

2CV HEADLIGHTS IMPROVEMENT

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Revision 4

Background

We know the standard 2CV headlights are not the brightest lights on the highway. This article focuses on the 2CV headlight globes and the replacement options available to increase the light output to make night-time driving safer.

P45t Globes

The headlight reflectors in the 2CV are designed to use globes with the P45t mounting base, such as the globes shown in Figs. 1 to 2. Many other vehicles of the period also used P45t globes, so what follows also applies to those vehicles. Fig. 1 shows the early 45W/40W incandescent globe that was originally fitted to the 2CV, such as the Narva 49211. Fig. 2 shows the later 65W/60W H4 halogen globe which could be fitted to provide increased headlight brightness, an example being the Narva 48884. Figs. 3 and 4 show some basic dimensions of the P45t base and glass envelope. Other manufacturers may produce equivalent globes. I expect most 2CVs today will have the Fig. 2 globes fitted.



Fig. 1
P45t Base



Fig. 2
P45t Base

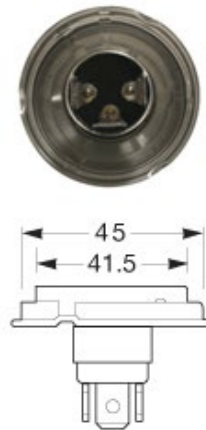


Fig. 3
P45t Base

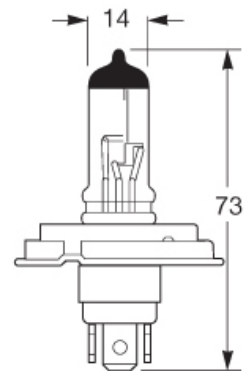


Fig. 4
P45t Base

And then there's P43t Globes...

There are two further headlight globe types which could be of interest to 2CV owners, shown at Figs. 5 and 6. These globes are fitted with the P43t mounting base. Fig. 5 shows the more recent higher brightness 65W/60W H4 halogen globe, such as the Narva 48362, while Fig. 6 shows a state-of-the-art, much higher brightness, white light LED globe, such as the Narva 18424, for which the brightness is specified as 4000 lumens per pair at a colour temperature of 5700K. Figs. 7 and 8 show some basic dimensions of the P43t base and glass envelope. Again, other manufacturers may produce equivalent globes.



Fig. 5
P43t Base



Fig. 6
P43t Base

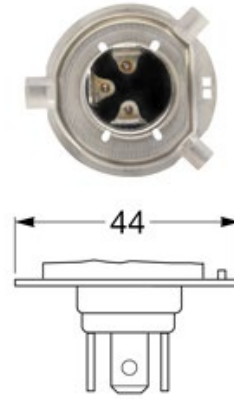


Fig. 7
P43t Base

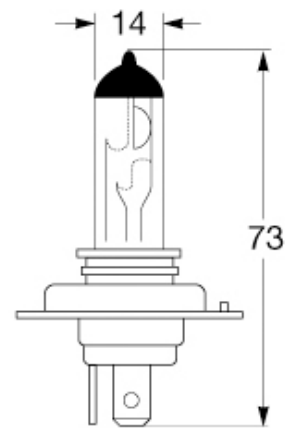


Fig. 8
P43t Base

Well, what are we waitin' for? Plug 'em in, turn 'em on and let's go! Whoaaaaa, hold your horses. Not so fast...

And the problem Baldrick?

There is just a minor hiccup in using the Figs. 5 and 6 globes, m'lord. And the problem is Baldrick? Well, m'lord, the P43t mounting base is physically different to the P45t mounting base, so the brighter P43t globes cannot be *directly* fitted to the 2CV, no matter how hard we keep pushing!

And the solution Baldrick?

The solution is to buy or make an adapter which fits between the headlight reflector and the base of the P43t globe, allowing us to fit our choice of the higher brightness Fig. 5 or Fig. 6 globe to our 2CV.

Further, when the adapters and our chosen P43t globes are fitted to the 2CV, there is no permanent change made. The lights can be quickly reverted back to original form by replacing the P43t globes and the adapters with the original P45t globes.

Eureka! The writer has located a purpose-designed adapter to do this job, shown fitted to a P43t globe at Fig. 9 below. A pair of the adapters is shown at Fig. 10. The adapters are of the same form, fit and function as the writer's hand-made metal adapters described in previous revisions of this document.

When these adapters and the Fig.6 LED globes are fitted to the 2CV, you will have the very best and brightest 2CV headlights available.

The adapters are available by online order from **Classic Car LEDs** in the UK and are described as: P45T R2 H5 HB12 410 to P43T H4 BULB ADAPTER.

The web site showing the adapter is:

<https://www.classiccarleds.co.uk/products/p45t-r2-h5-to-p43t-h4-bulb-adapter? pos=1& psq=adapter& ss=e& v=1.0>



Fig. 9
Adapter fitted to P43t Globe

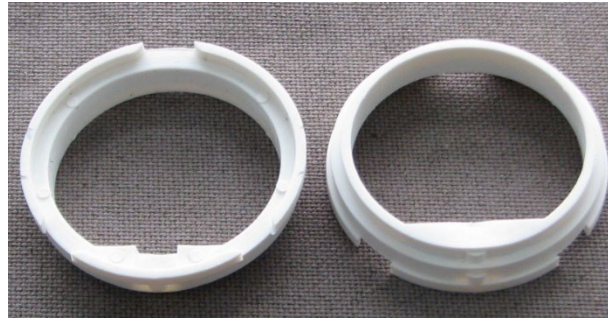


Fig. 10
Pair of adapters

Globe Retention Clips

When fitting the adapters and the selected globes in the lights, ensure the two small over-centre spring retention clips on each reflector, which hold the globe (and the adapter) in place, are doing their intended job. To ensure all is good, the writer threaded a single loop of 1 mm solid copper wire through the clips and around the central metal body of the globe, twisting the wire ends together. This ensures the clips remain in their intended positions, locking the adapter and the globe securely in place. If a globe needs to be removed, snip the copper wire first.

Conclusion

These adapters are the perfect solution for enabling the Figs. 5 and 6 globes to be easily fitted to the 2CV in a non-permanent manner. The writer purchased and fitted four of the adapters and four of the Fig. 6 LED globes to his 2CVs to replace the hand-made metal adapters and the Fig. 5 globes previously used. With the white light LED globes fitted, night-time driving is now much safer and very much more comfortable. Ah, *now* I can see!

My grateful appreciation and acknowledgement is given to the web sites
from which Figs. 1 to 9 have been drawn.

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This document may be updated in the future and assigned a new revision number.

Should you have any questions about the document or if you find errors or have suggestions for improvement, please contact the writer at: gdennes@gmail.com

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