

## Repairing an overdrive switch fault

Barrie Jones had been experiencing problems with the overdrive switch on his MGBGT V8, Glacier White 0672. Operating the wipers or the screenwash sometimes caused the overdrive to disengage momentarily, no matter how careful he was. This note describes how he cured the fault. (Nov 09)



Photo 1: stalk switch mounted in a large vice for inspection.



I therefore removed the switch from the steering column and mounted it in a large vice (**photo 1**). If you look at the metal cover, you will see a part number and a date code. Mine was stamped 1873, so it was manufactured in week 18 of 1973. That ties in with the build date of the car so it is probably original. (Looking at the copy of the Factory production control records made by the late Geoff Allen, the Date Advised for Delivery for Barrie's V8 was 25<sup>th</sup> September 1973.).

Before dismantling, I tested the connection between the white terminal and the yellow terminal. A digital ohm-meter was used and this confirmed that the switch was prone to disconnecting whenever the stalk was operated in order to simulate use of the wipers.

The next step was to take the switch apart. Remove the two screws and carefully lift the metal cover off. This will reveal two locating springs and ball bearings (**photo 2**). These must be removed with care, or else they will jump out.

Next, gently ease the switch apart, so that you have access to the internals. The long, straight connector to the left can be extracted upwards. The contact on the end can then be cleaned, and I decided to give the metal a double kink in the

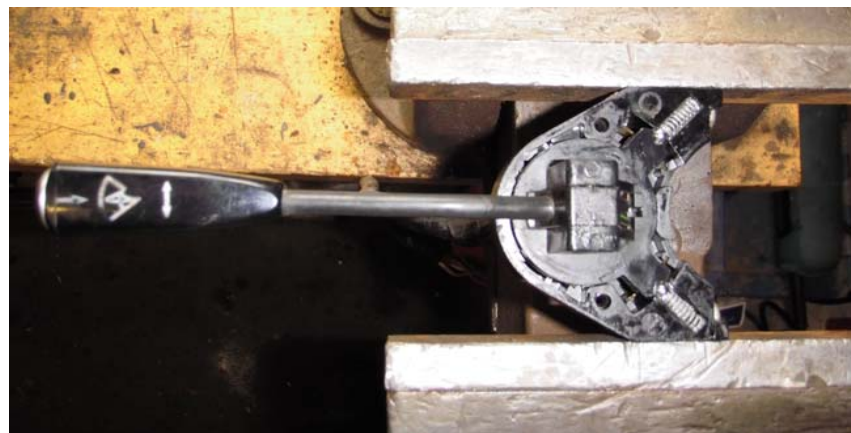


Photo 2: switch with the metal cover removed.

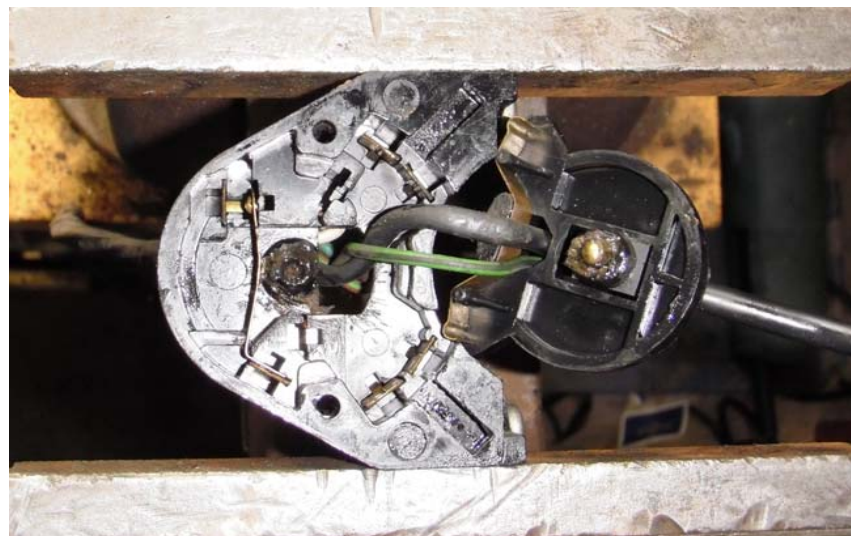


Photo 3: modified switch.

centre, in order to bias it towards the engaged position. The modified switch can be seen in **photo 3**.

After lubricating the springs and balls with a little silicone grease, the switch was re-assembled and tested. It felt much more positive, and my meter showed that the overdrive switch was more reluctant to disengage accidentally.

On the road, the switch is now much more reliable.