle Ident. No. (VIN) <small>(Locate at bottom of and/or above driver's side)</small>	Vehicle Make	Vehicle Model	Vehicle Year	Current Odometer Reading		
JT2EL46S6P0318768	TOYOTA	TERCEL	1993			
Purchase Date 30-JAN-2002	Dealer's Name _____		Engine Size (CID/CC/L 4 CYL	<input type="checkbox"/> Turbo <input type="checkbox"/> Diesel <input type="checkbox"/> Gas <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel Injectio		
<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Used	City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____		No Cylinders _____			
Transmission Type <input type="checkbox"/> Manual <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic	Antilock Brakes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Restraint System <input type="checkbox"/> 3-Point Belt <input type="checkbox"/> Motorbelt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Driverside Airbag <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2-Point Bel <input type="checkbox"/> Passengerside Airbag	Cruise Control <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Drive Train <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Front <input type="checkbox"/> Rear <input type="checkbox"/> 4-Wheel	Vehicle Type <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Sport Util <input type="checkbox"/> Van <input type="checkbox"/> Truck <input type="checkbox"/> Minivan <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycle <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Body Style <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2-Door <input type="checkbox"/> 4-Door <input type="checkbox"/> Stationwagon <input type="checkbox"/> Pick Up Truck <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Component 05150060	Part Name(s) ENGINE:PISTON RINGS	Location <input type="checkbox"/> Left <input type="checkbox"/> Right <input type="checkbox"/> Front <input type="checkbox"/> Rear	Failed Part's <input type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement
No. of Failure 1	Date(s) of Failure(s) 20-FEB-2002	Failed Part(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	NHTSA Previously <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Mileage at Failure(s) 102000		
	Vehicle Speed at Failure(s)		

APPLICATION INCIDENT INFORMATION

(Please describe in detail the incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and injury(ies) on the back of this form)

Crash <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Fire <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Number of Persons Injured 0	Number of Fatalities 0	Estimated Property Damag	Reported to Police <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF FAILURE(S), INCIDENT(S), INJURY(IES)

WHILE DRIVING, VEHICLE EXHIBITS WHITE SMOKE, CONSUMER HAD TWO DIFFERENT MECHANICS INSPECT VEHICLE AND BOTH STATED THAT THE RINGS ARE SHOT AND ENGINE NEEDS TO BE REPLACED. THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS THAT THE ENGINE OVERHEATED. 'TT

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The Privacy Act of 1974-Public Law 93-579 This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.