

Diagnostic Software For VW/Audi/Seat/Skoda/Bentley

Ross-Tech-Tip - Does A Generic OBDII Tool Show All Codes?

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Does a generic OBDII tool show all codes? Quite simply, the answer is no. Generic OBDII tools may not give the complete picture of what is happening with a car.

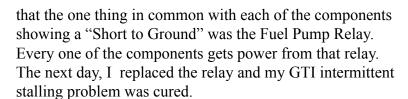
Consider what happened to me with my 2000 VW GTI 1.8T. The car had been intermittently stalling out over a period of a few weeks. The Check Engine Light was not lit. One evening, as I was leaving work, the car stalled again. Fortunately, I had my laptop with me and had several diagnostic programs installed, so I ran a scan. Below is a screen shot of the report from the OBDII tool.

| at OBDII Scanner Collecting | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| File View Connect End Replay Enhanced Fayorites Units Options Help | | | | | |
| INFO STATUS DATA GRAPH FREEZE CODES 02 TEST SEARCH DASH | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| ✓ Request Mode \$03 current codes = 1 new History Emission-Related Powertrain Diagnostic Trouble Codes (DTC) Emission Emission <td< td=""></td<> | | | | | |
| Last update : 18:06:04.8 P0000 NO CODES update period | | | | | |
| domain: Powertrain SAE title: Reserved for SAE 10 ★ sec ★ | | | | | |
| source: specific | | | | | |
| P0000 no codes are stored in the module | | | | | |
| Non-Uniform Code Library generic 👻 | | | | | |
| Request Mode \$07 pending codes = 1 new History On-Board Monitoring Test Results for Continuously Monitored Systems | | | | | |
| Last update : 18:06:09.4 P0000 NO CODES update period | | | | | |
| domain: Powertrain SAE title: Reserved for SAE title: The secret for SAE | | | | | |
| source: specific 🗆 🗆 code alarm | | | | | |
| P0000 no codes are stored in the module ? | | | | | |

I draw your attention to the fact that the tool reported "No Codes" — none "Current" and none "Pending". If that was true, then why was the car stalling? Surely something was not right.

I had access to another OBDII scan program and the next time the car stalled, I ran a scan with it. Unfortunately, it too reported the same "No Codes".

Finally, I connected the factory level VCDS tool to my car and the result was drastically different. Ten (10) fault codes were reported by the same ECU on which the generic tools showed "No Codes". Checking the wiring diagrams in the repair manual (from *Bentley Publishers*), I determined



The Generic Scanners were NOT helpful in finding this problem because the ECU decided the problem was not emissions related. There is no requirement for an ECU to report faults via generic OBDII unless the ECU believes the problem is causing excessive emissions.

| | SVCDS: 01-Engine, Fault Codes Image Copyright (C) Ross-Tech, LLC | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|--|
| | | VCDS Fault Codes | ☑ Display Free | ze Frame Data | |
| | Controller Info VAG Number: 4F2 910 115 B | Component: | 2.01 R4/4V TFSI | 01 0010 | |
| Fault Codes 10 DTCs Found: 18010 - Power Supply Terminal 30: Voltage too Low 35-10 Intermittent | | | | | |
| | 17880 - EVAP Leak Detection Pump: Short Circuit to Ground 35-10 Intermittent 17633 - Fuel Injector for Cyl 1 (N30): Short to Ground 35-10 Intermittent 17635 - Fuel Injector for Cyl 3 (N32): Short to Ground 35-10 Intermittent 17636 - Fuel Injector for Cyl 4 (N33): Short to Ground | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Print Codes Copy Codes Save Codes Clear Codes - 05 Done, Go Back | | | | | |



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