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The Engine Lacks Power (for engines that are not new)

If the engine is still relatively easy to start, then the most probable cause is that it's time to perform routine maintenance and or a tune up. Service or replace the air filter, replace the spark plug, and make MINOR adjustments to the carb (if adjustable). For OHV engines, I also recommend that the valve lash be checked and or adjusted to the manufacturer's specifications.

Don't overlook the possibility that it could be time for a valve job. Performing a valve job and removing carbon buildup from the piston and combustion chamber occasionally, should be considered to be part of normal maintenance and will insure that the engine is capable of operating at peak performance levels.

Finally, the problem could be caused by the engine RPM being set too slow or too fast to give maximum performance.

For all but the basic tune up outlined above, I recommend that you take the engine to a professional for repairs or adjustments. If you do attempt other repairs, be sure to follow the directions given in the manufacturer's repair instruction manual!

