

of the battery case with the same solution but make sure that the solution doesn't get into the battery. When cleaning the cables, terminals and battery top, wear safety goggles and rubber gloves to prevent any solution from coming in contact with your eyes or hands. Wear old clothes too - even diluted, sulfuric acid splashed onto clothes will burn holes in them. If the terminals have been extensively corroded, clean them up with a terminal cleaner (**see illustration**). Thoroughly wash all cleaned areas with plain water.

8 Make sure that the battery tray is in good condition and the hold-down nut and bolt are tight (**see illustration**). If the battery is removed from the tray, make sure no parts remain in the bottom of the tray when the battery is reinstalled. When reinstalling the hold-down clamp bolt or nut, do not over-tighten it.

9 Information on removing and installing the battery can be found in Chapter 5. Information on jump starting can be found at the front of this manual. For more detailed battery checking procedures, refer to the *Haynes Automotive Electrical Manual*.

### Cleaning

10 Corrosion on the hold-down components, battery case and surrounding areas can be removed with a solution of water and baking soda. Thoroughly rinse all cleaned areas with plain water.

11 Any metal parts of the vehicle damaged by corrosion should be covered with a zinc-based primer, then painted.

### Charging

**Warning:** When batteries are being charged, hydrogen gas, which is very explosive and flammable, is produced. Do not smoke or allow open flames near a charging or a recently charged battery. Wear eye protection when near the battery during charging. Also, make sure the charger is unplugged before connecting or disconnecting the battery from the charger.

12 Slow-rate charging is the best way to restore a battery that's discharged to the point where it will not start the engine. It's also a good way to maintain the battery charge in a vehicle that's only driven a few miles between starts. Maintaining the battery charge is particularly important in the winter when the battery must work harder to start the engine and electrical accessories that drain the battery are in greater use.

13 It's best to use a one or two-amp battery charger (sometimes called a "trickle" charger). They are the safest and put the least strain on the battery. They are also the least expensive. For a faster charge, you can use a higher amperage charger, but don't use one rated more than 1/10th the amp/hour rating of the battery. Rapid boost charges that claim to restore the power of the battery in one to two hours are hardest on the battery and can damage batteries not in good condition. This type of charging should only be used in emergency situations.



9.7b Regardless of the type of tool used to clean the battery posts, a clean, shiny surface should be the result

14 The average time necessary to charge a battery should be listed in the instructions that come with the charger. As a general rule, a trickle charger will charge a battery in 12 to 16 hours.

### 10 Drivebelt check, adjustment and replacement (every 7500 miles or 6 months)

#### Check

Refer to illustrations 10.3, 10.4 and 10.5

1 The alternator, power steering pump and air conditioning compressor drivebelts, also referred to as simply "fan" belts, are located at the right end of the engine. The good condition and proper adjustment of the alternator belt is critical to the operation of the engine. Because of their composition and the high stresses to which they are sub-

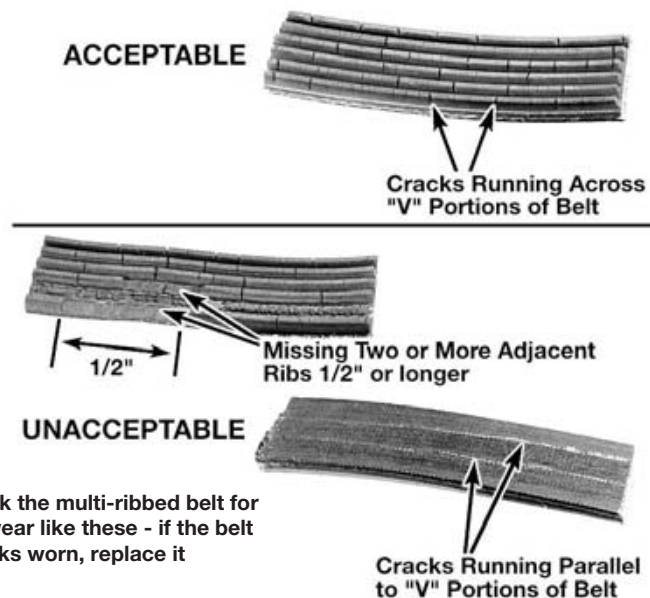


9.8 Make sure the battery clamp nut and bolt (arrows) are tight

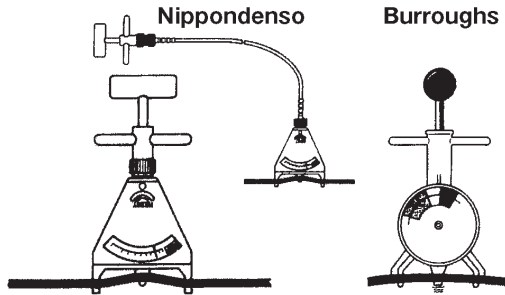
jected, drivebelts stretch and deteriorate as they get older. They must therefore be periodically inspected.

2 On 1997 and earlier models, multiple belts are used; one belt transmits power from the crankshaft to the alternator, and one drives the air conditioning compressor, if equipped. If the vehicle is equipped with power steering, the pump is driven by its own belt, powered by the water pump pulley. On 1998 and later models, a single "serpentine" drivebelt is used.

