

the kitchen stove

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.repair/2007-06/msg00713.html>

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 - *Date:* Wed, 13 Jun 2007 20:16:50 -0700
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Well, hi once again. It's been about eight years since my last post to this group. The old mail browser I'd been using got overloaded, and I got wound up with real life, sort of. But it was only temporary, and now I have a problem of my own.

We took a lightning hit to somewhere along our power line tonight. I have a whole-house lightning protector, but there was a nice crackle from the power supply of the computer I was working on. That wasn't the problem, though. In the kitchen, the stove—Amana model AGS761W, a gas stove probably made in 1994, was beeping, showing 'F5' on its display. Unplugged it, tried all sorts of resetting techniques, nothing: it runs for thirty seconds and then beeps and displays F5.

The part in question is called an ERC, electronic range control, part number probably is 343461 but at this point I'm not sure, and all the parts houses tell me that it's no longer being made and unavailable. I have inquiries into Amana and repairclinic.com. eBay doesn't seem to have that control, though there are a couple of electronic control modules for other stoves, so I know I was doing a thorough search.

My guess is that 'F5' means 'bad module' or something helpful like that. Without the oven, I have an exceptionally unhappy Natalie, and she'd like me to get it figured out already. I cannot fathom being able to come up with a workaround for this unit: it incorporates the oven thermostat, the oven timer, and the self-cleaning oven stuff.

My strategy is to start at the power supply, which would have taken the initial hit from a power-line overvoltage, and then test each component in turn. Trouble is, the power supply is fine, because the various clock functions work, right up until the unit fails some sort of a self-test procedure about twenty seconds after you plug it in. Then we see 'F5.'

If anyone has any experience in this sort of thing, please let me know.

Mark Kinsler <http://www.mkinsler.com>, if it still works.