



### Alarm not working on an RV8

A note was posted on the V8BB by Terence Carney seeking help with solving a problem with an alarm not working. Terence asked "is there a relay that could need replacing, where it and where is the alarm fitted? He added "is the relay colour coded? I can only think that it can be this because everything was working as normal when I last left the car." In the end Richard Withington met up with Terence and solved the problem – a defective electronic key fob.

**Gavin Brown** in Tasmania responded saying "The alarm ECU is in the boot behind the carpet with the light in it. It is the one with the coaxial cable coming out of it. It sends signals to a relay in behind the dash above the driver's side face vent. There is a wiring diagram in the RV8 workshop manual, AKM7153ENG".

**Simon Austin** in Canada added "hopefully it's just a failed relay. Keep in mind that the majority of the RV8 relays are 20 years old (unless replaced) so it wouldn't be unusual for any of them to fail unexpectedly. I had this issue on #590 when it arrived in Canada almost five years ago. The relay for the wipers had failed after it left Japan. I replaced it with a new one from Rimmer Bros and have had no further issues".

**Peter Garton** in Germany then raised a basic question saying "probably stating the obvious but is your remote OK and not out of sequence or has the battery gone?".

**Gavin Brown** followed this saying "does the remote light illuminate when you press the button? Check the sequence by rapidly pressing the button three times to resync it to the car". He added "the relay is just a large black one that sits horizontally on a

bracket, you can get it out in place apparently, but it is very tight".

Following these two leads **Terence Carney** responded "the light on the fob does light when pressed and the batteries are new, but the alarm does not respond to the three rapid press re-sync procedure. Should I gain access to the relay by removing the radio or the right hand air vent in the centre of the dash and how do you get those two pesky metal clips on and off, or perhaps both radio and vent? I did remove all of the dash last year to get it re-veneered but I cannot recall a black relay behind there but I do seem to remember a couple of small thin foam wrapped items that I never investigated".

**Peter Garton** added "there is a relay located in the passenger compartment fuse box which is located top left in the box and is number 1 which Gavin Brown has already mentioned in his thread input. It operates the alarm light and the interior light delay function so I would check to see if your interior lighting is actually working, first of all. You could also check the connections under the arm rest which you can easily just pull off via the Velcro pads".

**Terence Carney** replied to Peter saying "thank you for your input, the interior light delay is working, and if I move the relay you mention out of its socket the interior light goes out so I now know that the relay is OK. I also found the box behind the rear bulkhead carpet in the boot and checked all of the three terminal connections including the coaxial cable and all seem to be a good tight fit. I then checked the terminal connector to the box under the armrest and this is also a correct fit. I traced the two leads that come off the back of the alarm warning light on the dash "by feel" to the small male/female connecting block behind the dash and this seems fine too. So the warning light stays off and there is no sign of life from any of the alarm components except the operating fob!"

**Gavin Brown** returned to the fob saying "there is a sequence for reprogramming a fob without the diagnostic computer. I can't remember it, but you could try that. Short of that, then I'd look at changing the alarm ECU in the boot. If you know somebody else with an RV8, you can swap the ECUs in the boot over and see if that ECU (and remote) work on your car" **Alan Rennie** added "If you type "reprogramming an RV8 key fob" in the search box on the V8 website a link comes up to RV8NOTE260 by Jeff Swann

on reprogramming an RV8 alarm fob to the ECU.

[www.v8register.net/subpages/RV8NOTE260.htm](http://www.v8register.net/subpages/RV8NOTE260.htm)

**Terence Carney** reported "I have followed the re-coding and have got as far as the dash light coming on and the brief horn sounding, then the dash light stays on as noted in the instructions and I pressed the fob button and held it in the pressed position but this did not have the desired effect of sending the dash light in to flashing mode. It has at least now proved that the circuit to the dash light is working. Any other ideas will be gratefully received".

**Richard Withington** then said he was delighted to report that "Terry's problem is resolved! He brought the car round to me today and we tried the re programming exercise as advised in RVNOTE260 without success. We concluded that either the remote fob or the receiver was defective. I then recalled I had a spare remote fob which Terry borrowed and it worked. He is now buying another remote fob"

**Terence Carney** rounded off the tale saying "to all of you who assisted me in my quest, very many thanks for your advice. I discovered with the help of my neighbour and fellow V8 Register member Richard Withington that it is the fob itself that is at fault and luckily for me Richard had a spare fob that did reprogram to my car and the alarm sequence is now working as it should. I have found a remote with the correct numbers on eBay so I can return Richard's spare back to him. Incidentally, Richard's fob innards and the one I am buying are red whereas my original one that did work is blue though all have the same numbers stamped inside them! Conclusion, if the alarm ECU adopts the 'learn' mode then the remote fob is probably suspect".

There was another thread on the V8BB headed "Repairing a damaged electronic key fobs" in June 2014 which **Alan Rennie** mentioned "a specialist locksmith, Automobile Locksmiths of Peterborough, who say that if you post your old key fob to them with an explanation of the problem, and your contact details, they will transfer all the electronic contents and the metal key blade to a new unit, replace the missing switch and return the fob with a new battery fitted for £28 including postage". Fellow member **Richard Lomas** reported on that thread on October 2014 that "I have just used Automobile Locksmiths to repair/replace the fob on the RV8. Sent Wednesday and returned Friday morning with a new fob. Excellent service".

<http://v8bb.co.uk/viewtopic.php?f=2&t=405&start=10>