

1981 Reliant, Aries, Omni, Horizon Rear Brake Noise

Rear brake noise may be caused on 1981 models by contact between the brake drum and parking brake return spring.

To check for this condition, while the vehicle is on a hoist, spin each back wheel. While it is spinning, grasp the parking brake cable conduit and move it up and down. If this changes the noise, the parking brake cable return spring is contacting the drum.

This condition can be corrected through the following procedure:

1. Remove rear tires, wheels, hubs and drums.
2. Re-position parking brake cable and return spring to the lowest point in the hook end of the parking brake lever.
3. Re-position the opposite end of the spring at the cable conduit clip as far down as possible.
4. Re-assemble the vehicle and test drive. (*Note: Use of a replacement cotter pin that is too long and contacts the grease cap may also cause noise.*)

K-Car (Reliant and Aries) premature rear brake wear may be caused by incorrect parking brake adjustment.

Correct adjustment is as follows:

1. Adjust rear brakes manually to obtain a light drag.
2. Back off adjustment until drag is no longer present.
3. Adjust parking brake until there is a light drag on the rear wheels.
4. Back off adjustment until drag is no longer present.
5. Back off parking brake adjusting nut two additional turns.
6. Apply and release parking brake several times, while checking for full release of the parking brake. Any drag indicates parking brake cables requiring either greasing or replacement.