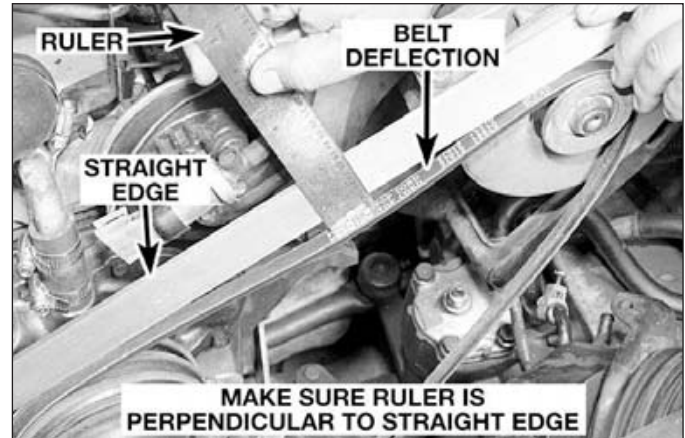
3 With the engine off, open the hood and locate the drivebelt(s). With a flashlight, check each belt for separation of the adhesive rubber on both sides of the core, core separation from the belt side, a severed core, separation of the ribs from the adhesive rubber, cracking or separation of the ribs, and torn or worn ribs or cracks in the inner ridges of the ribs (**see illustration**). Also check for fraying and glazing, which gives the belt a shiny appearance. Both sides of the belt should be inspected, which means you will



10.3 Check the multi-ribbed belt for signs of wear like these - if the belt looks worn, replace it



**10.4** If you are able to borrow either a Nippondenso or Burroughs belt tension gauge, this is how it's installed on the belt - compare the reading on the scale with the specified drivebelt tension



**10.5** Measuring drivebelt deflection with a straightedge and ruler

have to twist the belt to check the underside. Use your fingers to feel the belt where you can't see it. If any of the above conditions are evident, replace the belt (go to Step 8).

4 Belt tension on 1997 and earlier models must be manually adjusted, while on 1998 and later models the tension is adjusted automatically. To check the tension of each belt in accordance with factory specifications, install either a Nippondenso or Burroughs belt tension gauge on the belt (**see illustration**). Measure the tension in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and compare your measurement to the specified drivebelt tension for either a used or new belt. **Note:** A "used" belt is defined as any belt which has been operated more than five minutes on the engine; a "new" belt is one that has been used for less than five minutes.

5 If you don't have either of the above tools, and cannot borrow one, the following rule of thumb method is recommended: Push firmly on the belt with your thumb at a distance halfway between the pulleys and note how far the belt can be pushed (deflected). Measure this deflection with a ruler (**see illustration**). The belt should deflect 1/4-inch if the distance from pulley center to pulley center is between 7 and 11 inches; the belt should deflect 1/2-inch if the distance from pulley center to pulley center is between 12 and 16 inches.

## Adjustment

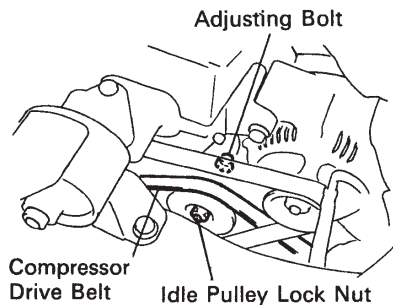
### 1997 and earlier models

Refer to illustration 10.7

6 To adjust the alternator belt, loosen the alternator pivot bolt and the lock bolt at the alternator bracket. Now turn the adjusting bolt and measure the belt tension in accordance with one of the above methods. When the proper tension is achieved, tighten the lock bolt and pivot bolt securely.

7 To adjust the air conditioning compressor drivebelt, loosen the idler pulley lock nut and turn the adjusting bolt (**see illustration**) until the belt is properly tensioned. When the proper tension is achieved, tighten the lock bolt and pivot bolt securely.

8 Adjust the power steering pump belt by



**10.7** After loosening the idler pulley lock nut, turn the adjusting bolt to tension the air conditioning compressor drivebelt

loosening the pivot bolt and the lock bolt that secures the pump to the slotted bracket, then pivot the pump (away from the engine to tighten the belt, toward it to loosen it) until the proper tension is reached. When the proper tension is achieved, tighten the lock bolt and pivot bolt securely.

### 1998 and later models

9 Drivebelt tension on 1998 and later models is adjusted automatically by a spring-loaded tensioner.

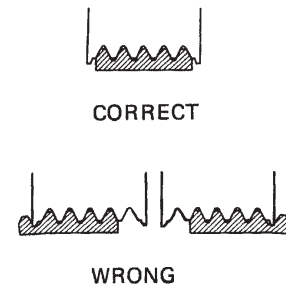
## Replacement

### 1997 and earlier models

Refer to illustration 10.12

10 To replace a belt, follow the above procedures for drivebelt adjustment but slip the belt off the crankshaft pulley and remove it. If you are replacing the power steering pump belt, you will have to remove the air conditioning compressor belt first because of the way they are arranged on the crankshaft pulley. Because of this and because belts tend to wear out more or less together, it is a good idea to replace both belts at the same time. Mark each belt and its appropriate pulley groove so the replacement belts can be installed in their proper positions.

11 Take the old belts to the parts store in order to make a direct comparison for length,



**10.12** When installing a multi-ribbed belt, make sure that it is centered - it must not overlap either edge of the pulley

width and design.

12 After replacing the drivebelt, make sure that it fits properly in the ribbed grooves in the pulleys (**see illustration**). It is essential that the belt be properly centered.

13 Adjust the belt(s) in accordance with the procedure outlined above.

### 1998 and later models

Refer to illustrations 10.14 and 10.15

14 Rotate the belt tensioner clockwise to release the tension, then slip the belt off the



**10.14** To release the tension on the drivebelt, place a long wrench or socket and ratchet on the hex-shaped boss, then turn the tensioner clockwise (1998 and later models)