

SHOP NOTES King Midget Maintenance and Restoration

H-15 Letters: Brake Lights

Bob: Mike Mars out here in Virginia. I was getting my 1966 King ready for a local parade and noticed my brake lights were not working. All others lights are working, i.e. tail lights, signal lights, headlights, but not brake lights. I notice a brake switch (I think) at the end of the master cylinder could that be it? Before I overthink this, I thought I should ask you. I did purchase *Shop Notes* and did not at first glance see anything specific about brake lights. Thanking you in advance for any thoughts you might have. **Mike**

Funny you should mention it just now. At a recent KMW meet, my brakes failed—master cylinder empty, and the brake light failed at the same time—always on, in my case. I refilled the master but the brake lights still didn't work and like you, I assume the problem is in that switch on the front end of the master, which is stuck with age or gunk. By copy of this email I'm asking John White and Lee Seats if they have an answer for you. The answer should be in Shop Notes, and will be as soon as we all get it sorted out! Hopefully, you just yank that switch and clean it up? Bob (and here's Lee):

Mike, First thing to do is wiggle the wires on the end of the switch. Sometimes they get corrosion on them and lose connection. If that's not the problem, then it should be the switch; one way to make sure it is the switch is to unplug the wires and touch them together. This should make the brake light work. The switches don't cost much—take the old one with you to NAPA and they should match it up; ask for a 1962 Jeep or earlier. You can order it from Direct Parts in Kansas, or Quarter Ton & Military in Chickamauga, Georgia, or eBay. Here is the NAPA part number for the brake light switch. [813-1204] give them that number and you will get what you need. Get the new switch and when you're ready to change it, just unscrew the old one and screw the new one in. If you lose a drop of brake fluid, I'll be surprised. Put Teflon tape on the switch threads. Lee

Thanks Guys! Lee, sounds like I'll have more trouble finding the switch than it will be replacing it. I really appreciate your help and quick response....

.... picked up the switch this morning and installed it in less than three minutes. Works great. I forgot to ask the part number but box shows SL134. Can't thank you enough for your help. Missed the parade yesterday because of rain but going to a car show today. Thanks again. **Mike** □