

During the last year or so I have received numerous telephone calls regarding wiper parts because, unfortunately, many Avanti owners have experienced cowl breakage. I, too, experienced this particular failure longer ago than most Avanti owners. One night during the

winter of 1970 I was driving back from South Bend; it was snowing and the 1 1/2 hour trip to Chicago stretched into a 12 1/2 hour ordeal because the right wiper pivot broke through the cowl, rendering the wiper system unusable.

With the memory of that horrible experience still fresh in my mind, and the reports from others reaching me (although most of theirs were not quite as dramatic examples), I looked through all of my prints and service bulletins, finally coming across a Studebaker Service Letter regarding adjustment related problems with the wipers. It is reprinted below.

It is very important, particularly for owners of original Avanti, to check for what the service letter instructions advise, but also to go a step beyond and check the wiper linkage for worn bearings or pivots. As pivots and/or linkages wear,

WINDSHIELD WIPER LINKAGE ADJUSTMENT

George Dimitzas

abnormal wiper drive roughness, overtravel, locking or fatigue failure of the fiberglass panel in the area of the right wiper driver mounting occurs.

For those who already have a failure of the fiberglass in the cowl panel, please do

not attempt to make the repair with netting or glass. You are only going to create future problems which are much worse than the original, including burning out the wiper motor (which, by the way, is no longer available.)

Fiberglass repair on the pivot cowl section is improper and will cause the above problems. There are only two proper ways to repair damaged fiberglass in this high-stress area:

1. Buy a new fiberglass cowl section and piece it in.
2. If you are not able to purchase a new cowl section, locate an old junk Lark or other Studebaker between model years 1959 and 1966, and cut out the metal cowl section that the wiper pivot is mounted on. Rivet this into the Avanti cowl. I did this and it worked great.

Studebaker Service Letter

F-1963-2

AVANTI WINDSHIELD WIPER LINKAGE ADJUSTMENT

FROM: C.R. MCINTOSH, Manager
Passenger Car Technical Service

DATE: December 18, 1962

Abnormal windshield wiper drive roughness, overtravel, locking or fatigue failure of the fiberglass panel in the area of the right windshield wiper driver mounting are the result of inaccurate windshield wiper motor-to-dash panel mounting location. When you encounter a malfunction of the windshield wipers or a fatigue failure of the fiberglass panel at the right windshield wiper drive mounting on an Avanti, immediate investigation and corrective action must be taken to correct the condition.

The location of the windshield wiper motor in relation to the right driver is very important and must be measured and adjusted accordingly to provide proper wiper operation. Failure to correct a rough drive or locking condition will eventually cause fatigue failure of the right driver mounting.

To adjust the windshield wiper linkage:

1. Fabricate a gage (A, shown in the installation) as follows:
 - (a) Select a length of 1/4" rod approximately 26 inches long.
 - (b) Grind a sharp point on each end.