

Clocks4Classics EasyFit Tachometer Repair Kit

Fitting Instructions for Smiths RVI Type Tachometers
(Early 'Gen 1' type without bullet connectors)



Easy fit design:

- No Soldering
- Neatly replaces existing circuit board, using same screws
- Fit from rear - no need to remove dial and needle
- On board, push button calibration - no computer or phone required
- Suitable for positive and negative earth cars, no extra parts needed
- Suitable for 4, 6 and 8 cylinder cars
- Tacho-generator no longer needed
- Step-by-step instructions with clear pictures
- Online videos show how it's done

PLEASE NOTE:

These instructions are specific to the 'Easyfit' tacho repair kit as shown in the photo below. If you have purchased one of our other tacho repair kit products please refer to the fitting instructions for that product.



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1. General Information

These instructions cover fitting the Clocks4Classics Tachometer repair kit to an early (“Gen 1”) Smiths RVI type tachometer (“tacho”). The kit replaces the existing tachometer electronics and can be used on 4, 6 or 8 cylinder engines. It can be configured for use on positive or negative earth vehicles and is suitable for use with contact breakers or electronic ignition. The kit has a built in three point calibration mode and does not require the use of a computer or phone for calibration.

RVI type tachometers have “RVI” marked in small lettering on the dial. The early type can be identified by the fact that the ignition coil wire is looped through a sensing transformer on the back of the unit. Later (“Gen 2”) units connect to the ignition coil via bullet connectors.

If you have an RV type tachometer or a later RVI unit please see separate instructions available on our website.

Kit Contents

- Replacement rear circuit board and wiring
- 2 x wire connectors
- Template for drilling wiring hole.

Anti Static Precautions

As with any electronic parts, the circuit board can be damaged by static electricity. To avoid damage to the circuit board it is important to take the following precautions when handling the circuit board:

- Keep the circuit board in its anti-static packaging until you are ready to fit it.
- Before you open the anti-static packaging, discharge yourself by touching some grounded metalwork such as a water pipe or radiator pipe.
- Handle the circuit board by the edges and avoid touching the components on the board.
- Avoid contact with materials such as synthetic fibres or wool which generate static electricity

IMPORTANT NOTE – IGNITION COIL SUPPLY

RVI Gen1 tachos have a wire loop attached to a sensing transformer on the back of the tacho. This wire carries the feed to the ignition coil and it is important to leave it in tact otherwise the engine will not start.

When removing the tacho from the car remove the wire loop from the back of the tacho but **do not cut the wire**. Leave the coiled wire in the wiring harness so that it maintains the feed to the ignition coil. The EasyFit circuit board does not use this coiled wire but it must be left in place in the wiring harness when the tacho is reinstalled.

2. Fitting The Repair Kit

2.1 Remove Bezel and Glass

Rotate bezel until tabs on bezel align with slots on tachometer case. Remove bezel, glass and shading ring as shown.

Note: the bezel may have corroded in place and be difficult to remove. In this case apply penetrating oil to the joint between the bezel and case. After leaving the penetrating oil to soak in use a small screwdriver to gently ease the edge of the bezel away from the case (do not use excessive force – just enough to break the bond).



2.2 Remove Tacho From Case

Support front of tacho with one hand. Turn tacho face down and remove the wire loop retainer and the two securing screws from rear of case.

Once screws are removed turn tacho over and remove the tacho from its case.



2.3 Identify Rear and Inner Circuit Boards

The tacho has two circuit boards – a rear board and an inner board. The rear board will be removed and replaced with the new board from the repair kit. The inner board remains in place but is not used.



2.4 Identify and Cut Tacho Coil Wires

Identify the two coil wires which run from the inner circuit board to the tacho movement behind the dial. Cut these wires where they join the inner circuit board leaving as long a length as possible attached to the tacho movement as shown on the photo. If the wires are threaded behind the dial carefully un-thread them so that they are free to connect to the new circuit board. Note that on some tachos the red and black wire colours may be interchanged.



