



Interior light intermittent fault

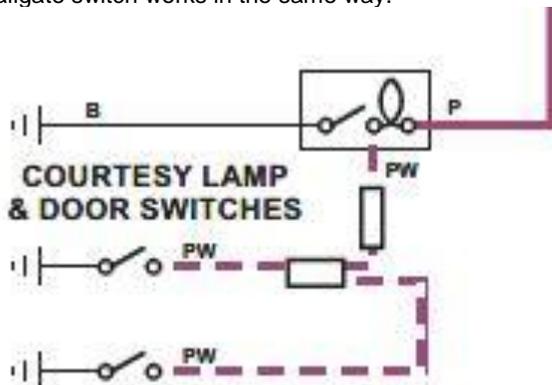
Peter Spurrs found the interior light often failed to illuminate when he opened a door of his MGBGTV8. Here is how he resolved the problem.

The Problem

When opening either passenger door, the interior light should come on. On an increasingly regular basis, it was failing to do so. The short-term solution was simple – waggle the switch to make a contact.

The Reason

The wiring is straightforward. When the door is closed, it pushes the contacts apart, breaking the circuit. Opening the door allows the contacts to close, providing current to the light. Being low side switched, the light is on when either door is open. The attached wiring diagram shows the layout clearly. The tailgate switch works in the same way.



For the majority of the car's life the switch is 'off' as the contacts are open. Forty plus years of corrosion takes its toll on the contacts.

A second problem is that the door does not press straight onto the switch. The swing of the door describes an arc, so presses the pin at an angle. Over the years, the pin has a tendency to bend. A bent pin has a tendency to stick.

The Solution

Removal of the switch is a straightforward matter of unscrewing the two cross-headed screws and withdrawing the switch. Beware, the free length of wire is short.

Both contacts can be sanded to remove the corrosion. After cleaning the contacts and adding a little grease to the pin, the switch can be replaced.

If the light then works properly 100% of the time, the job is complete. In my case, it didn't.

I removed the switch again and applied gentle pressure with pliers to eliminate the worst of the bending. Eventually, after several attempts, the pin was straightened sufficiently for it to slide smoothly in the housing.

With the passenger side fixed, I applied the same process to the driver's side.

