



John Sims
Aberdeen, New Jersey
Healey Marque Columnist

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

The something old, of course, is our cars. The “new,” at least to Healeys, are four-way hazard flashers and the clicking noise when the trafficator is activated. In 1966, I gave up my Healey dreams for a piece of Detroit iron because my wife was again in a family way and I needed room in the car for the kids. One of the options that year was a new-fangled gadget called an emergency hazard flasher. It was an ugly attachment that fastened to the steering column with a metal band and cost over \$150 on a \$2,500 car. Since it was optional, I said no. How times have changed.

FOUR-WAY FLASHERS (HAZARD LIGHTS)

Recently several “listers” (as members of the Healeys Mail List are called) have asked about the installation of hazard flashers on their Healeys. Several replies from outside of the United States where to the effect that such units are required regardless of the car’s age, and one from Jack Aeckerlin in The Netherlands provided a very good solution.

Jack responded to the question about such an installation like this:

“Yes, I just did because all cars in Holland must have one, irrespective of age. I found an 84-watt flasher for something like five dollars, and bought a Double Pole Double Throw switch for three dollars. I fitted the flasher unit close to the original flasher (shown in the photograph), ran one

heavy wire from the fuse box to the flasher unit, one heavy wire from the flasher unit through the firewall to the DPDT switch in the interior, connected both switch poles on the feed side and ran two wires, one from every pole, back through the firewall and along the cable harness to the connectors in the flasher lines just below the steering box. Replaced the single connectors with double connectors, stuck the two wires from the switch into the double connectors and Bob was my uncle. It even worked when tested! Only thing I don’t know yet is what happens when I move my trafficator switch to the left or the right (so not neutral) and switch on the hazard lights - my steering wheel is not fitted yet. Hope this story helps. If not, I’m fully prepared to come over and fix it for you when you pay for my flight!”

Since the hazard lights would normally be on while at a stop, whether or not this works while the trafficator is activated may not be important. And, some modifications to the wiring as shown in the schematic drawing may be necessary, dependant upon the model of the Healey involved. This, however, is a very quick and inexpensive fix to what may prove to be an issue to many of us as more and more states

enact laws affecting collector cars.

An aside to this email thread was a discussion of the phrase used by Jack, “Bob was my uncle” or “Bob’s your uncle!” This expression (as noted in a Googled article) is mostly used in Britain, Canada,



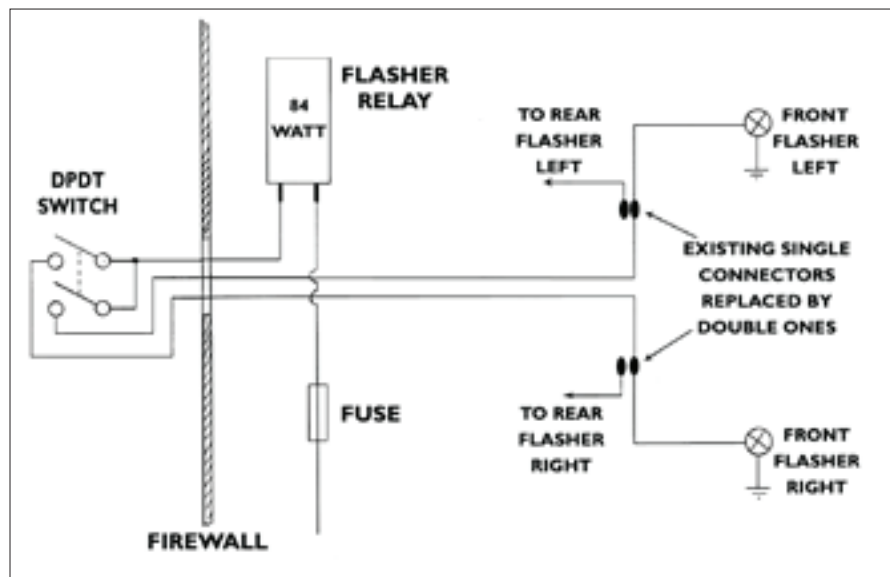
New Zealand, and Australia. It's a hard phrase to define - a rough equivalent would be: "It's as simple as that! You're in business!" For example, "Spray on some stain remover, throw it in the washer, and Bob's your uncle," means that if you follow these instructions you'll be pleased with the result. (The desired result - in this case "the stain will disappear" - is usually not mentioned because it's obvious). One of the explanations of the origin of the phrase was of a person who spent years in grad school, went on zillions of interviews, and Bob's your uncle! He got a job. Bob, the department head who hired him, really was his uncle.

CLICKING NOISE FOR TRAFFICATORS

In a related matter, in Great Britain it is now required that turn signals

("trafficators") have a clicking noise when activated. In that regard, Mike Gladwin recently asked: "I have been watching your discussions with interest over the last month. Clearly, there is a lot of wisdom and good advice floating in the ether - and especially lots of opinions. I have a question.

Two years ago I drove with an old English mate from Wiltshire down to Goodwood for the Goodwood Revival (if you do nothing else watching Motorsport, do yourself a favor and go to this event). On the way down I noticed that his MGA indicators, the switch for which is in the middle of the dash, made a clicking sound. When asked, he advised that the audible clickers were a MOT legal requirement in UK. I regularly drive my beautiful red BN7 along, basking in the sound of the exhaust note and the honks of appreciative motorists. Unfortunately, this is often not admiration at all, but is meant to tell me that my indicators have been blinking for the last three miles. Clearly I need help, dotage is catching up. Does anyone know of a source for such an audio device? (Besides the wife). Otherwise, I will have to go back to



the homeland next year for another Goodwood and pick one up there. Thanks."

The next morning, Tracy Drummond responded: "All you need is a three-dollar buzzer from Radio Shack (or other supplier,) some extra wire, and two spade terminals. Attach one side of the buzzer (or chimes) to the chassis earth (regardless of positive or negative ground) and the other to the center pin of the flasher relay (small three-prong can). Presto, you get a buzz, buzz, buzz or chime, chime, chime. Cheap as belly lint."

So, in two quick email exchanges on the Healey List, we learned how to make our cars safer, preparing them for what will probably be the law everywhere within a few years. At the same time we discovered that, in many instances such as these, we do have an Uncle Bob, but sometimes, as we all know, he is not

as easy on us as we would like. In any event, even if a problem is not quickly resolved on the Healey List, such as in these two instances, we know that in time they all are. It is not necessary to be an active participant in the exchanges to learn a lot about our cars, but in the meantime, reading the various responses

is interesting, educational and gives Healeyists in the frozen North some solace during the bleak winter months, thankfully now behind us.

VITAL STATISTICS

These messages and others can be found in the Healeys Mail List archives found at <http://www.team.net/archive/healeys>

If you are interested in joining the Healeys Mail List, all that is necessary is to send an email message to majordomo@autox.team.net and in the text field enter the words **subscribe healeys** and send the message. Leave the subject line blank. Then follow the instructions in the automated email message that you will soon receive in return. You will not be disappointed. 