

Next Step: How to Replace a Heater Control Valve In a 1963-1985 Avanti

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Avantis produced from 1963-1985 had about 5 different styles of heater control valves, and brackets, installed in those 23 model years. As a valve becomes no longer available, from the manufacturer, they had to either modify and/or make up special additional parts to go with their for service heater control valves for the previous models.

In 1984 this was becoming real challenging to make their latest heater control valve work, with all previous 1963-1983 Avantis. They developed part number 1702187. this was simply a in line cable controlled valve. It didn't need any of the many different previous required special mounting brackets that supported it to the bottom of the glove box. It was designed to work on all 1963-1985 Avantis and the heater hoses would support it. This was a very simple design and the control cable operated in the correct direction—no it's not the heater control valve like others sell using the other original part number—that the console lever cable control works backwards in other words you have to push your lever forward to shut off and pull it back to turn it on.

In 1983, as a franchised Avanti dealership when they first announced the 1984 pricing, in about August, I ordered a new 1984 silver touring coupe for my inventory. My wife, Betty, and I drove to the factory to pick it up probably in late October. I immediately sold it to one of my existing customers who had purchased three new Avantis over the previous years. I was taking his 1981 Avanti in trade that I ordered and sold to him.

A week or so after he had taken delivery of his new 1984 Avanti, he called me and said when he turned on his heater, it sounds like somebody is building a house in the back seat (a hammering noise), well I had thought he had lost his marbles. He drove his new Avanti out and when I drove it with the heater control valve lever pushed forward (open) it did sound like somebody was building a house next door or in the back seat.

I called Avanti Motors service department, to see if they had the same problem. When I told the service manager about a house being built, in the back seat, he thought I had lost my marbles, or was just kidding. He called back a couple hours later and said he had just drove a couple of new Avantis and was very surprised when he heard that same house being built in the back seat. He said



Heater Control Valve #1702189, before it was modified

At left: 1702187 factory 1963-1985 Avanti replacement Heater Control Valve

when the employees were test driving the new cars that nobody apparently opened the heater control valve, while test driving them. He asked me to find out what was causing the problem A.S.A.P. and let them know.



I called him back the next day and told him that I thought the heater control valve was installed backwards. I had to cut off and shorten the tube with the bleeder valve on it, including the bleeder valve. I reversed the holes when I installed the valve back on the car, and it worked. The hammer nose was now gone. Now I had to remove the valve again and make up tooling to install that lip on the end of the tube, which keeps the hose from coming off.



He called back and asked if I wanted to modify about 100 new style heater control valves A.S.A.P. , that was how many they had ordered. They were going to call the manufacturer and have them make the change.

I did modify about 100 new valves. I still have the cut offs, why I kept them, is anyone's guess.



This new service heater control valve, part number 1702187 which I have in stock, will fit all 1963-1985 Avantis and provably fit a lot of

Avanti Repair

Studebakers. This valve is 3/4" x 3/4" line size to fit 3/4" heater hose. If you have a later model Avanti that has 5/8" and 3/4" size heater hoses. I have the N.O.S. 5/8" x 3/4" reducer in stock part # 1701476 that you will need to hook this valve to that 5/8" heater hose.



How To Change Your 1963-1985 Heater Control Valve

Place a piece of plastic or garbage bag on the passenger side floor. Put a towel on top of that, then another piece of plastic or garbage bag.



This new service heater control valve, part number 1702187 which I have in stock, will fit all 1963-1985 Avantis and provably fit a lot of Studebakers. This valve is 3/4" x 3/4" line size to fit 3/4" heater hose. If you have a later model Avanti that has 5/8" and 3/4" size heater hoses. I have the N.O.S. 5/8" x 3/4" reducer in stock part # 1701476 that you will need to hook this valve to that 5/8" heater hose.



1701476

Remove the two nuts that hold the heater control valve to the bottom of the glove box. In the picture if you see the white wire that's crossing over the heater hose. This wire ends at the nuts that you will have to remove.



After you remove those two nuts and after you remove the bracket you can now reinstall those two nuts on the nut plate, or remove the felt liner from the bottom of the glove box and remove the nut plate. This picture shows the bottom of the glove box with the exposed nut plate.

- Remove the control cable
- Remove the hose clamps
- Remove the two hoses and let them drain into a pan, clamp off the 2 heater hoses under the hood at the firewall
- Remove the screw or screws that hold the capillary tube to the heat duct
- Tape up the heat duct hole with H.D. Black duct tape, Gorilla brand duct tap is black and very heavy duty.
- Install the two hoses, clamps and cable
- Add anti freeze and you are done.

The capillary tubes (the copper tube that goes from the valve to the heater duct) purpose is to control the temperature at an even level. I am sure you are very capable of moving the consoles temperature lever to accomplish that.



Finished replacement with N.O.S. Parts