

Finding a Good Mechanic for Your 928

By Carl Fausett

Whether you are used to doing your own 928 maintenance and repair work, or you always hire it done— there comes a time when you will want to locate a good mechanic or shop near you.

But how can you tell a good mechanic from an average one where your 928 is concerned?

Here are some questions you can use to help:

Obvious are:

Have you ever worked on a 928 (and what did you think)? If he hated the experience, or expresses frustration with his 928 experience, he might not be the right guy. Probe deeper and see if his frustration might have been with the customer, and not the car.

Do you have a set of the 928 Workshop Manuals? He should have them or access to them. If you are breaking in a new mechanic, then you may need to bring your WSM with the car when you come in. Ask him if he understands that.

Do you have any references that I can call? Any good shop should be able to spit out a few reference numbers.

Less obvious, but very telling are:

Do you/have you worked on any other European imports (of the same age as your 928)?

If your 928 is a 1987 model, working on 1987-era BMW's, Mercedes-Benz, Audi, Porsche and even Volkswagen models is very good. Bosch supplied them all and the technology is largely the same for that year. Note that working on Asian imports of that era may *not* provide the same experience.

Discuss your 928 project with the mechanic. If, for example, your project is a water pump and timing belt service, he should be able to discuss it knowledgably with you and topics like “tensioning the cam timing belt” should not throw him for a loop if he’s done it or the same project on other water-cooled European models.

Walk the shop if you can. Are the cars in the shop of about your vintage? Are they European brands (BMW, Mercedes, Audi, VW, Porsche)? Is the kind of work they are there for similar to yours? Just checking that you aren’t at a muffler shop for engine work or a body shop for suspension work. That’s like going to a seafood restaurant and ordering steak. Not recommended.

If you have a CIS car (K-Jet) ask if they have any experience with CIS injection. Not just in 928's, but many other cars as well. K-Jetronic was used by Audi, Volkswagen, Mercedes, and other Porsche models. The sizes vary, but the system is all the same—any previous K-Jetronic work is a plus.

How busy are they? Does it take 3 or 4 weeks to get in? That’s a GOOD thing. The best shops are busy several weeks and even months out.

Finally, be sure to consult the chart of 928 service centers available here:

<http://www.928motorsports.com/parts/superinstall.cfm>

It is sorted by State, so scroll down to find your location. You may have to drive a bit, but it should be worth it. And by all means, call them first and make sure they are still in the 928 repair business.

If you know of a good shop that should be listed (there is no charge for them) please tell me about it in an email to carl@928motorsports.com

Happy motoring!

Carl and your friends at 928 Motorsports, LLC