

The Safety of Having a 4-Way S.O.S. Hazard Flasher

By Dan Booth,
Nostalgic Motor Cars

I was asked to do an article by one of my new customers, about the new original stock Avanti 4 way S.O.S. hazard Flasher, Part Number 1700131, which he purchased. I do have these in stock from my huge inventory of N.O.S. Avanti parts. He and his wife didn't want anybody else to go through, the nerve wracking situation, they found themselves in.

Their 1963 Studebaker Avanti quit running on a narrow, 2 lane road, with lots of traffic. The shoulder was mostly ditch and no room to park the Avanti on that shoulder. The Avanti occupied most of the lane, as it stopped on the blind side of a curve. Traffic could not see them until they came around the curve. He kept pumping the brake pedal as a warning. He said that the brake pedal was getting extremely difficult to keep pushing down, over and over for more than an hour. This was a Sunday evening, getting dark and the service truck driver was already on a call, so it took him over an hour before he got to them.

After the ordeal was over, he had called every auto parts store he could think of to purchase a 4-way S.O.S. Hazard Flasher. Of course nobody had one and most had no idea what he was even talking about. He remembered even K-mart selling them in the late 60's & 70's. He called all the other Avanti parts vendors, that advertise in the AOAI magazine to no avail. He found me through one of my customers, he was elated when he found out I had a 4-way.

flashers assembly that was new, but above all it was an Avanti Motors, New Original Stock part in the original box!

I gave him instruction, over the phone on where Avanti Motors installed them. I told him it had instructions, in the box on how to hook up the wires and best of all it came with fold over wire connections, for easy installation or removal later to return his 1963 Avanti to stock.

He has become a real good customer over the last year or so. He has owned his Avanti for over 20 years and has been a member of the AOAI for the same length of time, but never heard of Nostalgic Motor Cars.

The Doctor and his Wife drove their Avanti to my shop, they had an appointment, to pick up some N.O.S. Avanti parts in the fall of 2019. They were pleasantly surprised that my huge 13,000 square foot facility, with 14' ceilings was jamb packed, from the floor to the ceiling with N.O.S. Avanti parts, not Studebaker parts, just Avanti parts.

They purchased a lot of N.O.S. parts from me that nobody else has had for decades and above all, that I can tell him how to install those N.O.S. parts correctly with the purchase. He now does most of his own repairs, with my instructions, which makes him very happy.

I believe it was for the 1965-1966 model year, that the federal government mandated to have a 4 way emergency hazard flasher on all new cars.



Avanti Motors started installing their 4-way flasher, Part # 1700131 on the 1965 Avanti. They mounted them



to the Z-bar, to left of the steering column and to the right of the instrument lamp resistor. The flasher unit is totally out of sight, unless you look under the dash. It was very simple to operate. You would simply pull out on the transparent red plastic knob. This would actuate the front park and brake lights and would also illuminate the transparent red knob. The flasher was normally loud enough that you could also hear it.

This N.O.S. Flasher, part number 1700131 was used until about late 1971, when it was built into the new style steering column.

I used to install a lot of them on the 63-64 Studebaker Avantis, for my customers. I like to have the safety factor on my old collector cars/trucks, as you can never tell when you might be along side of the road for whatever reason.

I also appreciate where Avanti motors mounted them which is totally out of sight, but you can still see the flashing red light, when activated, as well as hear it.