DOOR SWITCHES REPAIR

By Marc Leydecker

The Alfa Romeo Door-Switches, Trunk and Hood-Switches are prone to corrosion.

If your interior lights don't come on when you open the doors, the culprit is more than likely a corroded switch.
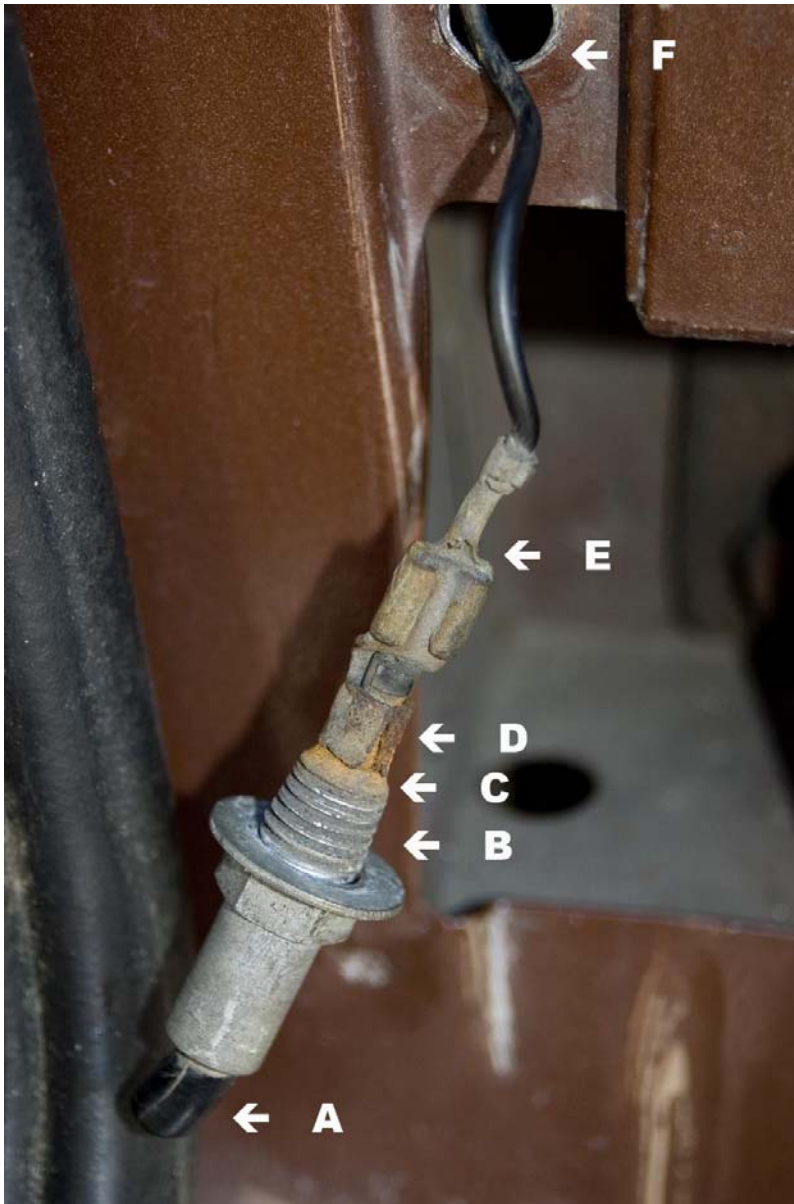

How does it work?

In order for the bulb to light up, you need to apply +12 Volts to one side of the bulb and a ground to the other side of the bulb.

In most of our Alfa's, the 12 Volt positive is always applied to the bulb.
The ground is switched via the infamous door, hood or trunk switch.

The following picture might help you understand the "mechanics"

The switch (B) is screwed into the chassis (F)

As the door is open … there is no pressure on push-contact (A)

(E) Is the ground wire that goes to the bulb

So as soon as (E) is grounded; the bulb will illuminate

(E) Is connected to (D); when the switch is NOT pushed-in, (D) makes contact with (C).

(C) is the collar of (B) and (B) is screwed into (F) (The Chassis or ground)

So just to simplify: when the door is open; (A) is not pushed-in and therefore the ground wire (E) is grounded.

When the door is closed; (A) is pushed-in.

The collar (D) is mounted onto (A) and will no longer make contact with (C) therefore no ground is applied to (E)

What to look for:

Make sure that (F), the hole in the chassis is clean and will make a good ground
Spade Terminal (E) should not be corroded (I replaced mine because it was easier to replace the terminal than cleaning it)
The collar (D) is mounted on the actual plastic push-button (A)
Make sure that the metal collar (D) is free of corrosion (clean with Motor Tool)
The thread (B) and the slanted part (C) should be free of corrosion (clean with Motor Tool)
Lubricate the switch and if possible apply some "electrical grease" on the terminals.

Note that I crimp AND solder my connections!

So more than likely most of your problems are related to corrosion, but ….
Look closely at the top picture again
(A), the plastic button, is bend!
With a little bit of luck, you can re-bend the plastic piece by using a heat gun.

What if (A) is broken of?

Still no panic.
(A) is a hollow piece of plastic rod
Take a round-headed screw which has the same diameter as (A)

With a drill or Motor tool, enlarge the hole in (A) so that the thread of the screw easily screws into (A)
With epoxy or JB Weld, fill the threads and sand when dry

The top door switch is an "original"
The bottom switch has been repaired

Note:
You can clearly see the screw-head on the bottom switch
The tan-colored part, is JB Weld.
The black part is the original switch that was broken-off