Installing Intermittent Wiper feature into a Corvair

By David Heath

Probably every one of us appreciates the “intermittent” wiper function on newer cars. Whether it is just sprinkling, a heavy dew, or foggy, it is nice to have the make one swipe every several seconds instead of constantly moving. Wouldn’t it be nice to have this same feature in your Corvair?

A new product from Revolution Electronics allows exactly that. If you have the two-speed wipers, this module allows you to upgrade to intermittent wipers. Also, it does this without changing your switch (so your dash still looks stock) or motor.

Figure 1 - Intermittent Wiper Module from Revolution Electronics

The heart of this product is an electronic module with 8 wires. Even if you are intimidated by electrical projects, you should not let the thought of this one overwhelm you. The most difficult part of this project is the removal and re-installation of the switch itself. Well, you do have to use some type of continuity tester, but most people understand how to do that and if you don’t, it is very likely you know someone who does.

Lets walk through an installation of this module in the author’s ’65 coupe.

Step one is the removal of the switch from the dash. For a ’65, you first have to remove the knob (a small, flat screwdriver to loosen the set-screw is needed). Next you have to remove the nut securing the switch to the dash – a pair of pliers can be used if you don’t have a deep enough socket. Now just push the switch through the dash and grab it from the backside. Gently pull it and the wires down to the bottom of the dash so you can work with them.

