Operating Manual – OBD Link Connector

OBD Link Connector with handy torch in connector plug

1. TEST OBD2 PORT BEFORE PLUG IN SCANTOOL
   It performs tests on all the 16 pins of OBD2 port for abnormality caused by shorting, reverse polarity, etc to avoid damage to your scan tool prior plugged in.

2. MONITOR VOLTAGE DURING REFLASH PROGRAMMING
   To monitor the OBD2 port power output in order to function properly during ECU programming, adaptation or flashing

3. DETECT COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL
   To detect which type of communication protocol the ECU is using, whether PWM (J1850), VPW (J1850), ISO 9141-2, DIS/ISO 14230-4 or Canbus (J-2284).

4. AS BREAK OUT BOX
   To provide easy access to any of the 16pins from the OBD2 DLC port for gathering of signal pulses when diagnosing with an oscilloscope, for data logging when used with a Y-cable, easy activation of blink codes, adjustment of idling rpm, etc

5. CHECK ALTERNATOR CONDITION
   To have a quick Alternator charging check during idling and high RPM conditions.

6. AS DATA SAVER WHILE REPLACING CAR BATTERY
   As Power Backup for ECU (for saving data) when connected to an external 12V battery while replacing the weak car battery.

7. AS DC POWER SOURCE FOR OTHER DEVICES
   As Power source for other DC loads up to 5 Amps DC output at pin 4 (Ground) and pin16 (+) socket.
HOW TO:

1. TEST OBD2 PORT BEFORE PLUG IN SCANTOOL
Test is carried out with ignition key is OFF, ON and engine running

1.1 Test without Ignition Key
Connect the OBD BREAKOUT BOX to the OBD2 port on vehicle. The testing of the DLC port starts automatically as soon as OBD BREAKOUT BOX is plugged into it. This test is to check the condition of all pins before the ignition key is switched ON.

1.1.1 Volt Meter LED
As soon as it powers up, the voltmeter will display voltage input. It will automatically check the following conditions:
For 12V system: The alarm ‘Beeping’ will trigger ON when the voltage falls below 11.8V.
For 24V system: The alarm ‘Beeping’ will trigger ON when the voltage falls below 23.8V.

When the battery falls below 11.8V for 12V system or 23.8V for 24V system, the alarm will come on. In this case, you may need to start the engine to run for some time to charge the battery or replace with a new battery and then test again.

**Action**
- Start engine
- Recharge battery or replace battery

1.1.2 Pins LED
Testing of the 16 pins individually will also begin immediately with the following conditions
• To detect any voltage present on Car Manufacturer designated pins No.1, 3, 8, 11, 12 & 13 (yellow colour socket) and OBD2 assigned protocol pins 2, 6, 7, 10, 14, 15 (blue colour socket), other than pins 4(Chassis), 5(Signal) for grounding (black colour socket) and pin 16 (red colour socket) which is positive supply 12V or 24V.
When there is a presence of voltage (positive or negative) detected at a particular pin or other pins on the Manufacturer designated ones, the LED at the socket will blink in different ways. Depending on the voltage detected:

1.1.3 OK / Caution LED

a. If 12V or 24V is present – the LED will blink slowly at interval of 1 sec between each blink. (The ‘Caution – Volt present’ LED stays ON).

b. If under voltage < 11.8V for 12V system or < 23.8V for 24V system is present – the LED will stays lighted up. (The ‘Caution – Volt present’ LED stays ON).
If any of the above situations is encountered, **do not plug** in your Scan tool yet. Please check and compare the OBD2 circuit connection with vehicle Repair Manual for the reason of the shorting. This is because under normal circumstances when the ignition key is OFF, the ECU is also in the OFF state and there will be no communication signals or voltage output to the rest of the pins except pin 4 which is chassis ground and pin 16, the positive power output supplied from the battery direct.

- With very remote chance unless the connections has been tempered, when OBD BREAKOUT BOX encounters that there is a reverse polarity occurred the green LEDs at pin 4 (Chassis) and pin 5 (Signal) ground will light up and turns into red colour.

In this situation do not plug in the Scan tool. Check the source of the problem at the vehicle DLC and rectify it first before testing again.

### 1.2 Test with ignition key in ON position.

If the first test did not indicate any problem, then proceed with the second test. With the OBD BREAKOUT BOX still attached to the vehicle DLC, switch the ignition key to ON position then press Retest button on the OBD BREAKOUT BOX once.
The test starts immediately with the testing of all the 14 pins other than pin 4 chassis ground and pin 16 positive Voltage supply. At the same time it will detect the type of communication protocol (PWM, VPW, ISO 9141-2, ISO 14230-4, CAN H, and CAN L) that the ECU is using and the blue LEDs will blink indicating the protocol currently being used.

