



Self-Adjusting Brake Conversion

In this article we will move to the rear of the car and work on the brake system. We have put disc brakes on the front but to keep things simple we are going to keep the original style drum brakes on the rear. We are going to use Shafer's Classic Reproductions self adjusting kit to upgrade the rear drum brakes to self adjusting brakes. These kits are also available for the front drum brakes. To start our conversion we have chosen the drivers side rear. Start by removing the wheel and drum. Then remove all the hardware. Do not throw anything away at this time since some parts will be reused. Photo #1. Do any cleaning or painting at this time. Tip: Do one side at a time. If you have any installation questions use the other side for reference.

Disassemble the parking brake lever from the rear shoe. We have chosen to glass bead ours and repaint the lever and bolt assembly with a cast blast paint. Reassemble the parking brake lever on the new shoe. The lever goes on the back side of the shoe. Apply a small amount of grease on the bolt and lever hole. Photo #2. Then put the wave washer on the bolt, insert the bolt through the parking brake lever, then through the brake shoe. Install the lock washer and nut. The lever should move freely on the shoe when tightened. Photo #3.

The next step is to mount the adjusting screw to the rear shoe. Note: The long shoe goes to the back and the short shoe goes on the front side of the wheel. Photo #1A. To mount the adjusting lever to the rear shoe you must enlarge the existing hole to 3/8". Photo #4. This will allow the adjusting hold down cup to be inserted through the adjusting lever and into the shoe. Assemble the front and back shoe onto the backing plate using the pins and hold down springs and retainers. Photo #5. At this time you also should attach the parking brake cable to the rear shoe, install the wheel cylinder pins, install the adjuster and the adjuster green spring. Notice that the adjuster gear is facing the rear shoe and the long part of the green spring is over the gear on the adjuster. Photo #5. Install the winged washer on the brake post at the top of the backing plate. Then install the upper adjuster link spring bracket. This bracket inserts into the upper part of the adjuster lever. Photo #6. Install the adjusting link from the lever to the post at the top of the backing plate. Next install the silver spring from the adjusting lever to the upper adjusting link. Photo #1A.

Install the parking brake equalizing rod and the blue spring. Notice that the blue spring is in the front and the loop on the spring is at the bottom. Photo #1A. Next install the shoe return springs: black in back and grey in front. Photo #7. Install the red spring between the adjuster lever and the brake shoe. This will complete the installation. Photo #7.



Photo # 1A - Left Rear

Parking brake spring, blue
Loop positioned on bottom
and toward inside of axle

Shoe Return
Spring, Gray

Shoe Return
Spring, Black

Upper Adjusting link,
Silver side - left
Yellow side - right



Short shoe
goes to the
front

Long shoe
in the back

Hold down
springs and
cups

Silver Spring

Adjusting spring, green
Long side of spring
goes over adjuster gear

Gear on adjuster, blue

Red Spring

Adjuster lever, silver

Note: Left side (driver side) - adjusting wheel on adjuster does not line up with hole in backing plate. You must adjust brakes with drum off and then put drum back on. Final adjustment will be made as you drive the car.



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Photo 1

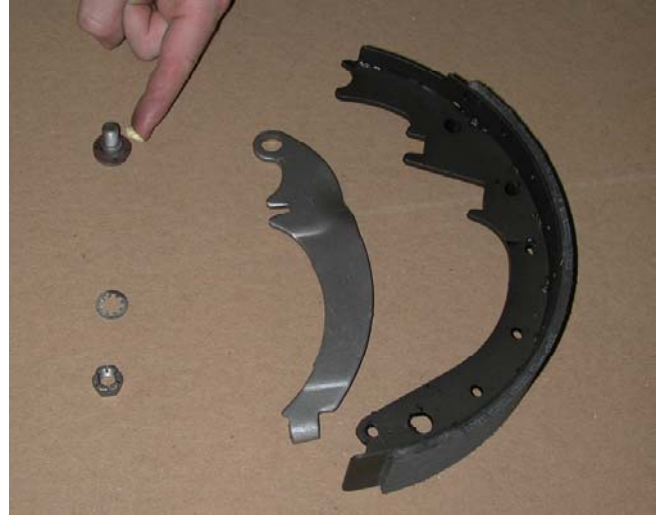


Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



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Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7

