

Lesson #2: Finding & Testing for a "TRUE" IGNITION Source.
(Or a "1st Ignition" Connection for Remote Starter Installations)

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Locating a vehicles' IGNITION wire (or 1st Ignition wire for remote starter installations) can be a little tricky sometimes because there's several wires that can be found that turn on (or show a positive voltage) as soon as the ignition is turned ON. Of course we can't just connect to any wire we find that turns ON with the ignition and use that as the IGNITION input. We need to verify that the target wire is a "TRUE" Ignition source (a switched power feed that is actually part of the starting circuit in the vehicle).

A "True" ignition wire can be found in the vehicles "Ignition Harness" that is commonly located running down along the steering column from behind the ignition switch (or key cylinder). Removing the steering column cover on most vehicles (vehicles with the ignition located on the right side of the steering column) can help in visually making sure that the harness you found is the wiring running from, and connected to, the ignition switch.

To determine if the wire in question is a "TRUE" Ignition source you must verify 3 readings using a digital multi-meter or airbag safe test probe (a high impedance probe). 1st, a true ignition wire will show a ground (or negative) signal, with AND without, the key in the ignition (key in, ignition off). 2nd, of course, it will show a positive (or 12 Volt) signal when the ignition is turned to the ON position. And the 3rd and most determining factor is that the wire will continue to read (or "Hold") this positive signal while you are starting the vehicle (the positive signal does not "drop out" during crank).

When your target wire passes all the above tests, you can be confident that you found or are providing a "TRUE" Ignition source to the system!