Power Brake Service Tips

Pedal Goes to Floorboard (or Nearly)

Possible Cause	Correction
Brakes need adjustment	Major adjustment or minor adjustment
Air in hydraulic system	Bleed lines and fill reservoir
Hydraulic leak	Locate and correct leak; bleed lines and fill reservoir
Fluid reservoir needs refilling	Fill reservoir; bleed lines
Cracked drum	Replace drum; minor brake adjustment

Brakes Fail to Release (or Slow Release)

Compensating valve leak	Replace valve assembly; bleed lines; fill reservoir
Hydraulic piston seal leak	Recondition master cylinder; bleed lines; fill reservoir
Compensating port or output fitting seal leak	Replace seal; bleed lines; fill reservoir
Brakes improperly adjusted	Major adjustment
Bound up brake pedal linkage	Free pedal linkage
Restricted air passage	Eliminate restriction
Excessive hydraulic seal friction	Replace seal; bleed lines; fill reservoir
Compensator port plugged	Clean port; bleed lines; fill reservoir
Faulty residual check valve	Replace valve; bleed lines; fill reservoir
Piston stroke interference	Be sure coiled vacuum line at vacuum connection to valve is not striking intake end; push piston in and out to check creeping and fouling—if so, relocate piston return spring by moving 120 deg.
Sticky vacuum valve	Touch up lightly with crocus cloth; do not oil
Sticky compensating valve	Replace valve; bleed lines; fill reservoir
Broken piston return spring	Replace spring
Dry ledges on backing plate	Lubricate ledges

Hard Pedal

Possible Cause	Correction
Glazed linings	Reline; major brake adjustment
Grease or brake fluid on linings	Stop source of leak; reline; major adjustment
Bound up pedal linkage	Free linkage
Faulty vacuum check valve	Clean if dirty or sticky; replace if damaged
Collapsed vacuum hose	Replace hose
Plugged vacuum fittings	Clean fittings; eliminate source of dirt
Leaking vacuum tank	Replace tank
Jammed vacuum cylinder piston	Locate and correct cause of jamming; replace damaged parts
Vacuum leaks caused by loose piston plate screws	Tighten screws
Faulty diaphragm	Replace diaphragm
Faulty vacuum cylinder piston seal	Replace seal

Grabbing Brakes

Grease or brake fluid on linings	Reline; major brake adjustment
Scored drums	If slight, dress with fine emery cloth; if deep, turn drums and use oversize lining
Diaphragm leakage	Replace diaphragm
Broken counter-reaction spring (vacuum system)	Replace spring
Restricted diaphragm passage	Check by-pass hole in gasket for alignment with hole in casting; clean passage
Sticking vacuum valve action	Clean valve lightly with crocus cloth; do not oil