

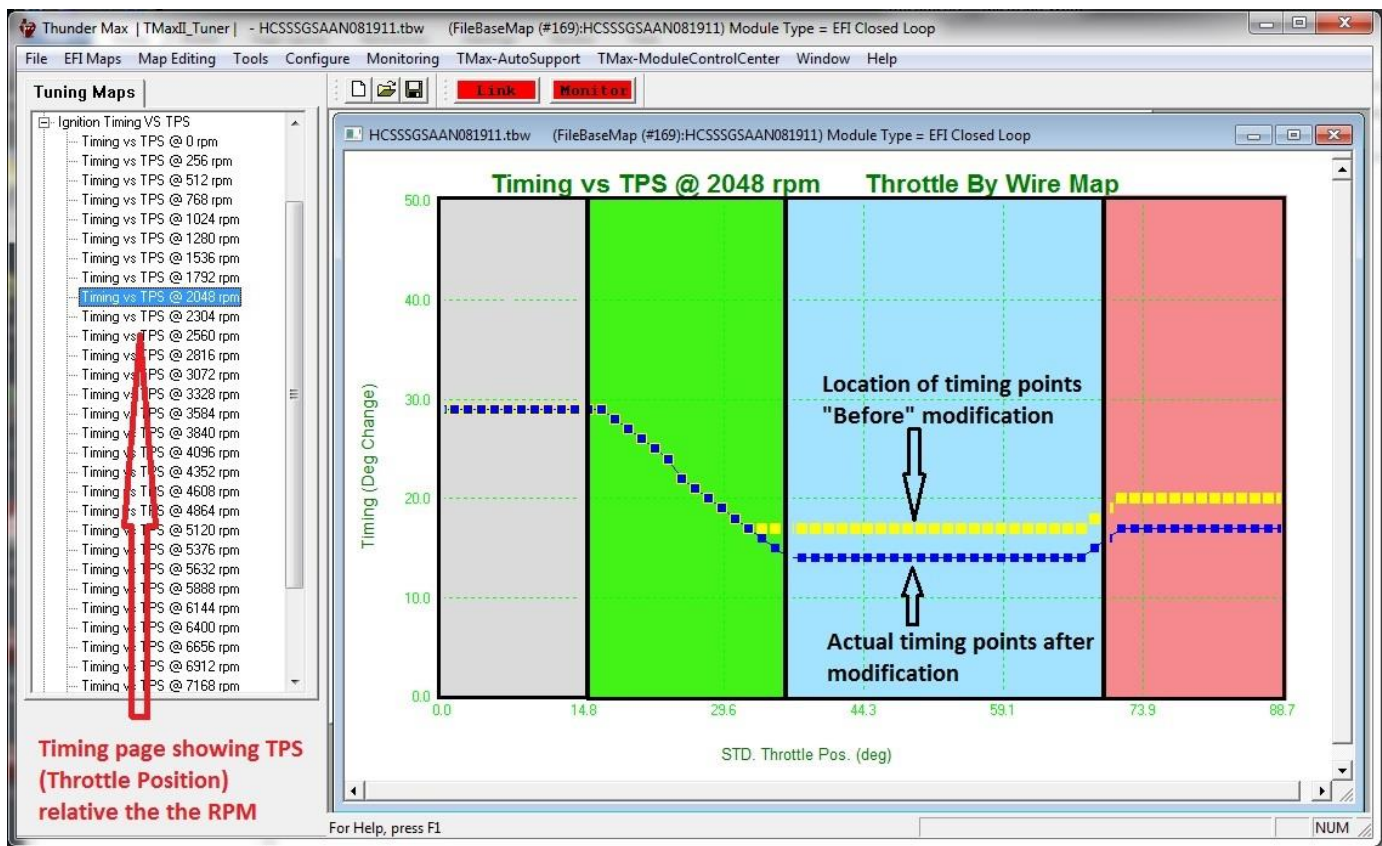
Adjusting Timing for Ping

If you are experiencing “ping” at specific locations (TPS vs RPM), this document explains how to make timing adjustments to remove that pinging.

The first section explains adjusting the Timing vs TPS @ rpm pages to correct for ping.

A simpler approach follows below that which is used in many cases satisfactorily.

It is up to you on what your needs (and skill) are to choose the timing modification method which best works for you.



-  Close to Light Throttle Region
-  Normal Steady Riding Region
-  Throttle Roll On Region (Ignition Curve Belly)
-  Full Throttle Region

Legend Notes:

The **YELLOW** points above are where the ignition timing points were before being moved (Historical last position).

These points are for reference only and have NO impact on timing.

