

Mistral or 3500 GTI Doesn't Start

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If you drive your car only infrequently and your battery is low, the Lucas fuel injection does not work-even if you try jumper cables. It may work by push starting your car.

I have encountered this problem when I didn't use the Mistral for several weeks. The engine seemed to turn over OK, but would not start. The spark plugs sparked but no fuel came from the injectors. Next I connected a pressure gauge to the pump outlet. With the ignition on it showed 110 psi; when engaging the starter the pressure dropped to 20 psi. The injectors don't even let any fuel flow unless they receive about 70 psi. The reason for this is that the starter motor takes all energy out of your weak battery-then there is not enough left to spin the fuel pump motor at a proper speed to deliver enough fuel pressure. Even with heavy duty jumper cables I had no improvement. The only way was to charge the battery.

Moral-Remember to have your battery fully charged before you want to take your car for a spin or the day of a trip. And don't blame Lucas (this time).