If any voltage present on vehicle Manufacturer designated pins No.1, 3, 8, 11, 12 & 13 (yellow colour socket) other than OBD2 assigned protocol pins 2, 6, 7, 10, 14, 15 (blue colour socket) and 5(Signal ground), the corresponding LED will light in the following manners.

- If 12V or 24V is present – the LED will blink slowly at interval of 1 sec between each blink. (The ‘Caution – Volt present’ LED stays ON).

![LED Condition Table]

- If under voltage below 11.8V for 12V system or 23.8V for 24V system is present – the LED will stays lighted up. (The ‘Caution – Volt present’ LED stays ON).

In situation where there is 12V or 24V present at the pin, the voltage was either supplied direct short or through a resistor. Its resistance value is normally not more than 20Ω for 12V system or 40Ω for 24V system.

However, when a voltage 0V is supplied from the other end of the Scan tool to this pin, a current bigger than 0.6A will flow. This indication serves as a warning when using Scan tool without current limiter built-in because this voltage may damage it when plugged in.

In many cases, Vehicle Manufacturers do provide some pins on the OBD2 Diagnostic Link Connector (DLC) at the vehicle for RPM signals or Sensors signals used for testing or adjustment. These signals are usually found on any of the Manufacturer designated pins No.1, 3, 8, 11, 12 &13 on the DLC. Therefore such signals will be detected and indicated as “Caution – Volt present”.

In other words, you can still plug in and use your scan tool but with risk in case where the Scan tool has no protection.

It is also important to note that the presence of voltage in one of the pins maybe one of the reasons why sometimes communication failed between Scan tool and ECU because of the presence of the 12V or 24V shorting.

However, almost all Scan tools nowadays come with protective current circuit and this indication should not be accepted as danger but served as a warning.

1.3 Test with Engine running
When the second test has completed, proceed with the third and final test. With the OBD BREAK-OUT BOX still attached to the vehicle DLC, start and keep the engine running. Press the Retest button on the OBD BREAKOUT BOX. The test starts and it will repeat as in the second test but this time it will test for over 15V or 29V presence while the engine is running.

If the voltage is higher than 15.2V for 12V system or 29.2V for 24V system, the alarm will also come on. In this situation, the problem was caused by the regulator which had failed to regulate and cut OFF after reaching the preset charging voltage limit normally set below 15V.

Also, if over 15.2V for 12V system or 29.2V for 24V system was detected at the input or any of the vehicle Manufacturer designated pins No.1, 3, 8, 11, 12 & 13 (yellow colour socket) other than OBD2 assigned protocol pins 2, 6, 7, 10, 14, 15 (blue colour socket) the LED will blink at a very fast pace. (The ‘Caution – Volt present’ LED stays ON).

In this case, do not plug and test with the Scan tool while engine running as this high voltage input may damage it. Check the charging volts to determine whether the regulator is functioning properly.

Under normal conditions when after all the testing of the vehicle DLC port has been done, where there are no abnormal activities, the green ‘OK’ LED will light up. This indicates everything is OK and it is ready for Scan tool to be plugged in.
2. MONITOR VOLTAGE DURING REFLASH PROGRAMMING
It has voltage monitoring feature with Volts display which will give an alarm warning when the voltage falls below 11.8V or higher than 15.2V (for 12 V System) or below 23.8V or higher than 29.2V (for 24V system) while doing programming or coding. This feature will minimize any error while performing service reflashes.

3. DETECT COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL
To monitor data stream and protocol being used when connecting the scan tool to the car OBD2 ports via OBD Link connector (OBD BREAKOUT BOX)

LEDs Activities:
OBD Link Connector LEDs allows you to keep taps on power and ground. It identifies the protocol used in the vehicle.

1. RED LEDs (Pin 16) - automatically turn-on as soon as you plugged into DLC.
   RED LEDs turn dim when:
   Low battery voltage - refer to Voltmeter and alarm will beep (below 11.8V for 12V system and 23.8V for 24V system).
   Wiring to DLC pin 16 is faulty.
   Grounds circuits have resistance issues.

2. GREEN LEDS (Pins 4 – Chassis and 5 - Signal) - automatically turn-on as soon as you plugged into DLC. Ground LED (Pin 5) is connected to battery voltage via ECU. Therefore, a ground supply on pin 4 will not affect LED 5. A dim single green LED will indicate a circuit problem with the corresponding circuit.
   In remote case where if there is reverse polarity; the Green LED will turn into RED colour.
   When this happens, check the vehicle DLC connector for wrong polarity. Rectify first and test again.

