

73 glow plug relay wiring diagram

73 glow plug relay wiring diagram is an essential reference for automotive technicians, mechanics, and diesel engine enthusiasts aiming to understand or troubleshoot the electrical system related to glow plugs. This article provides a comprehensive overview of the 73 glow plug relay wiring diagram, including its function, components, and wiring connections. Understanding this wiring diagram is crucial for diagnosing faults, ensuring proper glow plug operation, and maintaining engine performance in diesel vehicles. The guide will cover the basic principle of glow plug relays, detailed wiring instructions, common issues encountered, and troubleshooting tips. Whether you are repairing or installing a relay, this article will serve as a valuable resource. Below is the structured content to help navigate through the critical aspects of the 73 glow plug relay wiring diagram.

- Understanding the Glow Plug Relay
- Components of the 73 Glow Plug Relay Wiring Diagram
- Wiring Connections and Color Codes
- Installation and Wiring Procedure
- Common Problems and Troubleshooting
- Safety Tips When Working with Glow Plug Relays

Understanding the Glow Plug Relay

The glow plug relay plays a pivotal role in the diesel engine starting system by controlling the electrical

power supplied to the glow plugs. These glow plugs preheat the engine cylinders to ensure efficient combustion during cold starts. In the context of the 73 glow plug relay wiring diagram, the relay acts as an electrical switch that manages high current flow to the glow plugs, activated by a low current control circuit from the ignition switch or engine control module.

Function of the Glow Plug Relay

The primary function of the glow plug relay is to allow a high current to pass from the battery to the glow plugs safely without subjecting the ignition switch to high current loads. This relay activates the glow plugs only for a predetermined time, preventing overheating and potential damage. When the ignition key is turned on, the relay receives a control signal and closes the circuit, supplying power to the glow plugs.

Types of Glow Plug Relays

There are several types of glow plug relays used in automotive applications, including single relay systems, dual relay systems, and integrated control modules. The 73 glow plug relay wiring diagram typically refers to a standard relay setup used in certain diesel vehicles from the 1970s era or models designated with the number 73. Understanding the relay type is important to correctly interpret the wiring schematic.

Components of the 73 Glow Plug Relay Wiring Diagram

The 73 glow plug relay wiring diagram includes various components essential for the relay's operation and integration into the vehicle's electrical system. Key components include the relay itself, glow plugs, battery, ignition switch, fuse, and wiring harness. Each component has a specific role and connection point within the wiring diagram to ensure proper functionality.

Glow Plug Relay

The glow plug relay is the central component that switches power to the glow plugs. It usually consists of a coil and switch mechanism, which is energized by a low voltage signal from the ignition circuit. The relay coil terminals are connected to the control circuit, while the switch terminals handle the high current load going to the glow plugs.

Glow Plugs

Glow plugs are heating elements inserted in the engine cylinders. They require a significant amount of current to heat up quickly, which is why the relay must handle high current flow. The wiring diagram shows the connection from the relay output to each glow plug, often wired in parallel.

Battery and Fuse

The vehicle's battery provides the primary power source for the glow plug system. A fuse is installed in the circuit to protect against electrical faults, such as short circuits or current surges. The 73 glow plug relay wiring diagram clearly indicates these components to ensure electrical safety and reliability.

Wiring Connections and Color Codes

Understanding the wiring connections and color codes in the 73 glow plug relay wiring diagram is vital for accurate installation and troubleshooting. Each wire has a designated function and color, which helps to identify the circuit paths and connections.

Typical Wire Color Codes

While color codes can vary depending on the manufacturer or model, common wire colors used in glow plug relay wiring include:

- **Red:** Power supply from the battery or fuse box
- **Black or Brown:** Ground connection
- **Yellow or Green:** Control signal from the ignition switch or control module
- **Blue:** Output to the glow plugs

Relay Terminal Identification

The relay terminals are usually numbered or labeled to facilitate correct wiring. Typical terminal designations include:

- **85:** Relay coil ground
- **86:** Relay coil positive (control signal)
- **30:** Battery positive input
- **87:** Output to glow plugs

Installation and Wiring Procedure

Correct installation and wiring of the glow plug relay are fundamental to ensuring system reliability. The 73 glow plug relay wiring diagram serves as a step-by-step guide for technicians to connect the components properly and avoid electrical faults.

Step-by-Step Wiring Process

1. **Disconnect the Battery:** Always start by disconnecting the vehicle battery to prevent electrical shock or short circuits.
2. **Locate the Relay and Glow Plugs:** Identify the mounting position of the glow plug relay and the glow plugs on the engine.
3. **Connect the Battery to Relay Terminal 30:** Use an appropriate gauge wire and ensure a fuse is in place.
4. **Connect Relay Terminal 85 to Ground:** Secure a good ground connection to the vehicle chassis or engine block.
5. **Connect Relay Terminal 86 to Ignition Switch Signal:** This wire activates the relay when the ignition is turned on.
6. **Connect Relay Terminal 87 to Glow Plugs:** Run wires from this terminal to each glow plug terminal, usually in parallel.
7. **Check All Connections:** Verify tightness, insulation, and proper routing of wires.
8. **Reconnect the Battery and Test:** Turn on the ignition and observe if the glow plugs activate as expected.

Common Problems and Troubleshooting

Issues with the glow plug relay or wiring can lead to engine start difficulties, especially in cold weather. The 73 glow plug relay wiring diagram is an invaluable tool for diagnosing and resolving these

problems.

