

2009-2018 RAM Ram 1500 | Easy | 15-30 minutes | \$105 DIY

TOOLS

OBD2 scanner (Bluetooth dongle plus a smartphone app, or a handheld code reader)
Pen and paper or your phone, to record the exact codes and freeze-frame data
Flashlight, to see under the dash and around the engine bay

PARTS

BlueDriver Bluetooth Pro OBD2 Scan Tool (LSB2)
LSB2 \$105.00

STEPS

- 1 Read the light: steady or flashing - With the truck running, look at the light. Steady means a fault is stored and you can drive it to get it scanned. Flashing means an active misfire is happening right now. If it is flashing, pull over...**
- 2 Find the OBD2 port - On 2009-2018 Ram 1500 trucks the 16-pin OBD2 connector is under the dash on the driver side, left of the steering column, near the hood release. You may have to feel for it with your fingers; on some...**
- 3 Plug in the scanner, key to ON - With the ignition off, push the scanner firmly into the port until it seats. Then turn the key to ON (do not start the engine). On a Bluetooth dongle, open the app on your phone and pair it; the LED...**
- 4 Read and record all codes plus freeze-frame data - Read every stored code: confirmed, pending, and permanent. Write down the exact code numbers in the order the scanner lists them. Then open the freeze-frame data for the first code and record the eng...**
- 5 Look up each code and match it to the freeze-frame conditions - Look up what each code actually means. P0300 through P0308 are misfire codes. P0440, P0441, P0456, and P0457 are EVAP system codes. P0420 and P0430 are catalyst efficiency codes for bank 1 and bank 2...**
- 6 Do the free visual checks first - Do the free visual checks before buying anything. Remove and reseal the gas cap and inspect its rubber seal for cracks, since a bad seal is a classic cause of P0440 and P0456 on these trucks. Check v...**
- 7 Apply the known Ram 1500 patterns - On the 5.7L Hemi, a P0300-series misfire with a ticking noise from the valve covers that gets worse as the engine warms up matches the known MDS lifter and camshaft lobe failure pattern on these truc...**
- 8 Clear, drive, and rescan to confirm - Only after everything is recorded, clear the codes. Drive the truck normally for 16 to 20 miles with mixed city and highway driving, then scan again. A code that comes back is a real, repeatable faul...**
- 9 Decide: fix it or hand the data to a shop - If the code returns and the fault is beyond a gas cap, a loose connector, or a hose, you now have the exact codes, freeze-frame data, and confirmation to hand to a shop. That turns a \$90 diagnostic v...**