

HOW TO CLEAN REPAIR YOUR STARTER MOTOR

Don't buy a new starter motor until you had your old one tested.

Anyway, it's really easy to do, once you got the motor off your car. This is how I did mine. Place the motor rapped in cloth in a vice or workmate. I tested it against a battery and could hear the solenoid, and see the bendix shooting forward, but was not spinning. I decided that it was the brushes worn out, so this is how I stripped it down.

Undo the 2, 8mm nuts and remove the tin end cover. Then undo the 2, 8mm nut heads under that, which are actually long bolts that keep the motor together. Once you taken out the long bolts, undo the 12mm nut on the solenoid so the small black cable disconnects. Gently lift off the rear silver bit of the motor off the commutator. Inside is where the brushes are. This is where the problem of mine was. 2 of the 4 brushes were worn away. Put this aside for now, as you can't do anything with it.

Whist I had the back off, I then removed commutator from the black middle section, this just pulls out, it may feel hard to pull out, but that down to the magnets pulling it back in. Watch out for a little ball bearing that may come out on the end. If this happens, don't worry, just put it back down the small hole. Once that is out, gently clean with a fine wire brush, then some Brasso. It will be black to start with because of the carbon dust from the brushes, but will soon be shiny copper once 5 minutes has been spent on it.

Then remove the black middle section, this just pulls off too. Mind you don't lose the black rubber seal on the base of it. It does have a locating peg, so goes back on one way. When this is off you will see 6 magnets inside. Again, these will be covered in black carbon dust. Use a small screw driver and an old tooth brush to clean out all the dust. This will come up like new inside once cleaned.

When you look at the remaining bit of the starter you have left, you will see 3 small gears inside. I did remove and re-grease them, but that all you can do to it as you don't need to remove anything else.

So to reassemble, put the black rubber seal off the black centre section over the top of gears. This too only goes back one way, it's easy to see how, just match up the holes in it, to the holes for the long bolts that holds it together. Then push the black centre section into place (remember the locating peg). Then place in the shiny commutator.

With the silver back bit of the motor with the brushes inside, take to your local motor rewinds place. They will replace the 4 worn out carbon brushes and fit a new small black cable. I paid £33.21 for this. Beats paying £130 for a new motor. They replaced them for me and was ready for collection the following day. Just a tip, when its ready for collection, take the rest of the motor with you so they can fit it together. It's hard to get the end bit on with the new brushes fitted over the commutator.

And that it. Fit to your car and your away! Hope this helps some people, and saves them some of their hard earned cash!