

D-16 Letters: Model 3 Brakes Drag

Bob: My right front brake was dragging, which I finally (finally!) determined was caused by a partially plugged brake line to that wheel. But after all that, the left rear was dragging. I replaced all the brake lines and wheel cylinders, and it still drug a bit (so of course, it would get hot and drag more after a long drive and might seize up). I had the lining turned down to provide more clearance and that didn't help. What now? **Don Nichols**

After a long conversation, neither Don nor I (knowing little about brakes) could find an answer and even Shop Notes doesn't seem to deal with such a problem. Hey, I'm such a novice and so short of time, I just had my local mechanic replace my master and wheel cylinders at a cost of 700 bucks! One small reason it was so expensive is I couldn't give them the part numbers! I found a few numbers in Shop Notes, but they didn't seem to jibe with numbers I found on line, so my mechanic had to first yank the old parts and confirm the numbers, lest he wind up with wrong parts! Don called Gert and got some numbers that conflicted with others. So here's a request: when writing about your KM's restoration or fixes, please include the parts numbers for the parts used! Yes, we all know the brake parts come from a postwar Jeep, but it appears that information alone doesn't make for clarity when ordering parts.

My mechanic called a local chain, Car Quest, and their numbers for the parts are MCA 2796; Master Cylinder, WCA 7379 rear wheel cylinders and WCA 7568 front. They didn't have the brake light switch so I ordered one from Matt at Quarter Ton & Military. My brakes now work great and I put the switch on myself—probably should have done the whole job myself and saved \$500 labor—but I spend all my time pounding this keyboard. Besides, they put the speedometer spring in backward and I had to fix that too! And with help from Gert and Lee, Don's brakes are fixed too!

Follow-up: *After the above issue of the newsletter went to press, I had an opportunity to talk to Gert about Don's problem in more detail. In addition to the work mentioned above, Don and Gert installed all new brake lines and all new wheel and master cylinders. And the brake problem persisted!*

It was finally determined the new master cylinder was leaking a bit past the seals. They installed a rebuild kit in the old master cylinder and now Don's brakes are fine! □