



FORD ESCORT/TRACER SEDAN WITH F4EAT/F4AEL STUCK IN THIRD GEAR

COMPLAINT: The transmission operates properly until the headlights are turned on, at which time the transmission is stuck in third gear and remains there until the headlights are turned off. The transmission now returns to proper operation.

NOTE: In many cases, the license plate lights will be dim.

CAUSE: The problem is the **G401** ground located in the **right rear corner** of the trunk which can be seen in Figure 1. When this ground is bad, feedback goes through the inhibitor switch reverse lamp circuit. When the computer receives this signal it turns off all shift solenoids and the transmission is in third gear, because all shift solenoids are *normally* commanded off in reverse.

The loss of ground is created by the continual opening and closing of the trunk lid which is where the license plate and reverse lamp assemblies are located. The license plate and reverse lamp wiring sub-harness travels along the inside of the trunk and up to the passenger side trunk lid hinge where it joins the rest of the vehicle wiring harness as also seen in Figure 1. This is where the constant flexing of the license plate and reverse lamp sub-harness takes place which results in the G401 ground wire breaking causing the above complaint.

Remove the tape from this area of the wiring harness and repair the broken ground wire.

CORRECTION: *NOTE:* Located in the **left rear corner** of the trunk, shown in Figure 1, is the **G402** ground which is spliced to the G401 ground. In the event the problem for the above complaint is not found at the passenger side trunk lid hinge area, be sure to check the G402 ground circuit as well.

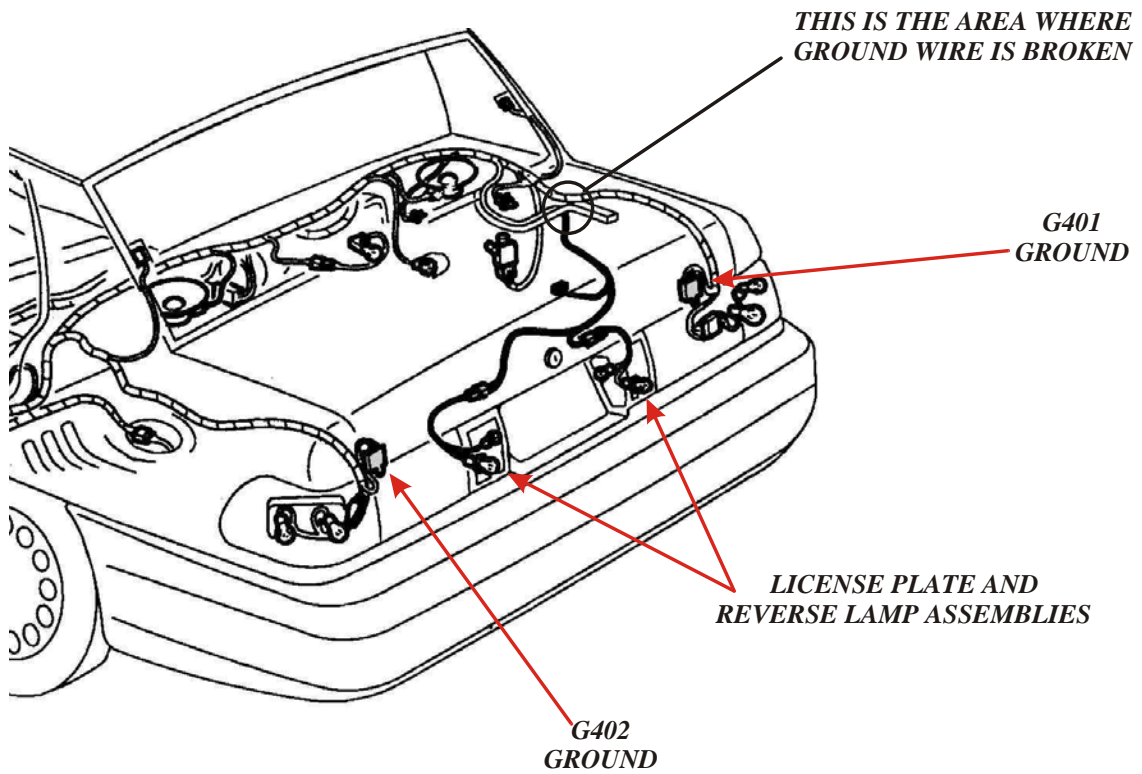


Figure 1