

Courtesy light 'Innovation'

I was both surprised and extremely pleased to receive the 'Innovations Award' at this years MOG2011. I decided to enter three innovations these also included a 'Relay assisted Brake Switch' and a 'Modified Air Box for Black Top Zetec engined 4/4s'. The idea of including the Courtesy Light modification was a last minute one as originally I thought it would have no significant interest - 'Wrong!' It appears that what drew the judge's attention was the simplicity of the idea and the final solution. I thank them for their interest and what follows is a brief description of this 'Innovation' (if it can truly be called this) in case you too wish to be 'Enlightened'!

I appreciate that we do not expect all the 'Bells and Whistles' that modern production cars may have but I found it surprising that even a courtesy/foot well light was not part of the standard configuration.

So I set to and made one.

Not difficult but effective. This is obviously of advantage when the soft top (or hard top in my case) is up but a useful addition when preparing for a journey at night (and for eating Fish & Chips!)

I did not want to start attacking the doors or door frame so decided that a simple micro switch obtained from Maplin's would be ideal and this could be attached to the body frame. The arm of the micro switch was bent into a suitable shape and covered in heat shrink to protect the leather face of the inside of the door. The modified switch is attached to the Ash wood frame using a bracket made from aluminium right angle extrusion (from B & Q).

The light fitting was obtained on-line from Car Builder Solutions and has the added feature that it can be switched 'On' to override the door switches if illumination is required whilst in the car and doors closed. It is mounted under the dash (convenient brackets are already on the Scuttle Bar) and bathes the foot wells in suitable illumination.

Wiring is simple with power taken from the Cigar Lighter feed that is a standard feature in my car and I elected to add an additional 3 amp fuse to protect the circuit.

The circuit is designed so that either door switch earths the circuit and illuminates the light.

Approximate cost - £ 20.00

Time to complete approx 3 hours (including 'head scratching time')

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