

Greasing 2CV knife edges

As a newish 2CV owner, I have struggled with greasing the suspension knife-edges. According to the Hayes manual they should be greased every 5000 km. However, as anyone who has greased them knows getting grease into the working section is somewhat difficult. The manual shows grease being applied with a small paintbrush and there is even a photo of the operation. It sounds simple enough though I can't imagine much grease getting to the knife-edge. More likely it would be wiped over the surrounding suspension components attracting grit. The ideal method involves removing the knife-edge eye and fitting it with a grease gun nipple. It's a shame Citroën didn't do this in the first place. I plan to do it next time I remove the eyes, that may be some time off though.

In the mean time there must be a better way of squirting grease in there. The normal grease gun connection is too wide and blunt to get in there. It needs to be something smaller. Syringes are about the right size to easily access the knife-edge and they can be bought cheaply from chemists. You can get them for nothing from needle exchanges if you want to pass yourself off as a drug user. (This is probably easier after working on your 2CV rather than before). Unfortunately, a needle's bore is too fine for the viscous grease to pass through. I broke the plunger off before I could squeeze any grease through the syringe. Maybe a horse size syringe from a veterinary supplier would do the job perfectly but can you imagine trying to convincingly explain all this to a supplier. What would they think of you? It was enough to put me off trying.

Browsing through a Macnaught catalogue I saw a suitable tool, small diameter extension that fitted a grease gun nozzle. Macnaught call them a needle nose coupler or a grease injection needle. It sounds obvious don't it? I got a needle nose coupler from All Tools for about \$20 and it does the job perfectly. Perhaps there is a better way of doing this job. If you know of an easier, simpler method, please contact me. I would love to know.

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