The **BLUE** (Red if you link and read the map) points above are the ACTUAL map timing points which will be applied.

HINT: If you make adjustments to timing, SAVE your map to your computer so that you can later open it to view “what you have done” by examining the YELLOW vs BLUE points. I save it to a name such as “TimingAdj-1” as an example.

Closed to Light Throttle Region (Gray Area): Creating Smooth Throttle Transitions

This region will NEVER experience ping. This is the area which is only experienced during closed or very light throttle conditions, such as revving the engine or applying light throttle during transition from close throttle perhaps while coasting downhill or around a corner. The timing in this region should have a “smooth” transition from lower to higher rpms. For example, if idle (768,1024,128) rpms are all at 18 degrees of timing then a “smooth gradient” transition should occur as the rpms increase.

An example would be the following values: (Your values may be different, it’s the “pattern of transition” we like to see)

It is preferred to have all idle rpm timing at the same setting. This helps eliminate “idle hunt” due to timing changes.

768 @ 18 degrees

1024 @ 18 degrees

1280 @ 18 degrees

Next, it is preferred that the increasing rpm pages have gradually increasing “timing”. This provides smooth rpm transitions at “Light to NO load”, such as revving the engine on the kick stand.

1536 @ 22 degrees

1792 @ 25 degrees

2048 @ 30 degrees

2340 @ 32 degrees

2560 @ 34 degrees

and so on.....

You can “test” these values by the following method.

While on the “kick stand” VERY CAREFULLY try to advance the engine RPM 100 rpm at a time and hold at that rpm. For example 1200,1300,1400 etc... up to 2500 rpm.

If while doing this, you experience the RPM seeming to “hang or stop increasing” even though you continue to increase the throttle position, then the timing at that rpm, in this REGION perhaps needs to be advanced.

When properly set, you will be able to “fully control” the RPM as you “slowly and steadily” advance the throttle.

Tuning this RPM will produce “smooth throttle/rpm transitions” from close throttle to higher rpms. Such as is experienced when applying slight throttle increases to “coast around a corner”.

Normal Steady Riding Region (Green Area): Steady Cruise, Level Road.

It would be VERY RARE to experience ping in this region. The engine is under such LIGHT load that advanced timing simply causes “irregular/jerky” engine operation, maybe even accompanied by exhaust “popping”.

Fuel economy may also be affected by this region but changes to timing will have little “noticeable” affect.

This area is best left “as is” unless significant problems are experienced.

It would take lots of testing to determine a better curve in this area.

You will also notice that this is the region where the timing “falls away / reduces” sharply (downhill slope).

The reason for this is the engine is transitioning from LIGHT load to NORMAL load so timing needs be removed.

Throttle Roll On Region (Blue Area): This area is experienced when passing or climbing a hill.

The Throttle Roll On area is where 95% of all PING occurs.

This area is referred to as the “Belly” of the timing curve (due to its inherent saggy shape).

Particularly at LOWER rpm (where engine LOAD is highest) the “Belly” is deeper. As rpm increase the “Belly” normally reduces and may even “not exist”.

Full Throttle Region (Red Area):

The Full Throttle region will usually exhibit PING if Throttle Roll On is producing PING, “But NOT always”!

The Full Throttle region of the curve many times has more “advanced” timing. This advanced timing will occur JUST at Full Throttle and Slightly below.

The Full Throttle region begins at the end of the timing curve Belly.

Full Throttle timing is quite easy to adjust for obvious reasons. It’s not hard to find Full Throttle!

Identify Where to Make Adjustments (Rules and Methods)

If you are experiencing PING during Throttle Roll On, and yet if you apply Full Throttle the PING quits, then “lowering only the timing Belly” will correct that condition.

If you are experiencing PING during Throttle Roll On, and yet if you apply Full Throttle the PING remains the same, then BOTH the Belly and the Full Throttle regions should be lowered equally.

If you are experiencing PING during Throttle Roll On, and yet if you apply Full Throttle the PING is worse, then BOTH the Belly and the Full Throttle regions should be lowered but the Full Throttle region should be lowered more.

If you have NO PING except at FULL THROTTLE, then only the FULL THROTTLE area should be lowered.

How Much to Adjust the Timing

It is hard to describe the adjustment required because of different peoples “perception” on how severe the ping is.

Here are the “Rules” I use in determining how much timing to remove to correct for ping.

Very Light Ping: Engine Ping which is a “skipping (not a regular tap tap tap) and very irregular” and hard to hear. Light pinging will definitely be occurring on every cylinder firing.

