

Horn Repair on Lily, my 1971 MGB GT

by Brad Cardwell

The previous owner and his mechanic could not figure out how to make the horn work with the aftermarket steering wheel, so they installed a push button on the dash in place of the choke knob/cable which was now electric. Now that was not a very good solution since it was about 3/8" in diameter not like the large 1 1/4" horn button on my TD and because most of us would hit the button in the middle of the steering wheel to actuate the horn. With my Air Force Electronics training and 10 years of experience as a crew chief on C-130s I felt comfortable with this project.

I finally took the time to research and figure out how to make the horn button on the steering wheel center operational. After pulling the steering wheel and looking around as well as studying the wiring diagrams and the Moss catalog I discovered a few things. First there was no slip ring (Moss # 263-755 Fig #1 & 2) on the aftermarket hub, so that went on the Moss to buy list. Second was that the clamp and horn contact (Moss # 141-804 Fig 3, 4 & 5) was broken so that there was no contact with the slip ring, so another item onto the list.

After receiving the parts from Moss, I proceeded to assemble everything. I soldered a wire onto the slip ring and fed it through the hole in the hub (Fig 6 & 7) and then connected it to the horn button (Fig 8). Installed the new clamp and horn contact (Fig 5 & 9) and after installing the steering wheel, I had to find out where they had cut the purple/black wire going to the horn and it was just past the harness connector (Fig 10). After disconnecting that wire from the dash button, I spliced the two purple/black wires together and the button now operates as originally designed.

Upon further investigation it looks like I will probably be replacing the 50+ year old wiring throughout the car, but that's a project and article for another day.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

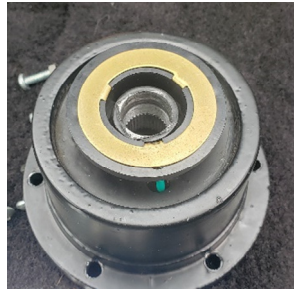


Figure 6

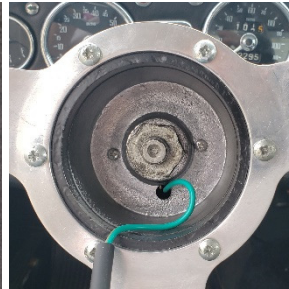


Figure 7



Figure 8

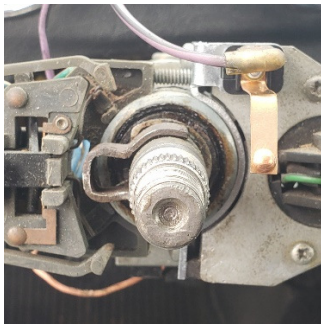


Figure 9

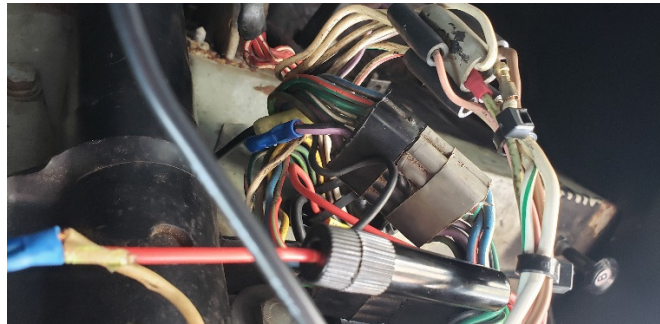


Figure 10