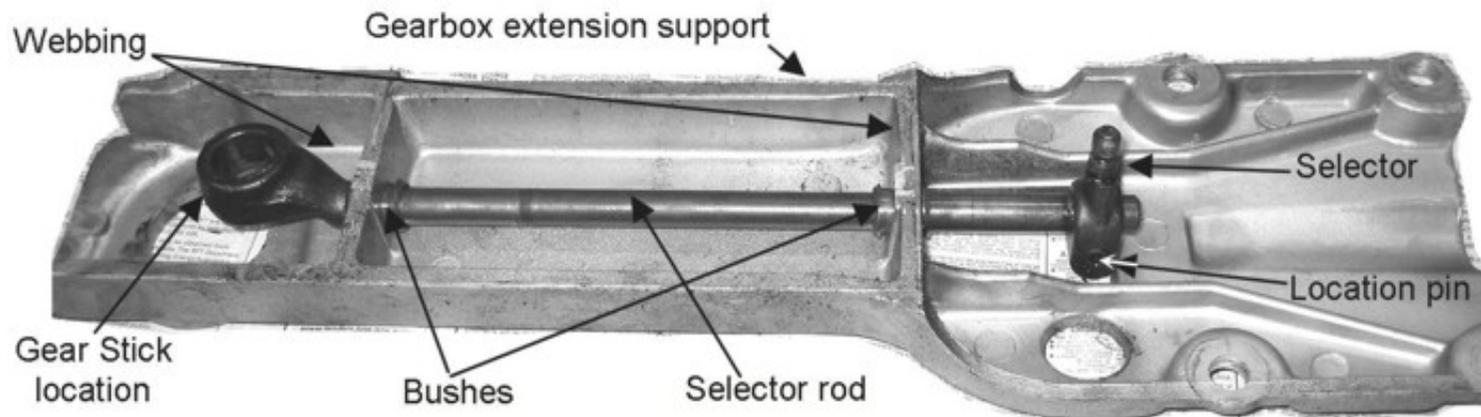


Fixing Plus 8 1973-1978 gearbox rattles/sloppiness

Peter Canavan

The Rover gearbox in Plus 8 models is maligned due to driver's inability to successfully locate second gear when required. This operation is often accompanied by a loud crunch as reverse is found instead

A simple solution has been devised, as passed on to me by John Coneybeare, and consists of placing nylon bushes inside the webbing through which the selector shaft travels between the gear stick and gearbox.



The sequence of events to affect a fix is as follows;

- 1 Remove Speedo cable at both ends i.e. gearbox and Speedo This makes for a much easier removal of gearbox cover and will save the need for a new cable in time. Removal from gearbox needs to be by way of the inspection plate on the passenger's side
- 2 Remove all carpets etc and gearbox upholstery as well as seat squabs.
- 3 Remove 4 bolts holding gearbox cover to floor and upholstery/carpet location pins
- 4 Remove screws locating gearbox cover to bulkhead
- 5 Remove gearbox cover. This is a tricky operation as the handbrake lever forces the cover upward towards the dashboard. It is best to obtain assistance as four hands as better than two.

- 6 Unscrew three bolts holding gear stick and remove.
- 7 Remove extension section from top of the gearbox.
- 8 Working at your bench, tap out the location pin through selector arm and remove from webbing through which it travels
- 9 Place two nylon bushes into webbing and glue with Araldite or similar product to stop selector rattle/movement, as per diagram above.

Reassemble in reverse order.

Equipment needed for this procedure, apart from normal tools, are two early model Victa lawnmower wheel bushes (solid type) available at mower repair centres costing about \$1 each

This fix also eliminated an annoying rattle in the linkage area, noted mainly when in top gear.

While the gearbox cover was removed the opportunity was taken to insulate the underside. This is achieved by using stick on aluminium reflective paper with peel off backing. It does not take long to cut and attach. The temperature difference is quite noticeable, especially on hot days.

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