

H-17 Making the Right Connection *By Lee Seats.*

OWNING A KING MIDGET will test many aspects of your abilities. The vibration is the culprit behind a lot of breakdowns, including many electrical issues. This article is to guide you to fewer problems with the wiring. I have been in the electrical field all of my working life and went through a hard apprenticeship that in retrospect gave me a work ethic that I'm happy to have. Wiring a car or house or a piece of equipment should be done with utmost care and if so the results will be far more satisfying.

I wired my car 18 years ago with a wiring harness I made using the diagram in the workshop manual, even using the colors Midget Motors did. In all this time the harness has served well. A couple tips I want to share with you: 1) use a good crimping tool; 2) crimp the terminal the right way. I'm sure your thinking just crimp it and it will be fine; not so. First let me talk about the crimping tool. In the left picture I show three types of crimping tools. The one on the far left is JUNK, do not use. If you have these throw them away, they do not make a good connection; mashing the terminal flat is the wrong way to crimp the terminal. The other two crimpers are the best on the market. The middle set is by Thomas and Betts, and the one on the right is from Ideal. Both are top of the line and make great connections.

Now the other part of a good connection is crimping the terminal correctly. In the right picture you see 4 terminals, 3 are crimped wrong and the one on the bottom is crimped right. The upper 3 bad crimps came from our camper while replacing a stabilizer jack motor. They would have failed under heavy amp draw. The one on the left I crimped to show how a correct crimp should look. As you can see the indentation is opposite of the slit in the terminal. This will stay true as long as you use that terminal. If you put the indentation in the slit of the terminal then the connection will not stay tight and can create a short and a breakdown. Lights and other electrical components can fail according where the bad crimps are. Remember it takes less time to do it right than to do it twice. I hope this will help those who have had breakdowns because of bad connections. It's just not fun to be stranded on the side of the road. □

