

# Reusing Sealed Beams

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Most vintage Japanese bikes have a sealed beam with a non-replaceable lamp in the headlight assembly, and you could easily spend hundreds of dollars for one, if you can even find a lamp assembly to fit. I have twice replaced them on a Suzuki and on a Yamaha with one hundred-percent success, so I thought I would share my little non-replaceable bulb replacement tip.

See that innocent looking bulb in there? It's laughing at you because it thinks it's non-replaceable. But it doesn't know you have tricks up your sleeve.

By simply heating up the old bulb socket, the solder will melt, and the bulb will drop into the lamp assembly.

It can be a little tricky, but you take a

small screwdriver and a small hammer and tap the bulb to shatter it inside the lamp assembly. Being careful not to slip and crack the lens itself.

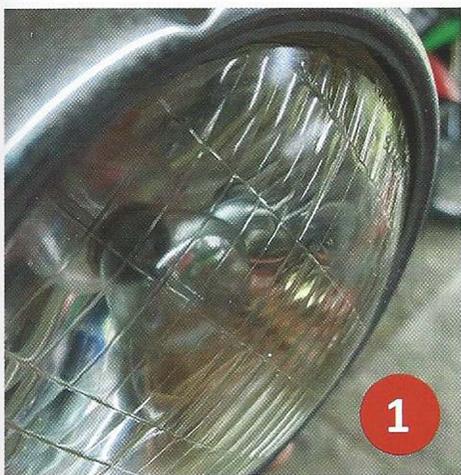
Then, after you turn the lamp upside down and dump the glass pieces out, you can grab the socket with needle-nose pliers and pull it through the hole. You may have to wallow the hole out a little to allow the socket to come out easier. Then install a Walmart (or auto parts store) standard 9003 halogen bulb. Push the bulb into the hole in the back of the lamp, and you can even tighten it with some pliers by making the hole a bit smaller so the socket of the new bulb fits snug.

Then, just for safety measures, put

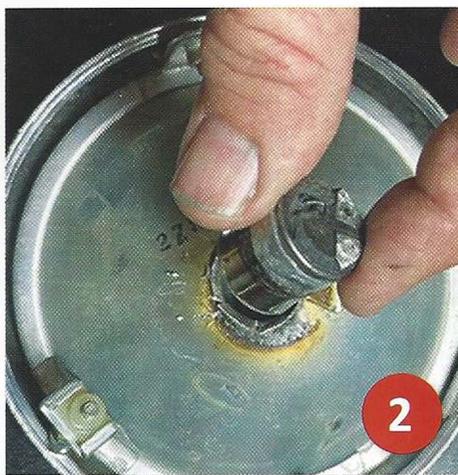
some epoxy or silicone around the gap where the socket of the new halogen bulb fits into the back of the lamp.

There, now you've saved a few hundred dollars, and you have a way to replace your headlight bulb for only nine dollars, and they are readily available!

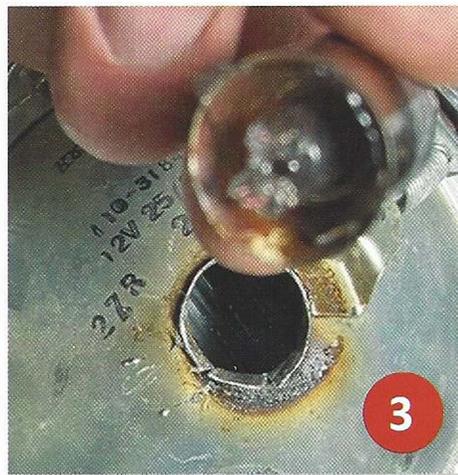
*[Editor's Note: An alternative is to replace the sealed beam unit with a new headlight lens of the same diameter designed to hold a halogen bulb. You can then install a new halogen bulb, or do like I did on my Suzuki GS550e, and install an H-4 LED replacement bulb. The advantage of this is less draw required to run the headlight, and we all know our old bikes could use all the help they can get in the amperage department!]* ●



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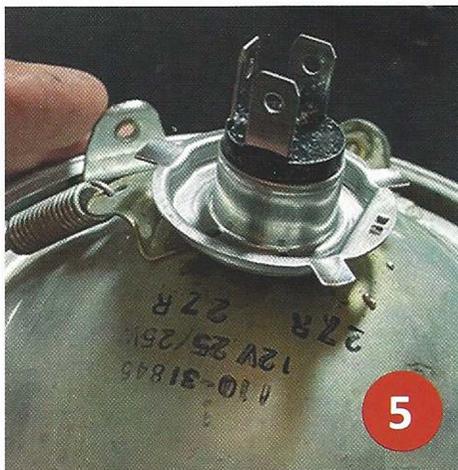
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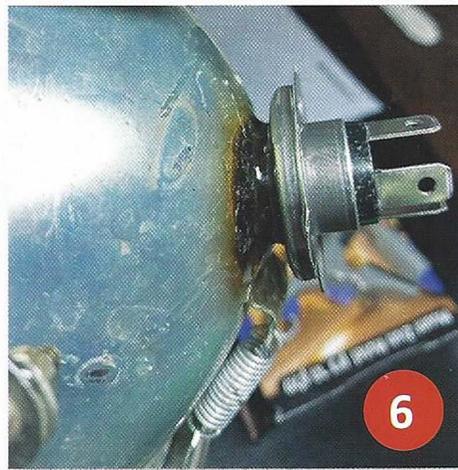
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