

Rufus Dashboard Part 3.

Introduction:

Please complete the following sentence; ‘the best laid plans of mice and.....’

Shortly after publishing Part 2. of the Dashboard articles I realised I had committed a ‘faux pas’. I had completely forgotten about the heater and overdrive switches.

To correct this error I decided to fit the heater switch on the rear heater bracket (which will require reaching under the dashboard to operate it). The overdrive switch will be fitted in a recessed hole in the dashboard to the left side of the steering wheel.

Additional dashboard holes:

Since writing Part 2. I have purchased a better 4-way flasher switch which required a recessed hole made with a Forstner bit. A similar hole was made for the overdrive switch. The only switch remaining was the headlamp flasher switch: initially I had purchased an original Lucas horn push switch for this job but decided to replace it with a more simple style of push switch; the hole was duly drilled to the right hand side of the steering column just above the indicator switch.

Refurbishing the gauges:

The gauges were in poor condition. With the exception of the combined oil pressure and water temperature gauge (I bought a NOS item) all the instruments will be refurbished with new seals and bezels. This is detailed in another article.

Assembling the dashboard:

With all the holes drilled I gave all the raw edges of the dashboard a couple of coats of varnish; this will keep the damp out of the MDF (fibre) which forms the centre of the two plastic laminated dashboard faces.

Fitting the instruments:

To be detailed in the final part of this article.

Fitting the switches:

The switches were fitted in the metal switch panel that I had painted in the body colour of RAL 9001 Cream. The panel was secured to the dashboard with stainless steel M4 slotted head screws and Ny-Loc nuts.

The other switches were screwed directly to the dashboard. The two rotary switches; i.e. the lighting and indicator switches were further secured against rotation by a blob of Sikaflex sealant.



The completed switches and warning lights.

Note.

Switches on the panel left to right are,

- 1. Washers.*
- 2. Wipers.*
- 3. Head and sidelights, incorporating a dip function.*
- 4. Fuel pump; and*
- 5. Horn.*

Above it is the 4-way flasher switch and to its right is the overdrive switch. On the right hand side is the indicator switch with the headlamp flasher switch above it.

The warning lights are indicators left and right, beneath them is an oil pressure warning light.

Summary:

The next and final job is to refurbish and fit the gauges.