

Technical Notes

Turn Signal Problems

By Lynn Sondenaa

I have had some problems with my turn signals ever since I replaced the flasher unit. I double checked that I purchased a 6 volt style. I finally had to break down and ask my son-in-law who is a very gifted mechanic for his help. He looked under the dash and pulled out the flasher unit, looked at it for 30 seconds and said here is your problem. You put the wrong unit in your Model A. I immediately fired back that it was the correct unit, a 6 volt unit. He just laughed at me and explained the following. You installed a **XTS** unit not a **XPL** unit. I said, "Well what does that mean?" He replied with the following information: **X** = 6 volts, **T** = in dash turn indicator lamps, **S** = vehicles signal/turning lamps. These are used for cars that have the turn signal blinking lights built into the dash board of the cars. You need the unit that has the blinking lights built into the aftermarket turn signal unit that you mounted on your steering column. **XPL**, **X** = 6 volt, **P** = pilot light on the signal switch, **L** = signal/turning lamps.

Here are three more things he said to consider and remember. First, if the unit has the correct parts and is wired correctly, but the lights are very dim there is a reason. The units being sold are actually 12 volts with 6 volt flashers. You need to wire one or two dummy lights under the car (where they will not be seen) so it will draw more current and then the lights will work correctly. If the small light on the turn signal unit stays on or is very dim when the engine is not running there is a chance it could be the wrong flasher unit. (Remember we need the **XPL** flasher) His last item was he thought if you used a bi-metal style flasher unit you would have to use filament style bulbs, not LED's.

My son-in-law received his training in the Ford ASSET Program, where Ford motor company trains their mechanics in regional locations using community colleges. They also receive ASE certification. Here is proof that that is a very good program!