2018-2024 Audi Q5 - Check Engine Light / OBD2

2018-2024 Audi Q5 | Easy | 30-45 minutes | $25 DIY

TOOLS

Generic OBD2 scanner (handheld or Bluetooth + phone app) Headlamp or flashlight Notebook and pen Gloves

PARTS

OBD2 scanner $25.00

STEPS

1. **Let the light tell you how urgent this is - Start the Q5. Steady light = stored fault;** drive gently while planning the diagnosis. Flashing = active misfire: pull over and kill the engine - it overheats the catalytic converter. Stop driving immediately for a red oil-pressure lamp,...
2. **Find the port under the driver-side dash - The FY (2018-2024) Q5's 16-pin OBD2 connector** sits under the driver-side dashboard, left of the steering column - the standard VAG location. The trapezoid plug faces down, no tools needed to reach it. Wear a headlamp, keeping both hand...
3. **Connect a generic scanner and read everything - Ignition OFF, push the scanner connector** fully home - VAG ports can feel seated when they aren't. Ignition ON, engine OFF, then "Read Codes." Log each code exactly as displayed with its status (stored/pending/permanent) plus freeze-f...
4. **Match code families to the 2.0T's habits - EA888 repeat offenders: P0171 lean idle =** failed PCV diaphragm. P00B7 = thermostat or low coolant. P0300-series = coils (swap-test), then plugs, then intake-valve carbon. P0440 = EVAP (check fuel cap). P0420 = cat efficiency (check exhaust...
5. **Do the Q5-specific free diagnostics - Three free checks: (1) PCV - idling, loosen oil** cap; strong suction = torn diaphragm. (2) Coil swap - move it to another cylinder, clear, drive; code follows = bad coil. (3) Coolant - check tank cold; slow drop, no puddle = weeping t...
6. **Clear after repair, verify with real driving - Erase only after repair - early clearing** kills freeze-frame evidence. Erase with ignition on, engine off, then drive 20-30 minutes of stop-and-go and highway. Monitors need several warm-up/cool-down cycles to report ready. Dark light =...
7. **Know the jobs that belong at a shop - See Audi/VW specialist for: flashing CEL; misfire** that won't follow a coil swap (carbon needs walnut blasting, injectors need flow testing); unlocated coolant loss; P0420 on sealed exhaust; or limp mode with EPC light. Codes across unrelat...

TORQUE

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