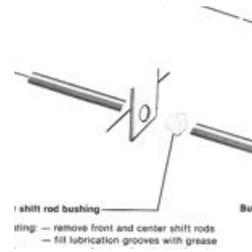


1982 Diesel Vanagon Shift Linkage Bushing repair.

This bushing - from the Bentley manual - was 30 years old and provides a smooth place for the shift linkage rod to move through a frame mounted support tab. I tried pushing it back in place and adding some lubrication, but it failed after another year of service.



The problem is that it is located above the fuel tank and really hard to get to.

My solution was to find a substitute that would fit around the shift linkage rod and not require the removal of the fuel tank or the dis-assembly of the linkage.

Materials: 7/8" ABS plastic plumbing pipe, hose clamp

Tools: hacksaw, dremel tool with cutting wheel, 9mm nut driver

Procedure:

1. Cut a 5"+ length of the ABS pipe and slit it down the side with the hacksaw.
2. Remove about 1/4" of material so when it is pinched together, it is just smaller than the diameter of the shift linkage rod.
3. Using a file or a sanding tool on your dremel, round off the front edge of the pipe to make it easy to slide into the frame mounted support tab. I also sprayed a bit of WD40 on the inside of the pipe to make it easier to slide on the linkage rod.
4. Climb under the slider door and fit the ABS around the linkage and attach the hose clamp loosely to the ABS piece leaving about an inch forward of the clamp.
5. Start with the shift linkage pulled toward the rear. Slide the ABS piece forward until you encounter the frame tab. Hopefully you've cut the piece small enough so it will fit in the hole when you push it from behind. There is not much clearance so you may have to round the edges of the ABS material more or take off some more material so it will fit.
6. Leave about an inch on the other side of the support tab.
7. Position the hose clamp so it will not interfere with the mounting tab, and tighten it securely. Be sure to tighten the clamp down good so it will keep the ABS material in place.
8. Move the linkage back and forth to make sure you have proper clearance and adjust as necessary.
9. Test drive and revel in the solid feel of your shifter and the lack of the 'screech'.



Hope this helps.

Cheers,
Marco
1982 1.9TD Westy