

## Front Wheel Drive Diagonal Split Brake Systems

Problem - Premature pad wear on one front brake only, a typical problem or complaint after service on many front wheel drive vehicle is premature pad wear on one wheel only (usually the right front).

If proper bleeding procedures are not followed, it is not unusual, depending on driving conditions, to completely wear out the pads on the right front in as little as 2,000-3,000 miles. In some cases, the cause of the problem may be attributed to improper brake service on the vehicle. Virtually all front wheel drive vehicles are equipped with a diagonal split brake system, which will require a different bleed sequence than a conventional front-to-rear split system. If bled improperly, most of the vehicle braking will be accomplished by the right front and left rear wheels, resulting in premature wear. Since the front brakes provide most of the braking on a front wheel drive vehicle, the left rear will show very little wear.

To prevent this problem from occurring, some special attention is required when servicing a diagonal split system.

If hydraulic service is not being performed, before bottoming the caliper piston in its bore, open the caliper bleed screw, then compress the caliper piston.

If hydraulic service is being performed (even on only one axle), the complete system should be bled at the wheels.

For most domestic diagonal split systems, the sequence to follow is RR-LF-LR-RE. However, it would be advisable to consult the appropriate service manual for the vehicle being serviced.