

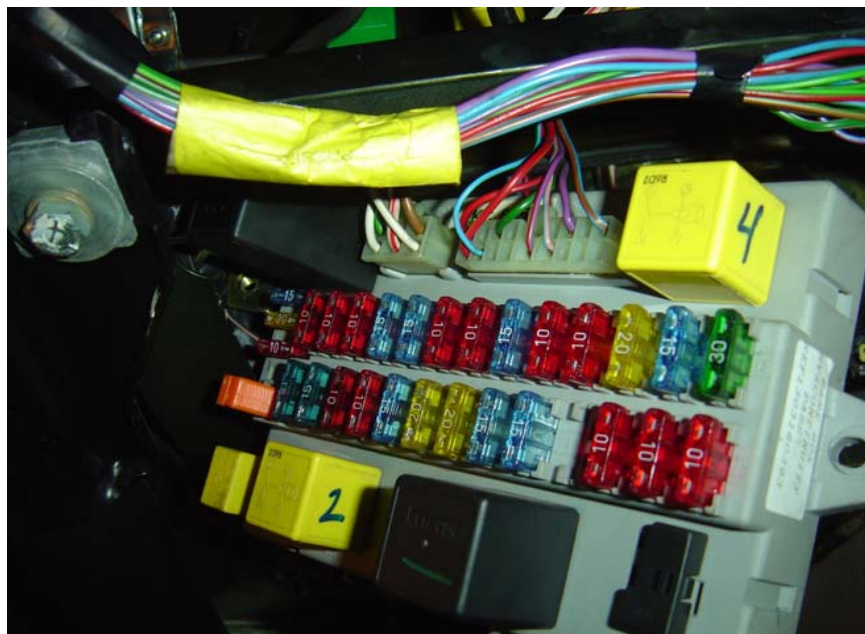
RV8NOTE321

Wipers failed? – test the relay as well as the fuse

Simon Austin recently imported RV8 (Woodcote Green 0590) to Canada from Japan and during the process of having the car MOT'd for licensing had run into a small snag. His wiper/washer system was not working. He thought he had isolated it to the relay/control unit on the back-side of the fuse-box. Unfortunately he found that this relay was not available in Canada so he ordered a new one from Rimmer Bros. Simon posted a message on the V8BB to see if any other RV8 owners had had their wipers fail and found the relay at fault. If not the relay, were there any other areas to check out? (Jan 10)

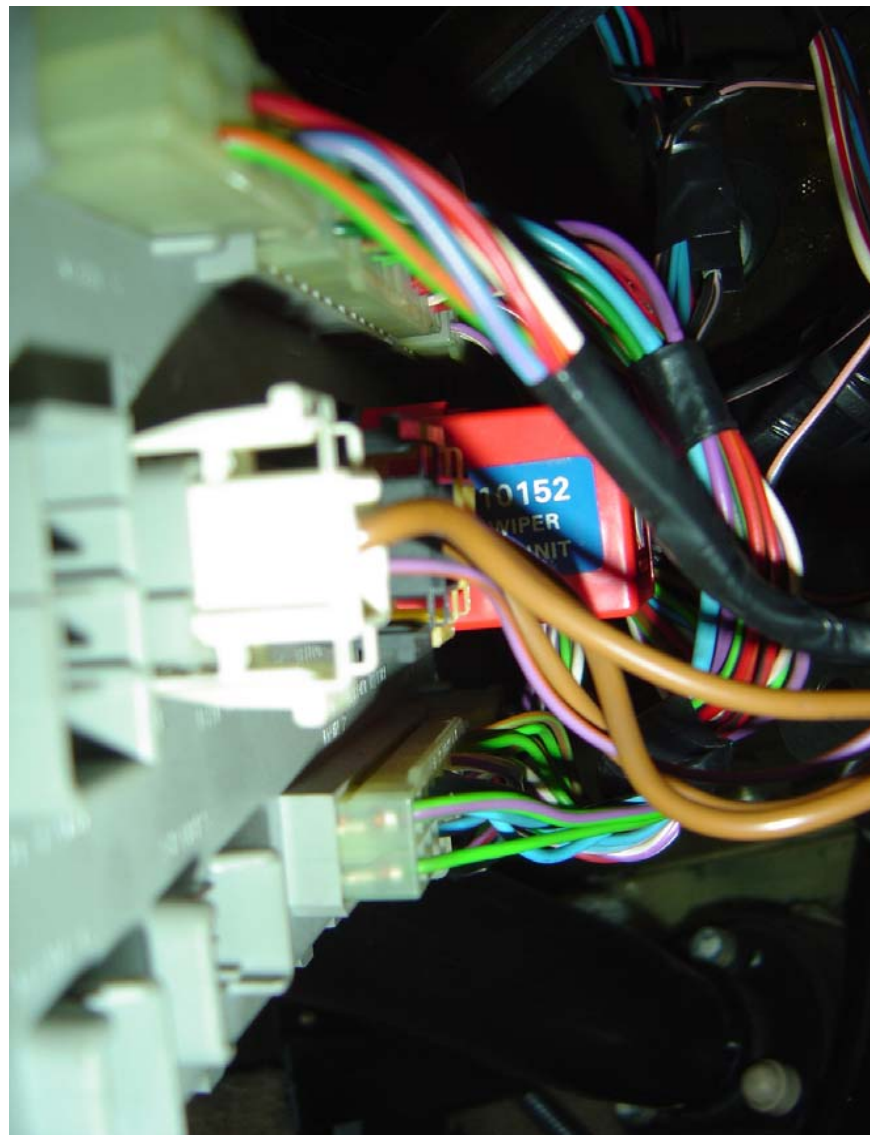
Simon later reported he had installed the new relay/control unit but the wipers still failed to function. Working with the workshop manual wiring diagrams, he determined the power routing ran through the ignition relay (#4 on the fuse panel) through the #15 fuse and then to the wiper control unit #8. The fact that there was no power showing at the #15 fuse confirmed that the #4 relay was suspect. By switching the #4 relay with the identical one at position #2 (cooling fan), this activated the wiper/washer system. These relays are a common, 4-terminal relay (fortunately) available at any auto parts supplier.

So, if your wipers fail, check the fuse first, then the #4 relay and if those are good, then the wiper control unit on the back of the fuse panel (#8).



Relay marked #2 is the ignition relay that powers the wiper circuit.

In the accompanying photos, the numbers on the yellow relays indicate the two used for testing and show the good, original #2 relay in the #4 position (ignition relay). The faulty, original #4 relay is in the #2 position (cooling fan).



Back side of fuse panel showing the wiper control unit's position.



The wiper control unit itself, part number YWC 10152.
(Photos: Simon Austin)