



# TClinic

## GROUND WIRES – LIGHTS by Barney (Doc) Jackson

Do you suffer from the “Dimmies,” or perhaps the “Flickeries,” or just plain old “Don’t Workies” in the rear end? Perhaps, by now you are wondering what I’m talking about – don’t panic, this is not a commercial pitch for some magic “preparation,” just a cure (positive, I think) for those dim, flickering and at times failing to work rear turn and taillights. In most cases the major offender is the lack of a proper ground connection. As you probably know, most automotive lights (ugh . . . American made) depend on a “case” ground return through the frame to the battery. This is a wonderful system when the lights are directly mounted to the frame or an adjacent metallic part, but how many TC’s have you seen lately with their rear turn signals lights on the frame? Not us – we put them everywhere except – and we paint them first – and allow them to corrode (ugh – rust) and get loose – and wet – and dirty – AND STILL WONDER WHY THE \*&X%\*#! THINGS DON’T ALWAYS WORK.

Well, *Hallelujah Brother, Salvation is here!* It comes in the form of a single wire, 16 gauge is fine, connected between any suitable frame ground and each offending light. Solder or press connector on wire end and place under mounting screw inside the light, making sure that you have a positive metal-to-metal (clean shiny metal, that is) connection. If you have the popular (but expensive – I just bought two) “D” lights, it’s very easy, there is already a place to make the connection. For those of you lucky people who are planning a complete rewire, just include the ground wire modification in the new loom.

For the rest of you gamblers (on the TC wiring, that is), find a place to ground to the frame, one of the clamps for the gas line for example. Be sure it’s clean and tight, and then it’s an easy matter to branch off to the various lamps, lights, sockets (to me?), etc. Solder all wire-to-wire connections, make sure the connectors in the lights are good and tight and now you will NEVER BE TROUBLED BY DEFECTIVE LIGHTS AGAIN!

First printed by TCMG in 1969

### 2002 Update

Original cotton wrapped wiring looms made to your specs to include such items such accessories as turn signals, auxiliary fuel pump, and return grounds may be purchased from: British Wiring Inc, phone: 708-481-9050, or <http://www.britishwiring.com>

You may also make your own loom using TClinic #25 - Rewiring your TC.

This article was first written as Med-i-car #1, part of a series by Barney Jackson. Med-i-car #2 and #3 are TClinics #7 and 46 respectively.