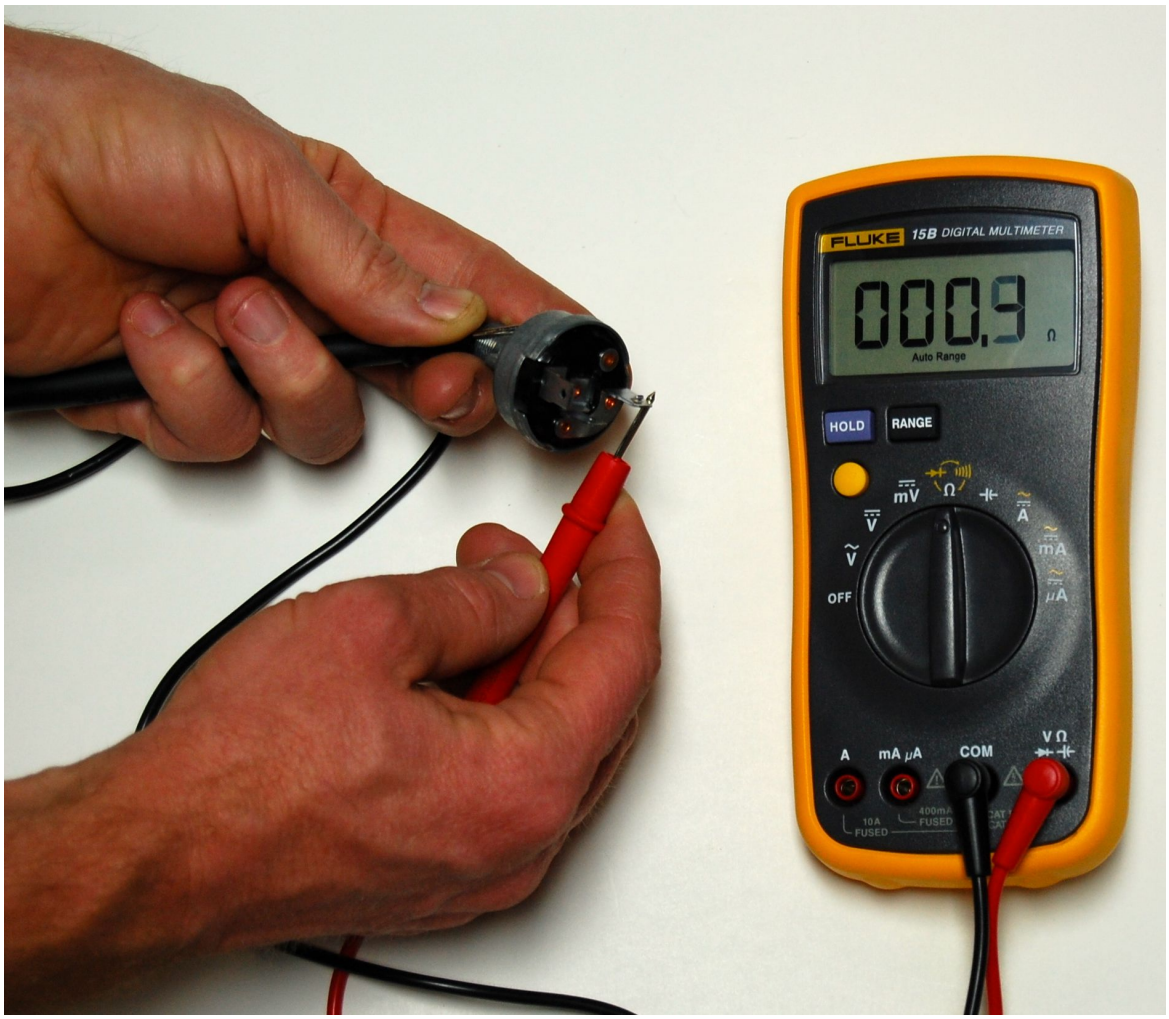


Figure 2 - With the switch in the "fast" position, identify which terminal shows continuity with the switch housing

Step two involves figuring out which terminal does what function. This is where the continuity tester comes in handy. Remove the factory wires from the back of the switch. Turn the switch to the “fast” setting and ,using your continuity tester, check to see which terminal is electrically connected to the switch housing. Once you have figured that out, install the blue wire to the switch and install the light blue wire to the corresponding wire on the factory harness.

