

Color Coding Wiring Schematics for Diagnostics

Wiring schematics are generally drawn in the “off” position. To help you simplify complex schematics, we can highlight circuits using the coloring scheme below to help us understand the flow of current through the circuit and components in both the “key off” position and the “key on” position to give us a clearer understanding of how the circuit works. This process will help us focus on the wires involved in the circuit that we are troubleshooting.

RED	Source or Feed Voltage which is Hot ALL the Time; typically battery voltage, or could be a computer supplied voltage.
ORANGE	Switched Voltage; usually comes from an ignition switch, a relay or a computer (5, 9, 10, 12 or 13-15 volts)
YELLOW	Permanent or Hard Ground; examples include battery ground, alternator ground, chassis ground, or engine ground
GREEN	Switched Ground; a switch, relay or computer (e.g., sensor ground via a PCM) provides a path to ground
BLUE	Load; the load (relays, solenoids, lamps, resistors, etc...) is what does the work or performs a function