Common Faults

- **Relay Failure:** The relay coil or contacts may fail, preventing power from reaching the glow plugs.
- **Blown Fuse:** A fuse protecting the circuit can blow due to overload or short circuit.
- **Loose or Corroded Connections:** Poor contact points can cause intermittent or no power flow.
- **Damaged Wiring:** Insulation wear or wire breaks can disrupt the circuit.

Troubleshooting Steps

Using the 73 glow plug relay wiring diagram, technicians can systematically check the circuit:

- Inspect fuses and replace if necessary.
- Test the relay by applying voltage to the coil terminals and checking for continuity across the switch terminals.
- Verify voltage presence at the relay input and output terminals.
- Check wiring continuity and ground connections.
- Test the glow plugs individually for resistance and functionality.

Safety Tips When Working with Glow Plug Relays

Handling electrical systems like the glow plug relay requires adherence to safety protocols to prevent injury and equipment damage. Following these safety tips ensures safe operation during installation and maintenance.

- Always disconnect the vehicle battery before working on electrical circuits.
- Use insulated tools to prevent accidental short circuits.
- Verify the vehicle's electrical system voltage before starting work.
- Do not bypass fuses or use incorrect fuse ratings.
- Handle glow plugs with care, as they can become extremely hot during operation.
- Follow manufacturer specifications and wiring diagrams exactly.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the glow plug relay in a 1973 diesel engine?

The glow plug relay in a 1973 diesel engine controls the electrical current to the glow plugs, ensuring they heat up properly to aid in cold starting the engine.

Where can I find a wiring diagram for the 1973 glow plug relay?

Wiring diagrams for the 1973 glow plug relay can typically be found in the vehicle's service manual,

vintage diesel forums, or automotive repair websites specializing in classic vehicles.

How is the glow plug relay wired in a 1973 diesel vehicle?

The glow plug relay wiring typically involves a power source from the battery, a control signal from the ignition switch, and output connections to the glow plugs to manage their heating cycle.

What are common issues with the glow plug relay wiring in a 1973 vehicle?

Common issues include corroded connections, broken wires, or faulty relays causing the glow plugs not to heat properly, resulting in difficulty starting the engine in cold conditions.

Can I replace the glow plug relay with a modern equivalent in a 1973 diesel engine?

Yes, modern glow plug relays can be used as replacements, but it is important to ensure compatibility with the vehicle's voltage and wiring specifications to avoid electrical issues.

How do I test the glow plug relay wiring on a 1973 diesel engine?

To test the glow plug relay wiring, use a multimeter to check for continuity and proper voltage at the relay terminals when the ignition is turned on, ensuring the relay activates and supplies power to the glow plugs.

Additional Resources

1. Understanding Glow Plug Relay Wiring Diagrams

This book offers a comprehensive guide to interpreting and using glow plug relay wiring diagrams. It breaks down complex electrical schematics into easy-to-understand sections, making it ideal for both beginners and experienced mechanics. Readers will learn how to troubleshoot common wiring issues and ensure optimal glow plug performance.

2. Glow Plug Systems in Diesel Engines: Wiring and Maintenance

Focusing on diesel engine glow plug systems, this book covers the electrical components, including relays and wiring harnesses. It provides detailed diagrams and step-by-step maintenance instructions. The book is essential for technicians looking to improve reliability and efficiency in diesel engine starting systems.

3. Automotive Electrical Wiring: Glow Plugs and Beyond

This title explores the broader scope of automotive electrical wiring, with a special section dedicated to glow plug relay circuits. It explains wiring principles, diagnostic techniques, and common wiring faults. Practical examples help readers apply theory to real-world automotive repair scenarios.

4. Diesel Engine Glow Plug Relay Repair Manual

A practical repair manual that delves into the specifics of glow plug relay wiring and troubleshooting procedures. It includes detailed wiring diagrams for various vehicle models, including the classic 1973 setups. The book is a hands-on resource for mechanics aiming to restore or upgrade glow plug systems.

5. Wiring Diagrams for Classic Diesel Vehicles

This book specializes in wiring diagrams for diesel vehicles from the 1970s, including the 1973 glow plug relay configurations. It provides a historical perspective alongside technical details to help restorers and hobbyists. The diagrams are clear and well-labeled for easy reference during restoration projects.

6. Electrical Systems of Diesel Engines: Glow Plug Relay Focus

An in-depth study of the electrical systems in diesel engines, focusing on the glow plug relay and its wiring. The book covers electrical theory, relay operation, and wiring installation techniques. It is designed for advanced students and professionals in automotive electrical engineering.

7. Troubleshooting Glow Plug Relay Circuits

This troubleshooting guide addresses common problems found in glow plug relay circuits, with detailed wiring diagrams and diagnostic flowcharts. It helps readers identify faulty connections, relay failures,

and wiring shorts. The book is useful for both field technicians and workshop professionals.

8. *Glow Plug Relay Wiring: A Step-by-Step Guide*

A beginner-friendly manual that walks readers through the process of wiring glow plug relays from start to finish. It includes clear diagrams, tool lists, and safety precautions. The book aims to build confidence in DIY enthusiasts and first-time mechanics working on diesel engines.

9. *Classic Diesel Glow Plug Electrical Systems Explained*

This book explains the design and function of glow plug electrical systems in classic diesel engines, with a special emphasis on relay wiring. It combines theory with practical wiring examples and maintenance tips. Ideal for classic car restorers and diesel engine enthusiasts looking to preserve original electrical setups.

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