

HEATER VALVE

If you're an Elan owner, you've often reached down to adjust your heater's output, only to be foiled by that devilish contrivance which, because of its Rube Goldbergish appearance, promises so much, but, knows only two heat levels, on (like HOT) and off (FREEZING).

Well, friends, there is salvation and it comes from within the FORD FINE FAMILY OR CARS (makes you feel right at home, doesn't it). It is a Ford truck heater valve #C3UZ-18495-B which happens to be hose-mounted on both ends, and so, with the addition of a 3/8" pipe EL (right angle), goes easily into the heater line between head and firewall. The right angle fitting should be available from any surplus store with a nipple suitable for clamping the hose on. I was pressured for time, so made mine from a brass gas fitting, which I had to grind down to accept the 1/2" I.D. heater hose.

Once the valve is positioned, it's an easy matter to measure the existing control cable for length, cut the outer housing with the sharp edge of a file, and with the control knob locked in the in position, make several turns with the control wire around the arm on the valve.

"VOILA!" You now have complete mastery over your heater for the first time ever. It's infinitely controllable, is nicely cad-plated and is much smaller than the original item (which now resides in the neighbor's backyard, about an arm's throw away).