

CLOCK MOD

by Ron Gush

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OK, so y'all know that I fitted a quartz mechanism behind the clock in my Austin. It keeps perfect time. I make no further excuses to the purists. It is powered by its own AA battery.

Now I am also an avid user of rechargeable batteries but they only hold their charge for a couple of months under low power draw. I could use a Duracell, which would last a few years, but I have had one or two leak before running flat.

So, to avoid having to use a screwdriver every time I change the battery, I had a lot of fun one drizzly morning, building a remote battery holder.



This is how I did it:

The battery holder was cut from galvanised sheet and soldered at the corners. Edges folded out so as not to present sharp edges. The +ve terminal screw is insulated with 2 washers cut from thick Flexoid. I used a tiny length of hearing aid tubing to insulate the screw from the sheet metal. Hearing aids can be so useful!

The -ve terminal / spring is simply a length of the galv sheet cut and bent to shape. The -ve wire is soldered to the housing.

I made a "false battery" to fit into the clock battery compartment, from wooden dowel rod. The terminals are small pieces of galv sheet soldered to the wires and super glued to the ends of the dowel.

Checked out the whole caboodle with a multimeter.

Attached the battery housing to the firewall under the dash with double sided tape, where it is accessible but not easily visible.

Voila! No more screw driver! Popped in a rechargeable battery and set the time – the back of the clock housing has a finger sized hole so I can do this in place.