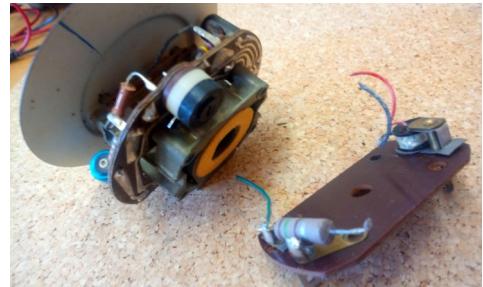
2.5 Cut connections to Rear Circuit Board

In order to remove the rear circuit board you need to cut all the connections between the inner board and the rear board. Start by cutting the resistor leg as shown in the photo and then cut all the other wires which link the two boards. Make the cuts close to the inner board.



2.6 Remove Rear Circuit Board

Undo the fixing screws and remove the rear circuit board. Retain the screws for future use.



2.7 Test movement and Polarity

Briefly connect an AA battery to the Red and Black tacho wires. Connect the red wire to battery positive and black to battery negative. If the movement is working and the wire colours are correct then you should see the needle move.

If the needle doesn't move try swapping the connections around. If the movement then works make a note that the wire colours are incorrect.

If the movement does not work whichever way the battery is connected then there is likely to be a fault with the movement. Please contact Clocks4Classics for advice

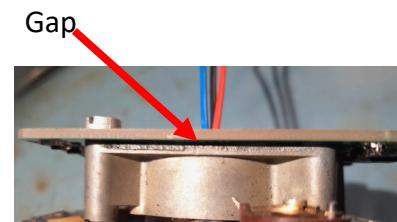
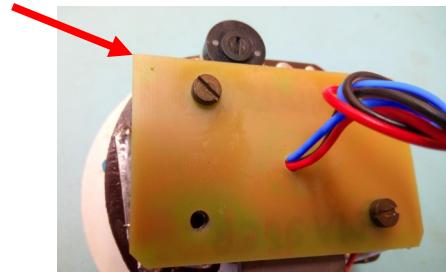


2.8 Fit Replacement Circuit Board

Fit the replacement circuit board from the repair kit to rear of the tacho. Note that square corner of board is located at top left (arrowed).

If necessary bend the orange and white wires out of the way so that they are not trapped underneath the circuit board.

Important: The threaded holes on the back of the tacho movement should be slightly raised and this creates a small gap (approx 0.3mm) between the EasyFit circuit board and the back of the movement. This gap is important as it protects the circuit board tracks from damage when the board is screwed down. Make sure that this gap is present and that there is no debris in the gap. If the gap is not present then fit thin fibre washers between the circuit board and the back of the tacho movement.



2.9 Connect Tacho Coil Wires to New Circuit Board

Using the supplied IDT connectors, join the orange and white wires from the EasyFit board to the red and black tacho wires.

The orange wire is joined to the positive tacho wire and the white wire is joined to the negative tacho wire. Normally this means joining orange to red and white to black as shown on the photo. *However, if the polarity test in section above showed that the tacho wire colours were incorrect then swap the connections and connect orange to black and white to red.*

Note: When using the IDT connectors do not strip the wires. Insert each wire fully into connector hole so that it reaches the top of the connector. Squeeze button with pliers and make sure **that all of the button** is completely flush with the connector body to get a good connection.

Tuck wires neatly to one side as shown. Make sure that none of the wires are in the way of the moving parts and that the needle can move freely.



3. Calibrating the Tachometer

Before fitting the tacho back into its case it needs to be calibrated. The calibration is straightforward and is best understood by watching the Easyfit Calibration video. To access this video visit the Clocks4Classics website and navigate to Tacho Repair → EasyFit Kit → Video Guides or [use this link](#) to access the video on our YouTube Channel.

Note: If you have a Volvo P1800 Tacho please download the Volvo P1800 dial template. To access this template go to www.clocks4classics.com/instructions and click on the link for “Easyfit Tachometer Repair Kit Instructions”. Instructions on the use of this template are included in the template file.

3.1 Setting up for Calibration

(1) Connect the red (+) and black (-) wires that exit from the rear of the new circuit board to a suitable 12-volt supply such as a car battery. Do not connect the blue wire. Do not use a battery charger or phone charger as a power supply as these will not work and may cause damage.

(2) Identify the calibration button. This is a small tactile button located at the top left corner of the circuit board (the corner without a chamfer).

