Under-dash Electrical Connector Replacement (Bypass)

These notes describe steps to replace failing connectors with hard soldered connections.

Problem: Three plastic connectors, installed by Solectria, sometimes exhibit an open circuit condition depending on vibration. The open circuit will disable the car. The shape is about the diameter of a dime and 1/4 " thick. They can be seen by positioning yourself on your back near the brake pedal, and looking up at some of the wiring harness.

Tools: Socket wrench set, phillips screw driver, pillow, flash light, sharp knife, soldering iron, solder, electrical tape

Steps for replacement on a '96 Solectria:

1. Remove drivers seat -5 hex bolts.

2.* Remove plastic panel under steering column - 2 phillips screws. Pull left side of panel out before pulling the right side.

3.* Remove foam sound absorber by pulling out 2 retainers by hand.

4.* Remove 4 phillips screws securing sheet metal plate.

5. Crawl in, with your back on a pillow, and with a flashlight locate the 3 Scotch connectors. They should be on wires that go to multi-pin connectors that go to a plastic fuse block, that is white in color.

6. Carefully disconnect the connectors in order to replace the plastic connectors with soldered connections. Dis-assemble and solder connections, one at a time, so as to not lose track of which wire goes where.

7. In each of 3 cases, you are going to strip 1/4 - 3/8“ of insulation off the wires. One wire tees into a main wire.

8. Strip 1/4- 3/8" of insulation off the main wire without cutting the wire. Strip 1/4 - 3/8" of insulation off the end of the wire teeing in to the main wire.

9. Wrap the bare wire onto the stripped section of the main wire.

10. Solder the 2 wires together, and wrap with electrical tape.

11. Repeat 2 more times.

* Optional

Good Luck.