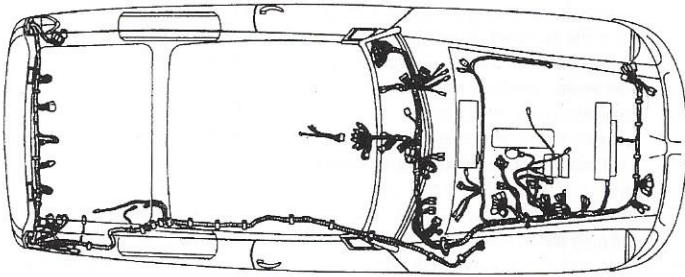


Our thanks to John Twist of Grand Rapids, Michigan for providing the following words of wisdom regarding electrical trouble-shooting, and for making sense out of standard Lucas wiring harness color coding applicable to all MGBs and most British post-World War II vehicles.

Sorting out electrical problems requires a step-by-step, methodical approach. It is necessary to identify the problem, examine the wiring diagram, then trace the circuit, connection to connection (usually from the hot side), until the problem is found.

A quarter of all electrical problems arise from faulty battery connections; another quarter from a dirty fuse box.

As a rule, wires do not fail. The bullet connectors may corrode at the ends of the wires (rarely), or the connections may be loose (common!), but the wires are usually OK. Another rule: Wires begin and end outside the loom. There is no reason to cut through the PVC tape.



BLACK (B) Always EARTH (ground), unfused

Black (B): Various locations
 Black/green (BG): URP switch to cooling fans
 Black/white (BW): Brake warning light

BROWN (N) Always HOT, unfused

Brown (N): Various locations
 Brown/light green (NLG): Windscreen motor switch
 Brown/yellow (NY): Indicator light to alternator
 Brown/purple (NP): Unused

WHITE (W) HOT with ignition ON, unfused

White (W): Key to ignition relay, cut-off switch, fuel pump, ignition ballast resistor, fuse box, various locations distributor to coil, coil to tachometer
 White/black (WB): Stepped down voltage for distributor amplifier
 White/blue (WU): Ignition switch relay to fuse box, starter solenoid to starter relay, oil pressure sending unit to gauge (1968 - '69 only)
 White/green (WG): Key switch to radio, HOT unfused at first key position; wipers and heater (earlier)
 White/light green (WLG): Solenoid to coil, ignition ballast resistor to coil
 White/red (WR): Key switch to starter relay, starter relay to brake warning diode

PURPLE (P) Always HOT, fused

Purple (P): Fuse box to horn, various locations
 Purple/black (PB): Horn to horn switch
 Purple/green (PG): Key buzzer to time delay buzzer
 Purple/pink (PK): Key switch to key buzzer
 Purple/white (PW): courtesy lamp/boot lamp to earthing switches

It may be easier to visualize the wiring as plumbing: Wires as pipes; switches as valves; the battery as pressure; and all "juice" must return to the battery.

Light bulbs work or not. A dimly glowing bulb indicates a faulty earth (ground).

Carb. cleaner removes paint or undercoating from wires to expose the true color code.

If the trunk earth (ground) connection is loose or unattached (license holder bolts), the fuel pump, side markers, courtesy light, reverse lights, license lights, or tail-lights malfunction.

If the hazard switch is not snapped off with vigor, the turn signals may not operate.

Tools: A 1 2-volt test light and wiring diagram are necessities before beginning..

Warning: Approaching an electrical malfunction without a test light, or helter skelter, is a certain route to madness.

GREEN (G) HOT with ignition ON, fused

Green (G): From fuse box to various locations
 Green/black (GB): Fuel tank unit to gauge
 Green/blue (GU): Temp. sending unit to gauge
 Green/brown (GN): Reverse lamp switch to reverse lights; heater fan to switch
 Green/orange (GO): Brake pressure switch, handbrake switch, brake warning diode, brake warning light
 Green/pink (GK): Service interval counter (EGR light)
 Green/red (GR): Left turn signals to switch
 Green/white (GW): Right turn signals to switch
 Green/yellow (GY): Heater to fan switch

RED (R) Parking lights, fused or unfused

Red (R): Fuse box to side markers, parking lights, switch to lights, 1963 - '69
 Red/green (RG): Light switch to fuse box, panel rheostat
 Red/light green (RLG): Wiper motor to switch
 Red/white (RW): Panel rheostat to panel lights
 Red/Yellow (RY): Fog/Driving lights

BLUE (U) Headlamps, unfused

Blue (U): Light switch to dimmer switch
 Blue/light green (ULG): Wiper motor to switch
 Blue/red (UR): Dimmer switch to low beam
 Blue/white (UW): Dimmer switch to high beam, high beam indicator

LIGHT GREEN (LG) Various applications

Light Green/black (LGB): Washer pump to switch
 Light Green/brown (LGN): Flasher to turn signal switch, flasher hazard switch
 Light Green/green (LGG): Voltage stabilizer to fuel/temp. gauges
 Light Green/purple (LGP): Hazard switch to hazard warning lamp

SLATE (S) HOT with ignition OFF, fused and unfused

Slate (S): Key to in-line fuse
 Slate/purple (SP): Fuse to anti-run on valve
 Slate/yellow (SY): Anti-run on valve to oil pressure switch

YELLOW (Y) HOT in 3rd/4th, ignition ON, fused

Yellow (Y): Overdrive switch to relay, 1963 - '67; overdrive switch to 3rd-4th switch, 1968 - '76
 Yellow/brown (YN): Driver's seat belt to time delay buzzer
 Yellow/purple (YP): Time delay buzzer to seat belt warning light; overdrive circuit
 Yellow/red (YR): Overdrive circuit