

TAIL LIGHT PROTECTIVE COVER

by Dave DuBois

During two trips from the Seattle area to Southern California, I had a problem with the electrical system in our 1966 MGB. Whenever I applied the brakes I noticed that the tach would drop off to almost 0 RPM and the head light warning buzzer that I had installed would come on. Upon investigation, I found that the camera case that I had crammed into the trunk, in the fender well, directly behind the right hand wheel well, was hard against the tail light/brake light/turn signal assembly and was causing the wire to the brake light to be crushed against the socket hard enough to cause a short to ground. Since we take the MGB on all extended trips (our only other vehicles are a TD and a beater truck), I had to come up with a way to protect the tail light, brake light and turn signal sockets. The following is what I came up with and you may want to apply it to your '64 through '69 MGB (a similar fix would work on the later MGBs, but I don't have the dimensions for them).

The following parts are required for this fix:

2" long pieces of 1" plastic pipe – 2 pieces required for the upper light sockets (turn signal light)

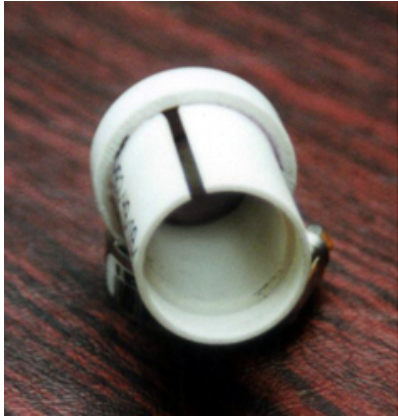
2 5/16" long pieces of 1" plastic pipe – 2 pieces required for the lower light sockets (brake/tail light)

1" plastic pipe caps, cut to 1/2" long – 4 pieces

1 1/2" to 2" hose clamps – 4 pieces

After cutting the four pieces of plastic pipe, have someone with a lathe bore the inside diameter out to 1.190" to a depth of 0.422" and then cut a 1/8" – 3/16" slot down the side of each piece. Glue the cut down caps on the end of each piece that has not been bored out (see attached picture, *Tail Light Cover 1*). Slide each protective cover over their respective light sockets, with the wires from the sockets fed out through the slots and then hold the covers on with the hose clamps (see attached picture, *Tail Light Cover 2*).

Since putting these protective covers on the tail light sockets of our MGB, we have had no further problems with shorted brake lights regardless how tightly packed the trunk is (sardine cans are loosely packed compared to the trunk of our car when we set out on a two to three week trip).



Tail Light Cover 1



Tail Light Cover 2



BEFORE



AFTER