

Wiring In Turn Signals Made Easy by Mike McKey

The last couple of months I have been dealing with an old turn signal installation on my Model A. It has caused me problems for a few years since I bought the car.

The first problem I had was that there was a short in the cowl light on the passenger side as the backing screw in the light had cut through one wire and was popping fuses.

Then there was the unit on the steering column as the lever would not stay on when you made a turn. So one hand was on the steering wheel and the other hand was on the turn signal lever. So if you had to down shift, good luck. I guess you did it with your foot. So that was replaced.

Then there was the mess under the dash of wires that went out to the lights that had to be rearranged. So to make a long story short, all this was torn out and replaced.

The next problem that came up was the passenger side rear tail light assembly, which is what this article is all about. The guts of the lamp unit had been replaced so that the brake and turn signal lamp was a two filament bulb and the receptacle had been cobbled together. Therefore, half

the time nothing worked except for the tail light. So I decided to replace the whole light assembly and get everything correct. In replacing the tail light assembly it only comes with one wire for the tail light and one wire for the brake light and not two for the latter. If you want two wires for the Brake and turning light with a double filament bulb then you have to do a lot of work in replacing things. So I looked at this and said how can I do this in a simple way. It hit me that all you have to do is on the wire for the brake and turning signal coming from the turn signal unit is put a diode in each wire, then connect them together and then connect it to the single wire that goes to the bulb. The diode stops the flow of electricity back to the two separate systems so that there are no problems. This way you use a single filament bulb and get a brake and a signal all in one. The thing you have to remember which I found out is that if your electrical system is still original and positive ground, you need to install the diodes in the reverse direction as compared to a negative ground system. Everything is working great and I have not blown any fuses. I hope this has helped as it is an easy application to install.

FYI

