

MGA HYDRAULIC BRAKE LIGHT SWITCH REPLACEMENT

My MGA suffered yet another hydraulic brake light switch failure. It seems to be a regular problem with replacement switches as they seem to be of dubious quality and not lasting much longer than a couple of thousand miles if you are lucky, and on the MGA the switch is on the top of a lower chassis member and difficult to remove and replace.

So enough was enough and it was time for a re-think. The obvious way was to do away with the hydraulic switch and fit a manual one, but which one and how to do it?

A trawl through e-bay resulted in a mechanical switch from Euro Car Parts e-bay store to suit a BMW 3 Series, a Volvo and several other vehicles.

The part number of the switch is 464110010 at the enormous cost of £5.79 including VAT and postage. This is a type of reverse operating switch so when the switch is depressed it is off, and when the switch is released it is on. Perfect for fitting underneath the brake pedal arm.

A simple mounting bracket was required for the switch which was relatively easy to make from a piece of sheet metal. Two mounting holes needed to be drilled in a suitable position in the locality of the brake pedal to mount the bracket and a 90 degree attachment for the drill was required to do this which I have available.



The next operation was to mount the switch, with the bracket in situ, under the brake pedal arm and adjust the switch on its threads so that when the pedal is in the 'at rest' position the switch is off and when the pedal is depressed the switch is on.

We then come to the simple job of wiring. Leave the old switch in position to act as a plug for the hydraulics, then simply remove the the wires, extend them, and connect to the new switch with insulated spade connectors. Simple.

The result is a switch that is easy to get at if it ever needs changing and instant brake lights that illuminate as soon as the pedal is pressed, all at a total cost of £5.79.

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