

PRODUCT CHECK—CASTOR OIL

In last 'Front Drive' I introduced you to Holden Spray Grease [part # M39760] as a simple and clean way to apply lubrication to the suspension knife-edges on your 2CV.

However, some squeaking/graunching continues from beneath 'Mathilde/Truffle', and for this, the Haynes manual suggests lubricating the central suspension unit [spring pot] under each side of the vehicle, using castor oil. The oil is introduced past the rubber concertina gaiter at each end of the spring pot, using some thin tubing, presumably attached to a suitable elevated reservoir or some form of clean pumping device. This should lubricate the internals of the pot.

Haynes do not specify the volume of castor oil to be used, but my guess is that 200-300ml at each end should be plenty [maybe excessive — perhaps an initial trial with less and see how it goes].

shied off because of the fear of them forming sticky gums through oxidation.

Roger Brundle [a CCOCA lubrication specialist] suggested trying Castrol, who in turn recommended their Castrol M, which is a pure low-acid olive oil. Castrol

R40 while attractive because of its anti-oxidant content to resist gumming, was rejected because its small mineral oil content might attack rubber parts in the spring boxes.

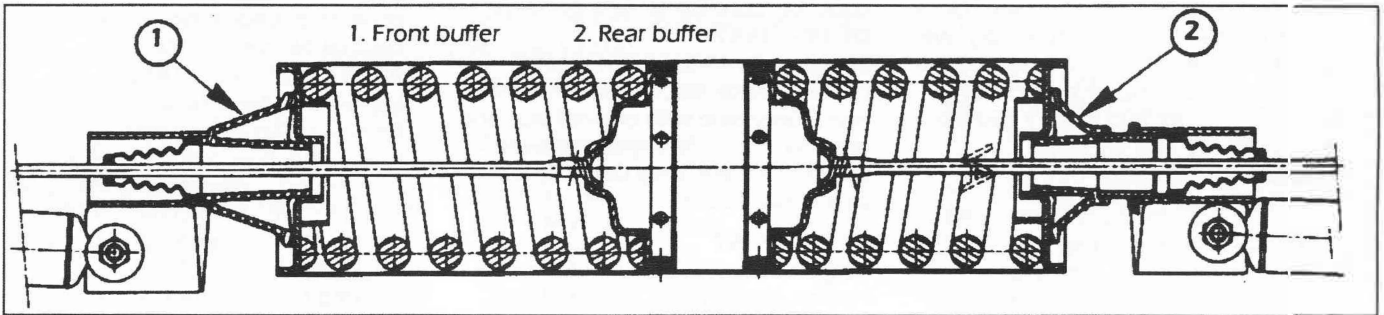
Castrol M is available at \$13.80 per litre pack or in 5litre packs for \$33. A much better proposition!

The nearest supplier to me is Banlay, 26 Kitchen Rd., Dandenong, Vic. Telephone [03] 9794 7199. I would be grateful for any feedback from readers.

Bill Graham



Next thing was to obtain some castor oil. My local supermarket has pharmaceutical grade [laxative] castor oil at about \$7 for 200ml. This sounded a ridiculously expensive 'way to go'. I considered other vegetable oils but



CORRECTION

Bill Graham has told me of a serious error that was made in last edition of Front Drive regarding Castrol M, for use in greasing the central suspension pot of a 2CV. After carefully describing the nature of various oils and Citroën's recommendation to use castor oil, we went ahead and suggested the use of Castrol M, whilst indicating it to be pure, low-acid olive oil. Castrol M is pure, low acid castor oil and should therefore be perfectly safe to use on 2CV suspension pots.

To repeat, this product is available from Banlay, 26 Kitchen Rd., Dandenong, Vic. Telephone [03] 9794 7199.