3.2 Calibrating the RPM Scale

Hold down the calibration button for at least 5 seconds and then release it. After a short delay the tachometer needle will start to move very slowly. Note that it may be up to 30 sec before the movement begins.

You can slow the needle movement by quickly pressing and releasing the calibration button. This can be used to slow the needle down as it approaches each calibration point (see next steps).

When the needle reaches 1000 RPM hold the calibration button down to stop the needle exactly on the 1000 RPM Mark. After 5 seconds the needle will jump forward by a small amount to show that the first RPM calibration point has been recorded.

Release the calibration button and the needle will start to move again.

Repeat step (3) for the 3000 RPM mark and for the 5000 RPM mark.

3.3 Setting the Number of Cylinders

Once the RPM scale has been calibrated release the button. The needle will return to zero and then repeatedly move round the scale stopping at 1000, 3000 and 5000 RPM and then back to zero. These three points represent the three possible cylinder choices. By stopping the needle at one of these points you can select the correct number of cylinders for your car:

- If your vehicle has 4 cylinders hold down the button at 1000 RPM
- If your vehicle has 6 cylinders hold down the button at 3000 RPM
- If your vehicle has 8 cylinders hold down the button at 5000 RPM

When you have chosen the required number of cylinders the needle will jump forward again to confirm the selection.

3.4 Setting the Signal Polarity

Once the number of cylinders has been set release the button and the needle will return to zero and then move repeatedly to 1000 and 5000 RPM.

- If your vehicle is negative earth with contact breakers **OR** negative earth with electronic ignition **OR** positive earth with electronic ignition you should hold down the button at 1000 RPM.
- If your vehicle is positive earth with contact breakers hold down the button at 5000 RPM.

Once you have made your selection the needle will jump forward. Release the button and the needle will return to zero. You should then disconnect the battery or power supply and the calibration is complete.

The calibration is now stored in the circuit board memory but If you need to change the calibration you can re-calibrate the unit at any time by repeating the steps above.

4. Installing The Tachometer in its Case

4.1 Drill the Wire Exit Hole

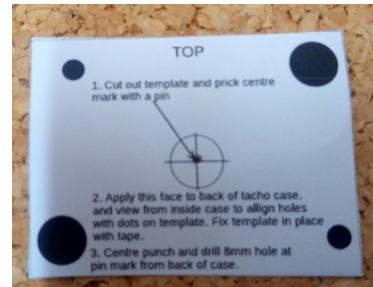
Take the supplied template and make a pin prick through the paper at the marked hole centre.

Place the template print side down on the rear of the tacho. Make sure that the edge marked 'TOP' is at the top of the case. View inside the case and align the dots on the template with the holes in the case. When position is correct secure the template with tape

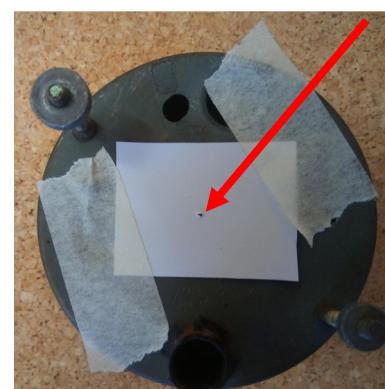
Turn case over. Centre punch and drill an 8mm hole at the pin mark.

Make sure that the hole is de-burred and free from sharp edges.

NB. When drilling the hole take suitable precautions to make sure that the case does not spin and cause injury.



Drill at
pin hole



4.2 Refit the Tacho into its Case

Thread the three wires from the new circuit board through the 8mm hole in the back of the case. Secure movement with two fixing screws.

Re-fit shading ring, glass and bezel to the front of the tacho. If the bezel gasket is damaged or worn you can replace it with foam rubber cord (cut cord to length and join with superglue).

If there are any exposed holes in the rear of the case you can seal these with metallic tape.

Note: The hole in the back of the case does not require a grommet as the PCB holds the wires in the middle of the hole and prevents chaffing.



5. Installing the Tachometer in the vehicle

Please refer to the Easyfit Tacho Repair Kit Vehicle installation Instructions. To access these instructions go to www.clocks4classics.com/instructions and click on the link for "Easyfit Tachometer Repair Kit Instructions".