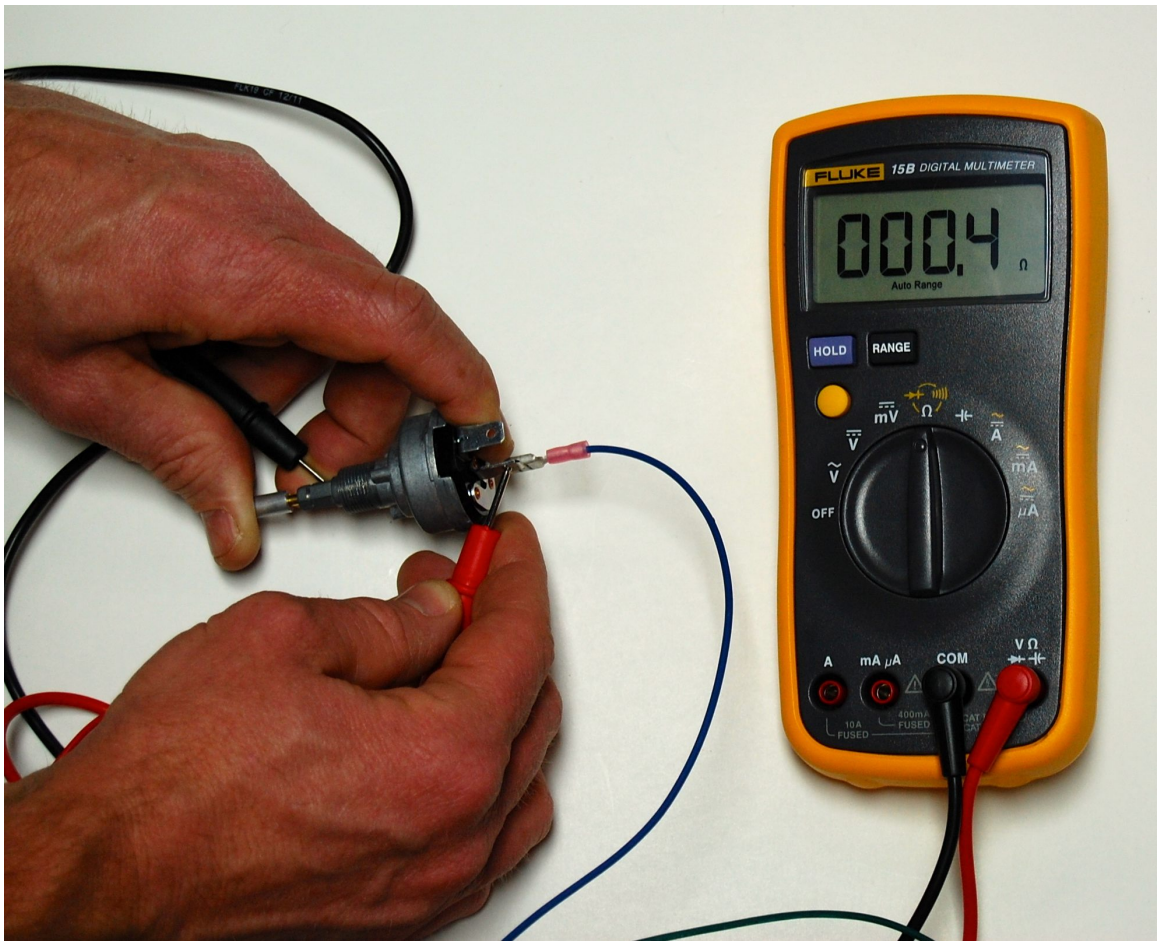


Figure 3 - With the switch still in the fast position, activate the washer switch and identify which terminal has continuity with the switch housing

Next, with the switch still in the fast setting, press the washer button and see which of the two remaining terminals makes contact (shows zero or near-zero ohms) with the switch housing. Connect one orange wire to this terminal and the other to the corresponding wire on the factory harness.

There is only one terminal left. Connect the green wire to the switch and the light green wire to the corresponding wire in the factory harness

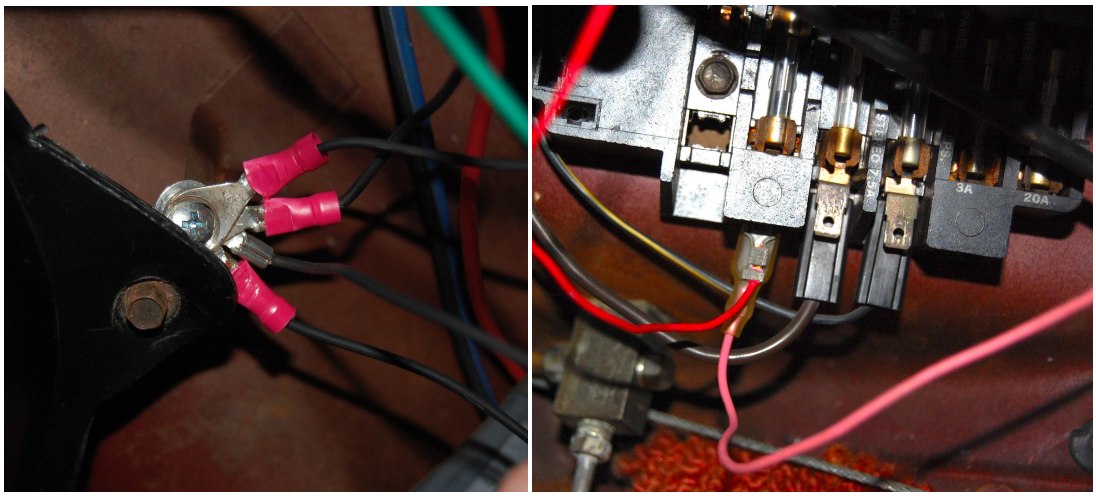


Figure 4 - Find a good ground and power source

Now for the power and ground wires. Find a good place to install a ring terminal for the ground wire; cut the black wire to length, strip the end, crimp the ring terminal to the end, and secure to your ground point. Next find a suitable place to connect the power lead. There are usually a couple of terminals at the bottom of the fuse panel open; cut the red wire to length, strip the end, crimp the female terminal to the end, and install it to your power source. The module will draw very, very small amounts of power from this lead, so you don't need to worry about overpowering the fuse. The work is actually done by the ground lead, so make sure that one is good and secure.

