NAPA Tech TIPS
SUPPORTING TODAY'S PROFESSIONAL TECHNICIAN

Why Can't I Get a Good Brake Pedal? (Early GM 4-Wheel Disc Vehicles)

Rear Caliper Parking Brake Lever Adjustment

NOTE: This procedure applies to early GM 4-wheel disc brake vehicles. Refer to the vehicles service manual for specific adjustment procedures. This procedure MUST be performed as part of the rear caliper replacement operation. Failure to adjust the parking brake lever can result in no parking brake and possible premature brake wear or damage.

1. With parking brake lever removed, tighten adjusting screw, using a 9/16 wrench until pads are tight against rotor.
2. Put lever arm on adjustment screw as close as you can to the stop. If arm is more than ¼ inch form stop, go to Step No. 3
   If lever is less than ¼ inch from stop, proceed to Step No. 6.
3. Remove Master Cylinder lid, fluid level should be ½ full. Compress piston away from the rotor by using a pry bar or large screw driver between backing plate and disc pad.
4. With the screwdriver still in place, use 9/16 wrench to turn screw in opposite direction of parking brake cable. Turn screw about ¼ turn.
5. Attach lever arm and check the location to the stop. If arm is still more than ¼ inch from the stop, repeat Steps 3 thru 5 until the correct arm position is obtained.
6. Attach the emergency cable and spring. Proceed with final adjustment of brake calipers.
7. Make sure Master Cylinder is full of approved brake fluid prior to road testing of the vehicle. Always use new fluid from an unopened can.

Note: An easy test for proper lever position is to grasp the brake pad and try to shake it. If any rattling is heard, the parking brake lever requires adjustment.