Technical Information

Fault code given as hexadecimal number

Conversion of hexadecimal numbers to decimal numbers

In the world of programming and computer technology, so-called hexadecimal numbers are used as well as binary number codes (comprising 0 and 1). The hexadecimal system doesn't only count from 0 to 9 as is the case with our standard decimal system, but rather from 0 to F. In addition to the figures 0 to 9, the capital letters A (=10), B (=11), C (=12), D (=13), E (=F), F (=15) are also used.

Sometimes during troubleshooting and read-out of fault codes, one can come across fault codes that seem illogical or that do not have a text explanation.

This is particularly the case for vehicles that are not equipped with EOBD. Fault codes such as 0A or 7B can be found. These hexadecimal numbers have to be converted to decimal numbers first to enable them to be compared with the fault code tables. The easiest way to convert these numbers is with the aid of a pocket calculator. Almost every PC has a pocket calculator function that can usually be found via "Start", "Programs", "Accessories", "Calculator". Click "View" to reach the "scientific" screen display. Now click on "Hex" and enter the hexadecimal number read out into the white entry field (e.g. 8A). To get the corresponding decimal number, simply click the "Dec." field. The converted decimal number (in this case 138) will appear in the white entry field. The fault code 138, stands for the fault "idling actuator faulty" with some older Mercedes models.