3. BLUE LEDS (Pins 2, 6, 7, 10, 14 and 15) - LEDs should flash when serial data voltage pulses are present in the data line.
   Blue LEDs is assigned on pins 2, 6, 7, 10, 14 and 15 to indicate communication with scan tool or interface and for communication protocol identification. It will turn-on depend on your vehicle model. For some vehicle model, one or multiple blue LEDs will turn-on as soon as the OBD Link Connector is connected and you start the ignition. The brightness of the LEDs depends on the nature of the signal it's pursuing. This OBD Link Connector can identify immediately the protocol used. The better way to identify the protocol in use is to set-up the scan tool or interface in to LIVE DATA. This will lead in a constant data stream between the scan tool and the vehicle, and then you can locate the LEDs that are flashing.
**AECS OBD Link Connector**

4. **YELLOW LEDs** (Pins 1, 3, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 13) - it should flash when your vehicle manufacturer use either one on the pins for any function they prefer.

**Pin Assignments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pin #</th>
<th>SAE Designation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Discretionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bus + Line of SAE J1850 (PWM/VPW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Discretionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chassis Ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Signal Ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>CAN High of SAE J2284 (ISO 15765-4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>K Line (ISO 9141-2 and ISO 14230-4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Discretionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Discretionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Bus-Line of SAE J1850 (PWM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Discretionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Discretionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Discretionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>CAN Low of SAE J2284 (ISO 15765-4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>L Line (ISO 9141-2 and ISO 14230-4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Unswitched Vehicle Battery Positive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pins listed as "*Discretionary*" indicate that the vehicle manufacturers may used them for specified purpose. Check with the manufacturer’s specifications for these connections. For voltage and current limits, refer to SAE J1962 (ISO 15031-3.3). Test tool must not draw more than 1.5 amps through the pin number 5 (Signal ground).

**Helpful Tips:**

When activating some ABS and diagnostics wires to recover flash code, you can use pin 4.

If red (power) and green (grounds) LEDs turned dim or flickering when you plugged a scan tool supplied via DLC, it indicate a problem with your vehicle wiring that causes the voltage to drop.
4. AS BREAK OUT BOX

This OBD Link Connector (OBD BREAKOUT BOX) is a pass-through breakout box for the OBDII DLC (diagnostic link connector). It can be connected to your OBD-II compatible tools: such as scan tools, code readers, monitor readers or data loggers.

Any tool that uses a standard test lead or probe that use 4mm banana plugs (including those with safety heaths) can be plugged to OBD BREAKOUT BOX’s 16 pins sockets, these include, lab scopes, multimeter, logic probes, test lights, etc to read the voltage, resistance, frequency, pulse width or duty cycle.

Pin 16 socket is protected by a self-healing fuse rated at 5 amps.

Jumper cable and Blink Code cables are standard accessory:
Jumper cable: for direct pin to pin or stacking connection while scanning or perform special functions and tests.

Blink Code Cable - N/O (Normally Open) contact switch cable for Reset, Adaptation or codes activation.

Some Typical Applications:
- **VW** - To protect the Scan tool such as aftermarket radios on VW's
- **BM** - Transmitter Programming on some GMs
- **Honda** - Set the ECM in SCS mode with your scan tool connected
- **Lexus** - Help diagnose electronics systems (Sirius, GPS) on pin 6 and 14
- **Bosch** - Troubleshoot Bosch controllers that short to ground
- **Proton** - needs to short pin 1 to ground in order to access into OBD2 functions.
- **Toyota Avanza** - the base RPM can be achieved by shorting pin 4 and 12
5. CHECK ALTERNATOR CONDITION

With ignition key in OFF position; plug OBD BREAKOUT BOX into the car DLC without connecting the scantool.
Switch key to ON position and the volt LED will display the battery voltage. Start the engine;
observing the voltage display while the engine is idling. It should be above 12.6 Volts for 12V
system or 25.2V for 24V system. If not, check for loose drive belt.

Then rev engine up to 3,000rpm and observe the change in voltage. If the voltage is above 15.2
Volts for 12V battery or 29.2V for 24V battery, the alarm will beep indicating that the charging
voltage is too high. In this case, the regulator may be faulty and it needs to be checked.

Then switch ON all electrical loads, rev engine to 2,000rpm and observe the changes in voltage
at the tool. The voltage should above 13.6 Volts for 12V system and 27.6V for 24V system. If the
voltage is below, check for loose drive belt and the Alternator.

6. AS DATA SAVER WHILE REPLACING CAR BATTERY
Connect the OBDII cable with battery clips to OBD BREAKOUT BOX. Turn ignition key to OFF
position and
connect the tool to the car DLC. Attach the battery clip to an external battery (not the battery
from the same car). If the external battery voltage is above 12V, the battery volt indicator LED
on the Datasaver cable will light up. Now it is ready to proceed for replacing the car battery.
After job done, remove the battery clips from the external battery, unplug OBD BREAKOUT BOX
from the car.

The data-saver cable comes with surge voltage protection, short circuit and polarity protection.

7. AS DC POWER SOURCE FOR OTHER DEVICES
While connected to the DLC, you can tap +12V or +24V depending on the power input at the
DLC connector red banana socket (pin 16) and Chassis Ground (-) at black banana socket (pin
4) to power other DC loads. This voltage will also be displayed on its digital display.