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**Empower Your Braking**

**By Michelle Betz**

Have you boosted your engines performance, what about those brakes? So many people love to pump up that power and neglect those stoppers.

While most VW/Audi vehicles come with adequate braking systems for everyday driving, they are not equipped to respond to hard street/track or sport driving. Here at BBM we feel that performance braking is vital to the balance and safety of any car. Stock braking systems do not have the thermal capacity to handle the high energy transfer rates that hard driving generates. Under severe conditions you want your braking system to transfer the heat thoroughly and efficiently with components properly matched to your style of driving.

BBM has a huge inventory of performance braking accessories in stock and ready to be installed on most every VW/Audi application. Whether you are a local customer who needs new brake pads installed or a VW/Audi enthusiast on the East Coast looking for a good deal on BBM StopTech Brakes, we offer solutions at an excellent value. Be sure to balance your car out and stay safe by utilizing BBM performance and BIG brake products!

Who is BBM?

Bahn Brenner Motorsport (BBM) is a dedicated VW/Audi high performance tuning company. We strive to engineer, manufacture and represent only the best products available for the Volkswagen and Audi community. We also try to stay current and educated to bring you the best information and tech support we can. Our fully equipped manufacturing facility and highly skilled staff gives you a complete source under one roof for most all of your needs. Whether you are looking to get your factory computer chip upgraded, supercharge your engine or upgrade your brakes you have come to the right place.

<http://www.bahnbrenner.com>

**Understanding Trailer Brake Controllers**

### By Derek Chastain

An electric trailer brake controller is a device that supplies power from a tow vehicle to a trailer's electric brakes. There are two types of brake controllers on the market today – Time Delay Activated and Inertia Activated.

While the controllers operate differently, they are very similar. Both types have the same wiring configuration. Both allow the driver to adjust the amount of braking power and both have a pressure sensitive manual override switch that can be used to apply the trailer brakes independently of the tow vehicle.

#### Time Delay Activated Brake Controls

Time Delay Activated or "solid state" controllers are enabled by the depressing of the brake pedal in the tow vehicle. Once enabled, time delay activated controllers apply a gradual voltage to the trailer's brakes using a Time Delay Circuit.

The advantages of a solid state brake control unit are the inexpensive cost, low profile, and they can be mounted at any angle. The disadvantages mostly pertain to Hazard Flashers issues. In most applications the digital display will flash with the hazard flashers and if the gain is set aggressively, some pulsing of the trailer brakes may be felt.

Hazard Flasher issues can be resolved by using a Pulse Preventer that will isolate the brake control from the vehicles flashers, thus eliminating the pulsing.

#### Inertia Activated Brake Controls

Inertia Activated Brake Controllers or Pendulum Style controllers are enabled by the depressing of the brake pedal and activated by a Pendulum Circuit that senses the stopping motion of the vehicle. The Pendulum Circuit applies a proportional voltage to the trailer's brakes.

When the Inertia activated brake control is properly adjusted, the trailer will decelerate at the same speed as the towing vehicle. A result of this is increased braking efficiency and reduced wear on the brakes.

Advantages of pendulum style controllers are efficient braking under a variety of braking conditions including adverse conditions. They also have a smooth braking motion.

Pendulum style controllers have a few disadvantages also. They tend to be larger than solid state controller. They usually more expensive and they must be mounted in a level position. Tekonsha's Prodigy controller is an exception. Due to its innovative technology, it can be mounted in almost any position.

Whether the brake control is Timer Activated or Inertia Activated, the gain can be adjusted by the user. Both feature a pressure sensitive switch that can be used to apply the trailer brakes independent of the

## Empower Your Braking

tow vehicle. Most importantly, both styles achieve the same goal safely and reliably. Visit

<http://www.trailerbrakecontrols.com>

for more information.

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1. The article must not be altered in anyway and the links must remain active.

Understanding Trailer Brake Controllers

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