For Very Light Ping, a -1 to -2 degree retarding of the timing is first used. Most people will not even bother to adjust because it is so light and infrequent.

Moderate Ping: Engine Ping which is “more regular and almost pings to the rhythm of the rpm”. It is NOT totally constant. The rider feels he “needs to adjust it”.

For Moderate Ping a -3 degrees retarding of the timing should be first used.

Heavy Ping: Engine Ping which is “totally in rhythm with the engine cylinder firing” is considered heavy ping.

For Heavy Ping as much as -5 degrees or more may be required. I may apply -3 degrees to help “zero in” on the area and region needing adjustment then retest.

Severe Ping: Engine Ping which is so severe you IMMEDIATELY get out of the throttle. It is like large marbles shaking in a jar, loudly!

In extreme cases I have removed as much as -7 and -8 degrees to remove Severe Ping. I would start with -5 degrees to help “zero in” on the area and region needing adjustment then retest.

Testing For Ping

Make sure the engine is at normal operating temperatures. A 70 degree F day after cruising for 15 minutes should do it.

Test by doing normal steady state cruise and THEN slowly apply throttle.

Visualize the throttle REGION you are passing through as you listen for ping.

Remember, the VERY MOMENT you begin to apply throttle from steady state you WILL be moving into the Belly of the timing curve.

You should be able to detect “which region” the ping is coming from.

After some experience in making adjustments and the results, you will quickly learn to identify “where adjustments are needed”.

If you do not have a tachometer, consider that at normal riding speeds from 30 – 50 mph you are most likely in the 2000 – 2500 rpm range.

If you are cruising at 70+ mph then you are most likely in the 2800+ rpm range.

If you are cruising at 80+ mph then you are most likely in the 3200+ rpm range.

NOTE: If you are lugging the motor at uncomfortable levels or have idle to a slow 15 mph speed and apply throttle and get ping, you need to adjust 1500 – 2000 rpm timing and USUALLY all adjustment will be to the Belly of the ignition curve.

Use those estimates to determine the RPM range you suspect the ping is occurring in.

Apply corrections “around” those RPM values to make adjustments.

For Example: If I was cruising at 70mph and every time I apply throttle I get ping, I would make adjustments in the 2816, 3072 and 3328 rpm pages equally.

When you find an area of ping, immediately apply Full Throttle to check the Full Throttle timing.

After applying Full Throttle for a few seconds then “slightly just slightly” back off the throttle and see what the ping does.

The “slight” backing off of throttle will quickly move the TPS into the “right side” of the timing curve Belly.

This is not as complicated as it sounds.

In fact I have modified MANY maps for customers ONLY knowing the RPM which they are experiencing ping in.

My descriptions of what is “actually” happening is just to allow those who wish to “fine tune” their timing to have the needed information to do so.

Simplified Timing Adjustments (if you do not want to make modifications to each Timing TPS @ Rpm page)

If generally the ping you experience is “at various rpms and throttle positions with no identifiable pattern” and it is fairly similarly the same intensity (light, moderate, severe) then a simple adjustment to the Timing Vs. Engine Temperature map page may be all that is required.

The following below image shows a typical Timing Vs Engine Temperature map page (yours will most likely look different).

If you adjust this page removing timing from the “middle” of the map page to the right will correct MANY timing ping issues.

If your timing curve on the Timing vs Engine Temperature page does not look like the below, you may want to experiment by adjusting YOUR curve to match the below curve.

The below curve has been proven to work very well in compensating for “Engine Temperature” when increased engine temperature is the cause of engine ping.

All engines need to begin removing timing as the engine temperature increases past 226 deg F as in the below example.

It is a simple adjustment to remove in steps of ONE degree every FOUR points to the right to modify your map to match the below if desired.

This will correct timing issues which are being caused due to HIGH engine temperatures.

Advance Timing Development....

FYI: Not required except to perform map development... the above procedures work fine for minor corrections.

NOTE: In normal timing development (from scratch), the following (see below image) Timing vs Engine Temperature curve is “immediately” implemented.

Then timing is developed on each of the Timing vs TPS @ Rpm pages (1024 – 4600rpm). FYI: Timing pages (as well as fueling pages) are usually the same above 4600 rpm.

IMPORTANT: During Advance Timing Development of the Timing vs TPS @ Rpm pages, the engine temperature needs to be maintained at from 220 – 230 degrees.

If the Timing vs TPS @ Rpm pages are **STRICKTLY** developed at 220-230 degrees then as the engine gets hotter, the corrections below (retarding of timing) will be applied to **ALL** of the timing as it is read from the Timing vs TPS @ Rpm pages.

