

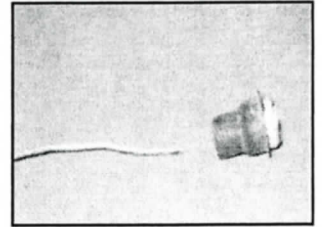
4th Article

Let There Be Light/The Cheap Way!

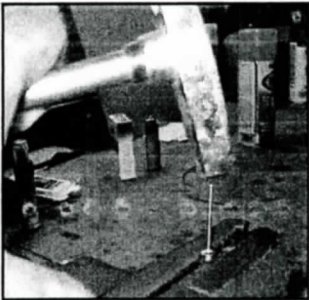
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We've all been there. A dash bulb burns out. They're not all that easy to replace. But what do you do when the wiring harness your working with is anywhere from 30 to 50 years old or older? You knew you were going to have to replace it sooner or later, but you just weren't ready to do it right now. So you carefully make access to the socket with the burnt out bulb... AND, LO and BEHOLD, there in your hand lays the socket with no wire attached. The brittle wire broke! The little brass contact point that used to be attached to the wire and held the socket to the harness is floating to the floor never to be used again. You're laying contorted underneath the dash of your Corvette and all you wanted to do was replace a burnt out dash bulb.

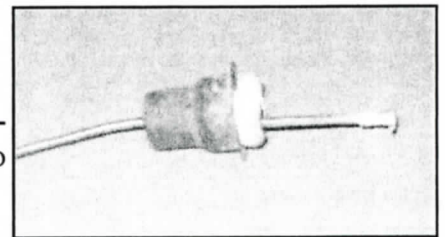


Now you have choices: tear out the dash and install a new wiring harness, pigtail in a new socket (creating another potential short), OR utilize the solution I came up with. This choice is simple and doesn't take much time, about 10 minutes if you take a break between steps. The only tools you will need are a pair of electrician's pliers, a tack hammer and a vice. The supplies needed are one pop rivet (1"8" diameter, X 1/4" long). In the end you will have replaced the brass contact that broke off with the pop rivet.



Gently place the pop rivet in a vice, without crimping it, and tap the nail out, leaving the unmolested rivet. You now have a new contact point to replace the brass one lost in your 80/20 pile carpet.

Thread the wire through the socket. Bare about 1/4" of wire with the electrician's pliers and crimp the rivet to the end of the wire. You may need to round the crimped area in order for it to fit smoothly into the spring.



You're now ready to replace the bulb and reinstall those areas of the dash you may have removed to gain access.

