



THE ART OF WIRING YOUR BUG

Replacing the factory harness in a 1967 sedan

BY DEAN KIRSTEN & DAVE CORMACK

There comes a time in every thirty-plus-year-old Volkswagen's life when the original wiring components need replacing. And even though things may seem to be working fine, take a moment and look at the wires in your engine compartment. If they are stiff, hard as a rock, frayed, or the plastic coating has disappeared and exposed bare wires, it's time to address this potential problem before it creates a real headache (if not a fire!). Rewiring a 1967 Beetle is not that difficult, — physically. It can, however, be a mental quagmire if you start with a spool of black wire, and attempt to redo what the factory did without some sort of game plan (or factory wiring diagram). If you plan to rewire your Bug correctly, there are factory-look-alike harness kits available, color-coded to mirror the original look and function.

So, when is the best time to rewire your car? Probably the opportune time would be just after having it completely painted, before reassembling the car. Trying to replace the wiring in a complete, running driving car would be one heck of a lot of work (since you have to pull the engine, remove all the seats, lift up much of the carpeting on the driver's side of the car, and remove the gas tank). Doing it while the car is nearly stripped would be a much better plan of attack.

For years, we have been kicking around the idea of doing a wiring story. So when we spotted Chris Morley's freshly painted stock '67 sedan that was ready to go back together, we saw a great opportunity to do this hands-on how-to article. Since all of this car's original wiring was still intact, it looked to be a good stock replacement story. So, we had Chris bring the car to our office, and then called The Real Source for a complete wiring harness and a number of related needed items. With that, we got busy!

When you receive your wiring harness package from The Real Source, take a good long look at the enclosed instructions



Complete wiring harness for the 1967 VW sedan came from The Real Source, along with new switches, lenses and turn signal lever.

and read them! The kit's manufacturer, Wiring Works, does a great job making this task straightforward. It may take a few laps around the wiring diagram to fully understand it, but 98% of the information is there. The other 2% we, hopefully, will shed some light on in this article.

The number one item that Wiring Works' instructions talk about doing before installing the new harness, is correctly removing the old one! And if you follow their instructions, and tie a 1/4-inch rope to the end of each