

Technical Bulletin

Tech for your Toolbox



If you're old enough to remember when cars had points and carburetors, you probably recall the relative simplicity of the transmissions of that era, when the only electronic components you had to worry about were the neutral safety and back-up light switches.

And you probably had a few choice words to say when those first electronically controlled vehicles began rolling into your shop, with those *#@&! computers telling the transmission what to do, confounding everything you had learned about troubleshooting and rebuilding.

If you're still in business today, it means you've taught yourself some new tricks along the way, from learning and understanding some fairly complex electronics to reading and responding to trouble codes on your scan tools. You may even have progressed to making and evaluating data recordings and monitoring adaptive strategies as a means to diagnose a problem. But are you still keeping abreast of new products, technical information and expert advice the same way you always did?

Sonnax wants you to maintain your competitive edge, so we are pleased to offer you a way to access critical technical information any time of day or night. We've totally redesigned and restructured our Web site, www.sonnax.com, so it looks better, loads faster, and provides a clear drop-down menu to guide you to the information you need. And if www.sonnax.com doesn't look as pictured in the illustrations, it's because we're updating it frequently, as we add and change features in response to your feedback.

Learn what you need to know with a click of the mouse – whether it's a specific part, tool, reaming instructions, diagnostic tests for a specific valve body, or information on our international network of Sonnax distributors. You don't have to wait for a new catalog or Sonnax mailing to learn about the latest root-cause solutions available, or how to ream a valve body. It's all available online.

(Continued on Page 2)

CONTENTS

| APPLICATION | PART NUMBER | COMPLAINTS | PAGE |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--|----------|
| Multiple Applications | New Products | Common rebuilding problems | 4 |
| Multiple Applications | VB-FIX | Some valve bodies cannot be salvaged | 5 |
| Multiple Applications | SERVO-FIX | Many worn servo pin bores cannot be repaired | 6 |
| 5R55N/W/S | 56361J-01K | Flare on 1-2, 2-3, 4-5 upshift or loss of gear | 7 |

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How it works:

Log on to www.sonnax.com and go right to the Sonnax home page (see Figure 1).

You can click on the “How to Navigate Our New Website” button for an explanation of the various sections of the site or go to the “Product Lines” navigation button at the top of the home page screen and surf through all the Sonnax product lines. In addition to Transmission Specialties®, with its multitude of popular solutions as well as our Sure Cure® kits, Tranny Tools and SonnaFlow®, you can select Torque Converter, High Performance Transmission, Allison, Ring Gears and Driveline for more information on our product offerings.

Clicking on Transmission Specialties will take you to the Transmission Specialties Welcome Page (see Figure 2). Select “New Parts” for an up-to-date listing of our newest products or “Part and Application Finder” to help you decide which Sonnax part is the solution you need. To search by application, first enter the make (GM, Ford, Chrysler, Toyota), then chose from its list of units (41TE, 42LE, 45RFE, etc. for Chrysler as an example), and the site will take you to a complete listing of Sonnax parts for the job you’re working on (see Figure 3). Once you’ve narrowed your search to a specific part, you can access product information, disassembly and installation instructions, and any additional diagnostic information (see Figure 4).

If you already know the part you are looking for, click on the “Quick Search” navigation button to get to the product information as well as to access our listing of New Transmission Specialties products. “Quick Search” is also an easy way to access our library of technical articles, order a free catalog or our latest DVD.

So you can easily check on new products, we have recently added a New Products listing, which you can reach either by clicking the “New Parts” button on the Transmission Specialties Welcome Page or selecting it on the “Quick Search” page (see Figure 5).



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



When you know which Sonnax parts you want, your next step is getting your hands on them. Go to “Find a Transmission Specialties Distributor” (see Figure 6) for a complete list of Sonnax distributors.

For more general technical information, go to our Technical Information section (see Figure 7) where you'll find articles on a whole host of topics. Want to know about the most common problems that affect Chrysler RWDs? How to build your own reaming and inspection station? Planet bearing failure in the 5R55W? It's all there online, where you can refine your search even further.

We've got another high-tech tool for your tool box. Learn to identify and solve common valve and pump body failures with the new technical training DVD, narrated by Bob Warnke, industry expert and Sonnax's vice president of technical development. The Valve Body Training DVD covers valve and pump body wear, inspection, reaming procedures and testing. Learn the basics of visual inspection, Wet Air Tests and vacuum testing, along with step-by-step demonstrations on bore sizing, reaming, test stands and more.

The DVD includes precautions and tips from master transmission rebuilders, as well as information about Sonnax products and tools designed to help you salvage valve and pump bodies and save you money. You can even view a clip of the DVD online. Contact your Sonnax distributor for a free copy.

For those without internet access, our new Transmission Specialties Volume 7 Catalog is available in both print and CD versions. The catalog contains 288 pages of product information and technical tips that will help you at the bench. For your free copy, please contact your Sonnax distributor.

