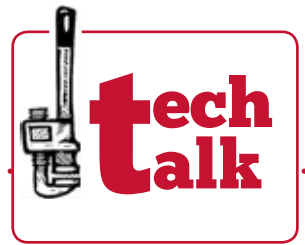


Gearshift and handbrake gaiters



Words & photos: Kate Hudson - Member # 2785

COVID-19 Lockdown = doing jobs on hobby cars that one can't drive!

So, I decided to tackle changing the gear stick and handbrake boots/gaiters.

I had been wanting to do these for ages.

I have owned my NC for three years and the gear stick gaiter was torn (and vinyl) when I bought it. I found black leather replacements on eBay. They came from Poland within a couple of weeks, and fitted perfectly.

Genuine ones were heaps more expensive and were in stock in the US or the UK! Helpful links on how to do this were

supplied by Ferg (Peter Ferguson, Eastern Victoria Chapter Captain). I did the job over a few days ... after all, there's no rush at the moment.

Tools required:

- **Plastic card:** I found a shop loyalty card (thinner and more flexible than a credit card) really useful for lifting the plastic covers to access the screws that fix the centre console to the body.
- **Phillips head screwdriver** and
- some **trim glue**.

I reused the metal circular collar that goes on top of the gear stick boot/gaiter (you'll need the glue for this). It sits under the gear knob when re-assembled.

It was a challenging but ultimately rewarding job, and I am really happy with the result. I'm no mechanic, but I have tackled small jobs and oil changes on my Morris Minor, so I'm not afraid to have a go.

Anyone who can use a screwdriver should give this job a go – it was fun! ■

