

NOSTALGIC MOTOR CARS UNLOCKS THE HISTORY & MYSTERIES OF THE 1963-1985 AVANTIS

The Unknown Clever Thinking of the Altman's Avanti Motors

I have always stated that the beautiful 1963 and 1964 Studebaker Avanti was so well engineered and designed that it made it incredibly easy for the well thought out changes that the Altman's engineering made. In future articles for the *Avanti Magazine*, I will shed light on these many unknown changes they made from 1965 to 1982.

This article is about a very clever and simple cure for a problem with the power window switches for the 1963 to about 1973 Avantis. Power windows on a 1963 and 1964 Studebaker Avanti is a very rare option. The power window option for 1963 and 1964 and for about 1965 to 1973 use all the same parts.

This article is about the power window switch assemblies on the door panels. The problem is the switches Illustration number 2120-147 Part number 1351273 switch assembly right front door (1-button) and Part number 1351272 switch assembly left front door (2 button) don't want to stay in their place in the door panels. The chrome switch assembly, Illustration number 2120-147 Part number 1351273 and 1351272 want to pop out of the door panel.

There are two retainer plates that get installed on the door panels. Illustration number 2120-166 Part number 1351275 plate, right front door switch mounting (1 button) and #1351274 plate, left front door switch mounting (2 button). These plates have bend over tabs that get bent over the hole in the cardboard door panels. The problem is the special clips #1351343 (\$4 each N.O.S) don't hold against those plates very well, but that is resolved by this article. The second problem is these special clips have a small boss on the side, which snaps up against the plastic switch housing. The clips 1351343 just simply lose their ability to hold the switch in the housing.

Studebaker only sold the switches as an assembly according to the parts manual. I found no separate part numbers, in the parts manual, for just the switches. I sell the N.O.S. separately \$90 each. The switches are held in place in the chrome escutcheon with some special clips #1351343 \$4 each, which I have in stock. These special clips server two purposes. They keep the switches in escutcheons and they are supposed to keep the switch assembly snapped into the mounting plates that are attached to the door panels.



By Dan Booth
Nostalgic Motor Cars

Dan Booth has over 47 years of exclusive, hands on Avanti sales, service, collision and parts, not Studebaker cars or trucks, just 1963-1985 Avantis.



Clip 1351345 \$4.00 ea.



Switch, showing clip

These clips are made of spring steel and if they are retaining their original shape, and tension, they still only have a small area of about .050 where the clip can rest on the stamped steel plate unless you force them further out. It's only natural for the special clips to lose their ability to stay open and hold the switch assembly in place. If the hole in the cardboard door panel was cut (or shrunk) a little too big, this also contributes to the problem.

This is where the very clever thinking of Avanti Motors resolved a Studebaker problem. A very simple, inexpensive solution. They simply slid rods one on the top and one on the bottom through the special clips #1351345. This forces and keeps the clip out, which in turn keeps the switch assembly in place.

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The second method Avanti used was to cut the heads off some nails (sometimes they don't cut the heads off) and insert them through the special clips. The nails are the most common over the rods. If your Avanti repair shop experience did not come from working on the Avantis when they were new, you may assume that somebody did a little creative engineering with what materials they had on hand, using nails. Note; the rods or nails should be taped to the cardboard door panel. What we don't know if these fixes were done on the assembly line, or done by Avanti Motors service department. They work extremely well and the nails seem to be the most shocking of the two. I've had a

lot of questions about the nails.

I just pulled the door panels from one of my personal, all original 1969 Avantis. I purchased it from the original owner, who ordered it on 8-14-69, from Avanti Motors. The Avanti was always serviced by Avanti Motors and never driven in the winter and only has 31,972 original miles. I don't think the door panels have ever been removed from this Avanti, since it was built and delivered on 9-17-69. All the moisture tape was original and had never been repaired or replaced. There was also no wiring diagram on the back side of the door panel, which is normally drawn by the first person to remove the door panel.

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A big problem, that has developed over the last 20 years for the 1963-1973 (about) with the power window switches on the door panel. The wiring harness Illustration number 2120-177 Part number 1360381 \$225 N.O.S.

Since the original plastic coated wires have become hard and they have been forced to flex every time you open and close your doors The wires are breaking down and causing all kinds of trouble shooting problems. They are 51 to 61 years old and they are forced to flex many thousands of times over those 51-61 years. If you have power windows in your 1963 to about 1973 Avanti you might want to purchase a N.O.S wire harness Part number 1360381 for \$225 while I still have them. //



Driver Side



Passenger Side

Switch held in place with nails

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When I remove a door panel with electric power window switches, I draw a wiring diagram on the back side of the door panel. The diagram shows the color of the wires and where they are plugged into the switches.



1360381 Wiring Diagram