



Technical Service Bulletin

AUTOMOTIVE <> PASSENGER CAR ACCESSORY BELT DRIVE SYSTEM

BULLETIN PA002-14

> **PART NUMBER:**

38192

> **MAKE:**

Volkswagen

> **MODEL:**

Beetle
Golf
Jetta

> **YEAR:**

1998-2004

> **ENGINE:**

1.9L Diesel

To learn more about inspecting, diagnosing, and servicing Overrunning Alternator Decoupler Pulleys and One Way Clutch Pulleys, please visit <http://www.gates.com/adp>.

GATES CORPORATION <> WORLD HEADQUARTERS

1551 Wewatta Street / P.O. Box 5887
Denver, Colorado 80202, U.S.A.
303.744.1911
[Gates.com](http://www.gates.com)

GATES CANADA INC.

225 Henry St. Bldg. 8
Brantford, Ontario N3S 7R4
1.519.759.4141

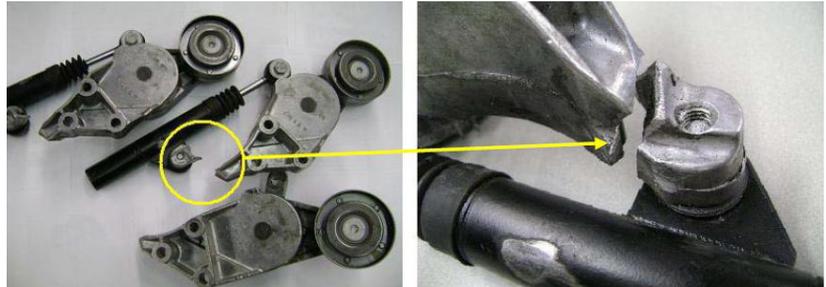
Automotive Tech Email <>
apateam@gates.com



For more information, please contact our Technical Department at 303.744.5651 or apateam@gates.com.

ROOT CAUSE FAILURE OF BROKEN 38192 TENSIONER

On models equipped with the Gates 38192 Tensioner assembly, it is possible that excessive tensioner movement or a broken tensioner assembly may be observed as illustrated below.



This type of failure is the result of severe vibrations in the accessory belt drive system. While a broken tensioner is the result, the root cause often lies elsewhere in the system. These vehicles came from the factory with an Overrunning Alternator Decoupler Pulley. OAD Pulleys are engineered to reduce noise, vibration, and harshness in the accessory belt drive system while reducing belt tension. A reduction in belt tension will lead to an increased lifecycle of the accessories and improved gas mileage. However, OAD Pulleys are wear items and will eventually fail. If left unchecked, a failed OAD Pulley will result in excessive and abnormal vibrations in the belt drive system, which may eventually lead to the catastrophic tensioner failure pictured above.

Another often overlooked cause of the broken tensioner seen above is the result of incorrect servicing of the OAD Pulley. If an OAD Pulley has been mistakenly replaced with a One Way Clutch Pulley or a Solid Pulley, the belt tensioner is forced to absorb excessive and irregular vibrations that otherwise would not exist.

Ultimately, both of these scenarios will result in the hydraulic strut attempting to compensate for the additional vibrations in the belt drive system. Unfortunately, the tensioner is not designed to withstand these conditions, and may eventually break as pictured above. Gates recommends replacing the ADP whenever the 38192 tensioner is replaced.

With over 100 years of experience,

**Gates products are trusted by professional
technicians around the world.**