

J2 TECHNICAL ARTICLE

Number 258

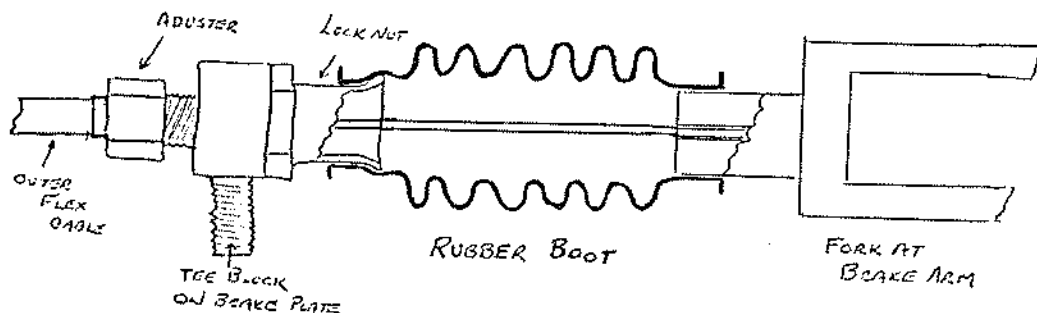
August 26, 1986

From Octagon Heaven

MOUNTING THE MECHANICAL BRAKE RUBBER BOOT ON OLD BRAKE CABLES

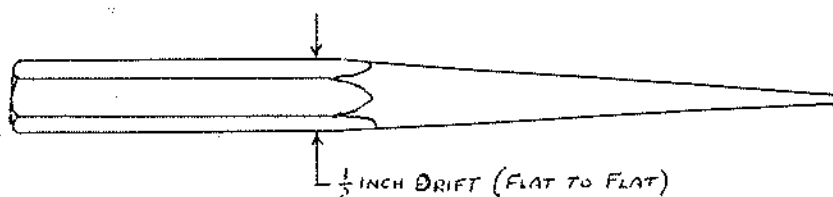
I decided to salvage my old brake cables but needed new rubber accordion boots as the old ones were in bad condition and in one case missing!

So here was the problem! The fork on the brake cable is $7/16$ " x $1/2$ " and the rubber boot has a small end on each end to fit on the outer cable and the round part of the fork -- (see below) The hole in the rubber boot was $3/8$ " and very stiff.



Since my teaching of automotive assembly techniques says that I am to use a bullet nose when ever mounting something like an 'O' ring -- that keeps the rubber from being damaged -- I knew that I had to come up with some assembly tool for this task. This is what I did :

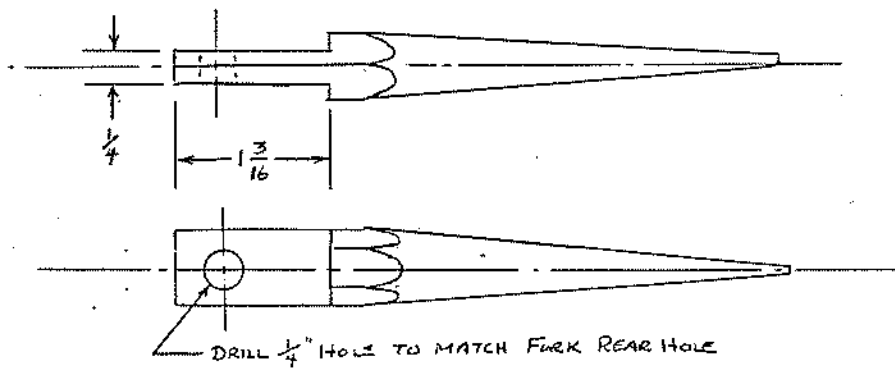
1. Found a drift at a local hardware store, a cheap drift since I was about to cut it up. This drift needed to have a flat to flat dimension of $1/2$ ".



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2. Next I took my hack saw and I cut the "handle" of the drift as below so that the section remaining would fit into the fork of the brake cable. (see below)

I also drilled a 1/4" hole in it to place a pin in to hold it in the fork during assembly process. That is because I only have two hands and needed three.



Note: the pin was ground down so the end did not stick out of the fork.

3. Now came the test!

- a) I heated the rubber in a pan of boiling water to get the rubber hot and hopefully pliable.
- b) while the water was boiling, I greased the fork and drift assembly with white, lithium grease.
- c) I took the hot rubber boot and slid it home over the fork on the grease.

Sort of messy but it sure worked slick!

