

Everything free should be this good!

Dec 12, 2000 (Updated Nov 10, 2013) by [Leonard Ratliff](#)

[Rated](#) a Very Helpful Review by the Epinions community

Pros: Reliable technical resource, informative articles,

Cons: Dense advertisement content

The Bottom Line: For accurate informative automotive repair information, for free, this is a no brainer.

First things first-

I've been involved in the automotive repair industry at a professional level for over 19 years but this magazine has been one of my most valued resources for keeping up with technology, identifying TSB (Technical service bulletin) related faults and improving upon current repair procedures. That in itself says an awful lot considering I've worked with multiple data information systems like Alldata and Mitchell on demand.

This magazine is packed with highly useful information for automotive repair technicians, service writers, shop owners and consumers. While this magazine may be geared towards technicians and shop owners, a resourceful home mechanic or car owner can certainly make use of the magazines informative nature to further advance their own knowledge about vehicle repair and maintenance.

Front to back-

Designed as both an advertising vehicle for present/future aftermarket parts and a source for solid repair practices, Underhood Service consists of several sections including technical tips (Which offers invaluable model specific repair information on both basic and highly complicated procedures.), aftermarket update (For the business minded individuals who like to keep tabs or stay updated on affairs regarding automotive/aftermarket parts companies and new repair technology options.) and several other areas designed to inform you of current advances in replacement part or repair standards.

Insightful articles, which are clearly written and highly readable offer subscribers reliable repair information regarding engines, ignition systems, computer controls, feedback devices, fuel systems and emission controls. They make every effort to keep you informed of the most minute changes in technical specifications and revised part numbers throughout the pages so you don't fall behind the times. Articles, such as the one I just finished, offer a detailed explanation of the parts working relationship with the rest of the vehicle and offer extensive troubleshooting or repair information so you can be fairly sure to accurately diagnose a faulty part. In the case of this article, on oxygen sensors, they cover the sensors entire function process, including acceptable parameters for testing purposes and offer guidelines for choosing the right tools to get the job done.

Along other lines-

Among the many magazines related to automobiles, I believe that Underhood Service has one of the most technically astute editorial crews of them all. These guys aren't afraid to face off with sub-standard shops that use shady, or less than professional, shop practices. Other stand-out features like "Product showcase", which showcases especially promising new tools or

replacement parts, is great for shops or individuals looking for that little something to give them an edge. Many of the products which I've encountered via their product showcase I now use on a regular basis, although in truth I doubt whether I would have ever seen them otherwise.

They also have an online version of the magazine, which offers some of its monthly content online. While there is a significant amount of advertisement content, the rest of the magazine more than makes up for it. Besides, the majority of its ad content is often valuable for contacting a desired part manufacturer that perhaps isn't available to you locally. Underhood service subscriptions are free to individuals or shops that meet certain eligibility requirements or can be purchased for a nominal price by those who don't or who happen to live outside the U.S. Babcox publishing offers several other magazines for the automotive industry such as Automotive rebuilder, Brake and front end, Import car and Professional Nascar garage. Information on these can be found at their website located at <http://www.babcox.com/brands/underhood-service/about/>. I look forward to receiving each issue and if you repair vehicles, you will too.