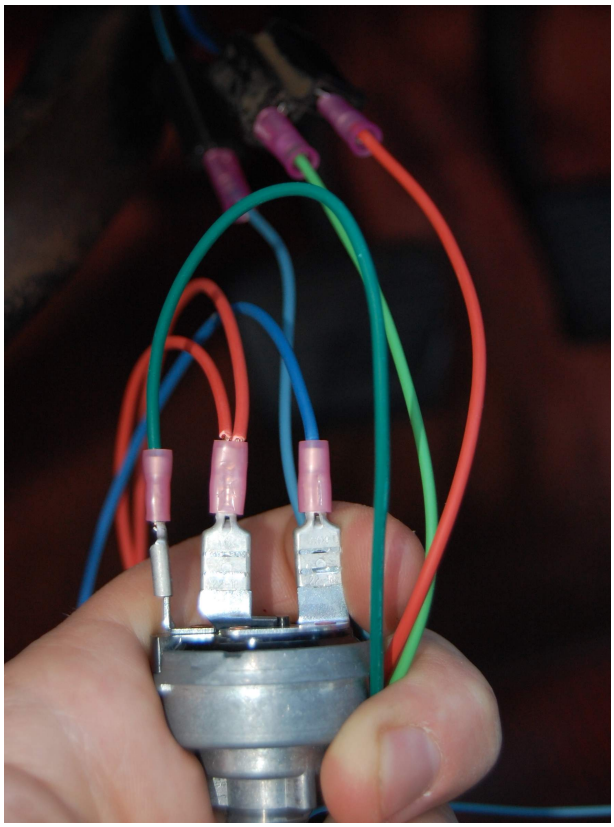
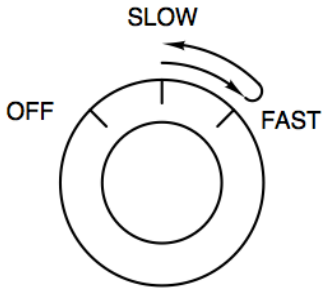
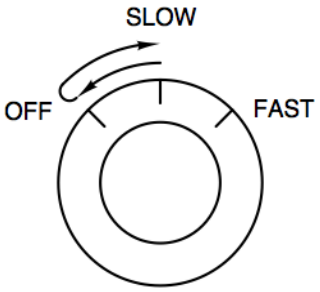


Figure 5 - All wires connected to the switch and harness

At this point you need to reinstall the switch to the dash. Just reverse the procedure you followed to remove the switch. With the switch installed, tuck the module behind the dash somewhere and secure it with the supplied cable ties.



First make sure you move the wiper switch to the "off" position. Turn the key to the "on" position to power the wipers and the module. Turn the wiper switch to the first (low-speed) setting. The wipers will activate one swipe at low speed and stop; this will repeat about every 8 seconds. Now move the switch to the high-speed setting and back to the low-speed setting (do this quickly – click to the high-speed and back). Now the wipers will activate one swipe about every 5 seconds. Do this again and they will activate every three seconds. One more time and they will stay on continuous at low speed. Move the switch to the high-speed setting and leave it there and the wipers will move at high speed.



To move back down to greater delay, move the switch from the low-speed position to the off position and back to low-speed. Each toggle will drop you down one notch, from continuous-slow, to 3 second delay,

to 5 second delay, to 8 second delay. At any point you can turn the wipers off by moving the switch to the off position and leaving it there.

Visit www.revolutionelectronics.com for more information.