

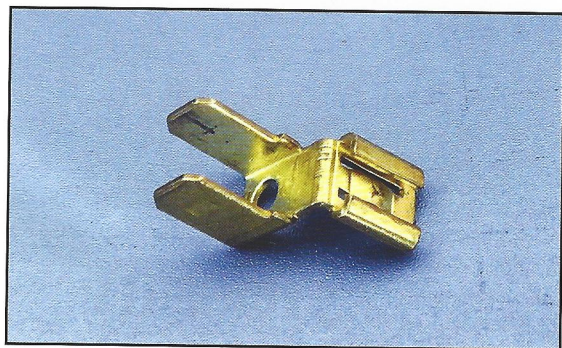
# Eliminating Dim Dash Lights

I think everyone has a problem occasionally when driving at night and the dash lights are either weak or non-existent. Most times the culprit is the rheostat on the light switch which allows you to dim the dash lights for just the right mood. I had seen an article years ago about soldering a lead wire across the connections to tie the dash lights directly to the 12 volt wire and eliminate the rheostat. I have found that, with the correct connector, I can easily accomplish the feat without any soldering and with minimal effort. The item you will need is a "piggyback slide terminal" with dual male and single female (no this is not kinky) connections. I was able to find one at NAPA and I'm sure other auto parts stores.

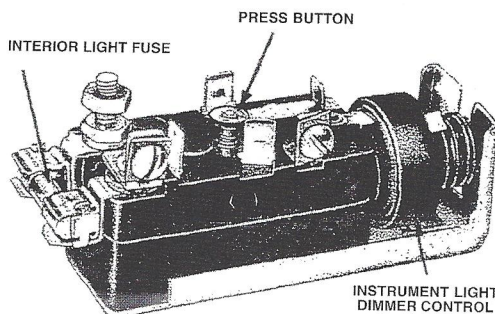


1a—Piggy Back Slide Terminal

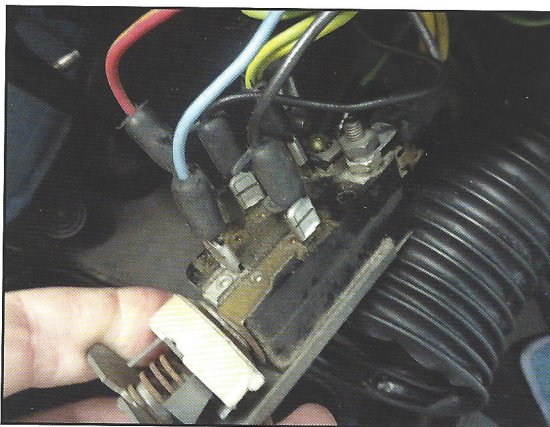
First, you will need to remove a terminal from the battery or otherwise remove the battery from the electrical system. Next, you need to remove the light switch from the dash. It is fairly simple to remove if you don't have anything under the switch, like an air conditioning duct. If you do, then you must remove these items before beginning. To remove the switch, there is a button on the bottom of the switch which will allow you to pull the knob out of the switch.



1b—Piggy Back Slide Terminal side view



Be sure the knob is pushed fully in; and, then by pressing the button and twisting the knob, it will come right out. Now you will need a wide-bladed screwdriver or a thin coin to unscrew the remaining dash mount from the switch. With the wires attached it should look like Photo 3.



3—Normal Switch

You should be able to determine which wires are connected to both sides of the rheostat. In my case, the blue wire with red tracing and the black wire were the ones of interest. (Caution, your wires may not have the same color scheme, as wiring can get changed over the 50+ years of our car's existence.) My blue wire is the one to the dash lights and the black line is the one with the full 12 volts.

Now, it is a simple process to remove the black wire

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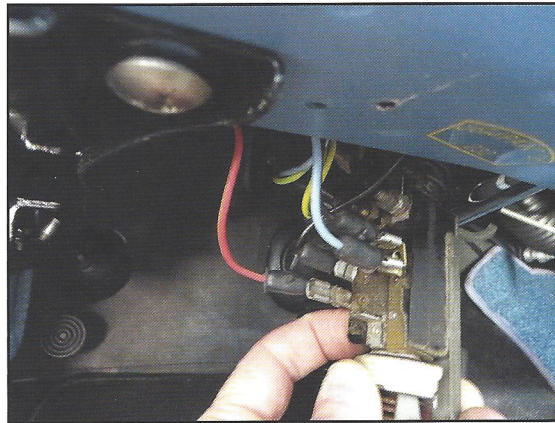
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from its connection and put the piggyback slide terminal on that prong. Next, remove the blue wire and place it on one of the male connectors of the piggyback terminal. Now, attach the black wire to the other male connector of the piggyback. (See photo 4).

At this point you may want to reconnect the battery; and, being careful to not short out the switch, verify that the lights work as you desire. Next, disconnect the battery from the circuit and re-install the light switch by screwing the button back into the switch through the dash. The knob is simply re-inserted until it clicks in place. If necessary, reattach any air ducts or other items removed earlier.

Now the dash lights should be displayed with full voltage at all times the lights are on. The only down side is you cannot dim the dash lights when you are at the drive-in movies; but, hey, we quit worrying about that a long time ago!

*Bill Long, CTCI #8982  
Loudon, Tennessee*



4—Revised Switch

### Needed—Color Artwork for Your Chapter logos

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