

HEADLITE FLASHERS

by Garth Lippmann

Flashing headlights can be very effective for moving dawdlers out of the fast lane, but the Elan flasher switch is clumsy to reach without removing your eyes from the road.

Dean Price has adapted a Spitfire headlight control switch to his Elan which is basically the same system as found on right-hand drive Elans, with the exception that the Spitfire switch is a 4-way unit having low, high, park light, and flash functions instead of the standard 2-way dip switch.

The Elan steering column is used for both right and left-hand drive models, and on the Spitfire, TR-4, and the Herald. Hence, the Elan switch assemblies are reversible (i.e. can invert position). The Spitfire switch eliminates the floor-mounted dip switch (hard to reach for some) and supplements the dash-mounted headlight switch. The dash-mounted switch is still used to turn lights off or on, but once on, column switch performs all other functions.

Normally, the Spitfire switch has three positions: park, low, high, moving counter clock-wise around the wheel, and flash by pulling upwards toward the driver. The flasher section of the switch was modified to substitute flash for park-light function, thus once again relegating park lights to the dash switch. Therefore the total control of the headlight dim and flash function remains at your finger tips and eliminates the need to fumble for the dash switch.