6. Trouble Shooting Chart

Problem	Probable Cause	Action
Needle does not move when calibration button pressed	Button not held down for sufficient time or not released	Hold the button down for at least 5 sec and then release it.
	Not waiting for sufficient time for needle to move	The needle may not move for some time after the button is released – wait for at least 30 sec.
	Not correctly connected to power supply. Or wrong type of supply.	Make sure the red & black leads which exit the back of the new circuit board are connected to a suitable 12V power supply (Red to positive and black to negative). Use a car battery or regulated bench power supply. Do not use a battery charger or phone charger.
	Needle jammed	Check that the needle can move freely. Move wiring out of the way of moving parts and make sure that needle is not touching against the dial.
	Poor connection at wire connectors	Check that the wires are pushed to the end of the connectors and that the connector “button” is fully pressed down around its whole circumference.
	Tachometer coil connections the wrong way round	Check that the connections to the orange and white wires are as shown on page 6. If necessary re-make connections.
	Tachometer coil wires not connected or coil broken.	Check that the red and black wires to the tachometer coil are still soldered in place. If wires are connected OK use a multimeter to check the coil itself (if the resistance is more than 500 Ohms the coil is broken).
Tacho needle does not move smoothly during Calibration or takes too long to start moving.	Dirty Tachometer Bearings	Clean Tachometer Bearings – See APPENDIX A
Needle moves during calibration but does not move when tacho is installed in the vehicle.	Supply wires not correctly connected to vehicle.	Check that the red and black wires from the tacho have a good connection to the vehicle's electrical system as shown in the vehicle installation instructions. Check that the red wire is at +12V and the black wire is at 0V when the vehicle's ignition switch is on.
	Incorrect connection to vehicle ignition coil.	Check that the blue wire from the rear of the tacho is connected to the correct terminal of the ignition coil as detailed in the vehicle installation instructions. If unsure swap the wire to the other coil terminal. WARNING be careful not to swap the connections to your electronic ignition module or damage may result – only swap the blue wire from the tacho.
Tacho needle moves in vehicle but reading is incorrect.	Not calibrated or calibrated incorrectly	Refer to the calibration instructions on page 6. Re-calibrate the tacho being sure to specify the correct number of cylinders and correct signal polarity. If unsure about the signal polarity try the other setting.

APPENDIX A – Cleaning the Tachometer Bearings

If the tachometer bearings are dirty this can cause the tachometer to behave incorrectly. The needle may not move smoothly at certain points and it may take a long time for the needle to start moving. This will make the tachometer inaccurate and can also cause a problem during calibration as it may be impossible to stop the needle at the desired point.

It is important to note that the forces involved in moving the needle are very small so the needle may appear to move freely when moved by hand even though the bearings need cleaning.

Cleaning the bearings with Spray Cleaner

The tachometer movement is very delicate so it is not advisable to disassemble it for cleaning. In most cases it is sufficient to spray the bearings with a suitable cleaner. It is important to use a cleaner which does not leave a residue – suitable cleaners are Brake Cleaner, Carb Cleaner or Non Residue Contact Cleaner. **Do not use** maintenance sprays such as WD40 as these will damage the movement. Make sure that you use a spray with a straw so that you can direct the spray accurately.

Before spraying the bearings protect the dial from the spray by placing some tissue around the base of the needle. Spray both the upper end lower at each end of the main shaft as shown in the photo below. After spraying, move the needle back and forth a few times to work the cleaner into the bearings. Leave the Tachometer for a few minutes to allow the cleaner to dry and then re-calibrate the tachometer. This method usually produces good results but in some cases it may be necessary to repeat the procedure two or three time to resolve the issue.



Cleaning the bearings with an Ultrasonic Cleaner

If you have an ultrasonic cleaner then this can be used to clean the movement. The ultrasonic cleaner should be filled with pure water as cleaning fluids may leave a residue. The circuit board should be removed before cleaning as water would damage the calibration button. You will also need to remove the needle and dial before cleaning. To remove the needle first protect the dial with thin cardboard and then use two teaspoons as levers to prize the needle from its shaft as shown in the photo below (in this picture a blob of Blu-Tack has been placed on the centre of the needle to prevent it from flying too far when it releases). Once the needle has been removed, undo the two securing screws and the dial can then be lifted away from the movement.

