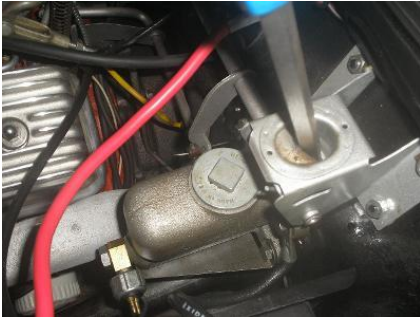


HOOD OPENING TROUBLES, by Scott McGilvray

Some T-Birds take much more effort to open the hood than others. There are a number of reasons for this most of which involve lubrication. The **first picture** shows a method of using a rope to open a stubborn hood. Don't hesitate to use this method, older hands often need help with things they use to do easily.



Picture #1



Picture #2

The things to check to make sure your mechanism is not at fault is: check to see that both latches move freely. The **second picture** shows a large screwdriver resting in the drivers' side latch.

The **third picture** shows it pushing the latch tongue forward. Check both sides, this is rarely a problem but you never know.



Picture #4

Next push the control lever with the screwdriver as in **picture four** to see that it moves freely. Again this is rarely the problem but if it is lubricate the pivot points with wheel bearing grease. Heavy grease is used for its' staying power, of course clean off any excess.



Picture #3



Picture #5

Once the under the hood parts have been checked, we move on to the more likely issue, the handle itself. Most hood wires are long enough they they have a safety bend right at the retaining clip. The wire is quite stiff but straighten it enough to remove the retainer clip. Once the retainer is off the wire the hood handle will pull out, **picture five**. Put a brick on your cowl to remind you not to close your hood. Examine the hood pull once it is out. Common problems are corrosion build up in the shaft near the handle, a bend in the shaft or kink in the wire from the shaft on out. All of these conditions can be dealt with using steel wool and pliers. Reinstalling the wire may require the brief use of an assistant. When you push the wire it is not likely to hit the hole in the control lever and none of us has arms long enough to guide it while pushing the handle. The factory never used lubricant on the shaft or wire. Thinking probably was that since it was a limited use item the use of lubricant would just attract dirt a be a maintenance problem down the road. If you want to lubricate the wire and/or shaft you should use, lithium grease. Be sure to put plenty of torque on the screw holding the retainer to the wire and make sure the round end works on the lever. A security bend in the wire is up you. Bend it down for safety reasons, better yet bend it 180 degrees to get it out of the way.

One more factor in all of this is the hood alignment. If the hood is adjusted down so far that it puts undue pressure on the hood pins they will not be released easily. Lubrication on the pins, both the cones and the backside is important.