

I had a squeak in the left front windshield wiper. I pulled the wiper arm, then the fasteners holding plastic cover below the windshield. I thought I had a dry bearing so put a couple drops of oil on what I thought was the problem area. I put it back together and everything was fine for a few weeks. Then the squeak came back. This time I decided to tear it all apart, clean and re-grease everything. When I took it apart, everything looked pretty good. No dry or corroded bearings. I cleaned it all, re-greased and was in the reinstall mode when I noticed something. One of the corners of the drive linkage was rubbing against the mounting bracket. At first I thought something must be out of adjustment but closer examination showed there was no adjustment possible. Design flaw? Has anyone else seen this? I took some pictures during this project to add them here.

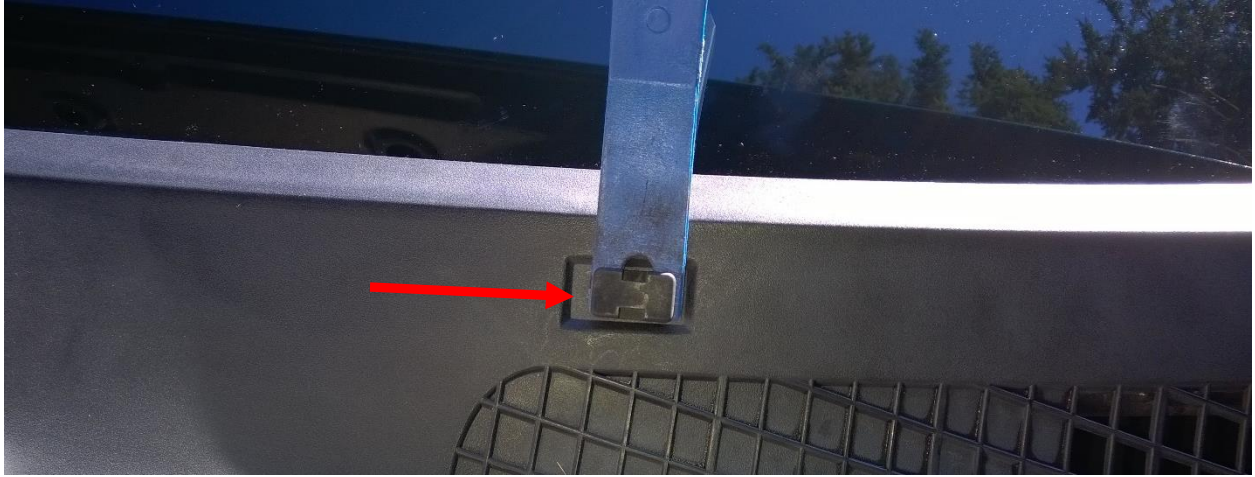
Pop the hood and remove the plastic caps on the wiper arm nuts. They just pull off.



Make note of the position of the wipers so you know where to position them on reassembly. Remove the two nuts securing the wiper arms. You'll need a 16mm wrench.



Pry the pins out of the cover retainers.



Pry out the cover retainers. Do this from the top of the cover. Use the blade of your pocket knife to lift it enough to get the pry tool under the fastener. I wedged my pry tool under the cover in a couple places only to find later that I damaged the seal under the cover doing so.





Remove the cover. I had to pull part of the bulb seal off in order to lift the cover off the wiper posts.



Make note of the positions of the wiper linkage for ease of reassembly.



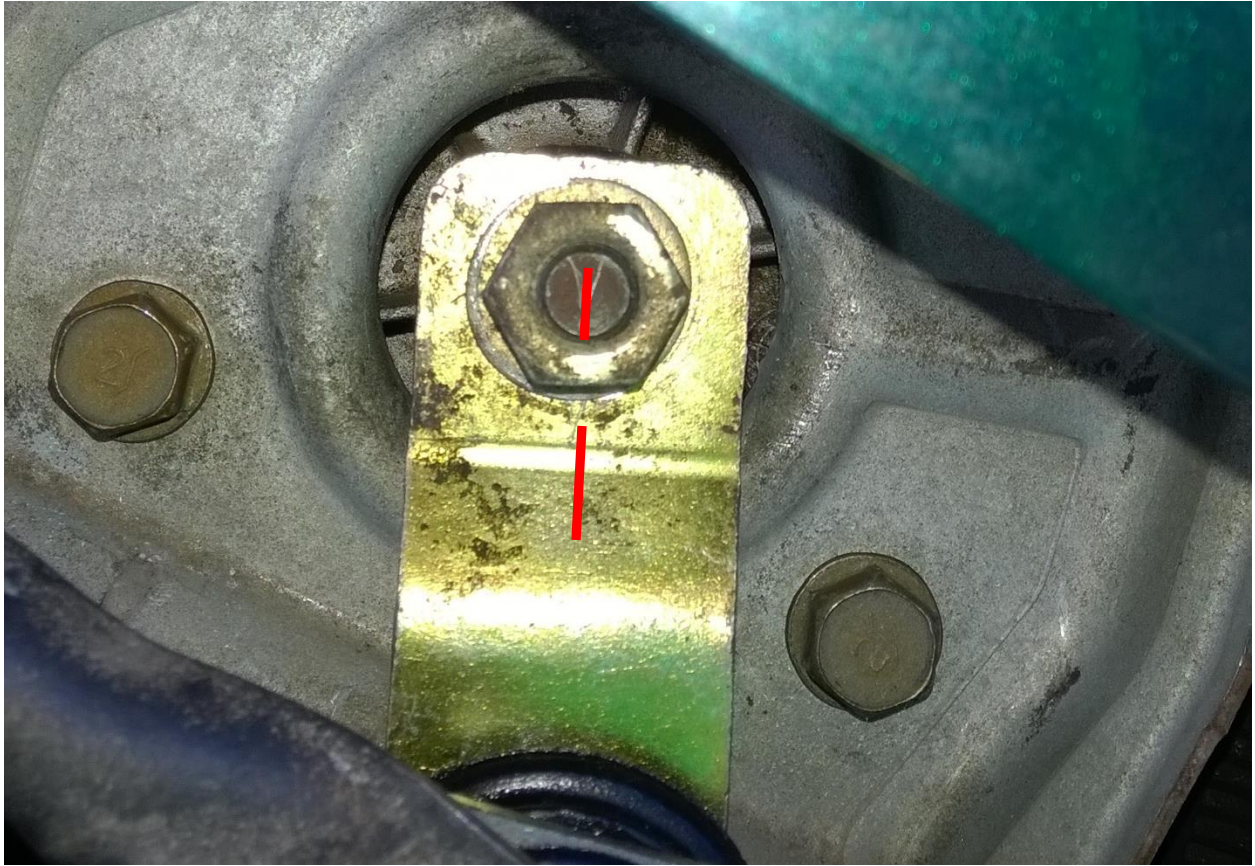


Check for clearance between the left side (driver's perspective) wiper arm and the mounting bracket. This is where mine was rubbing and causing the squeak.

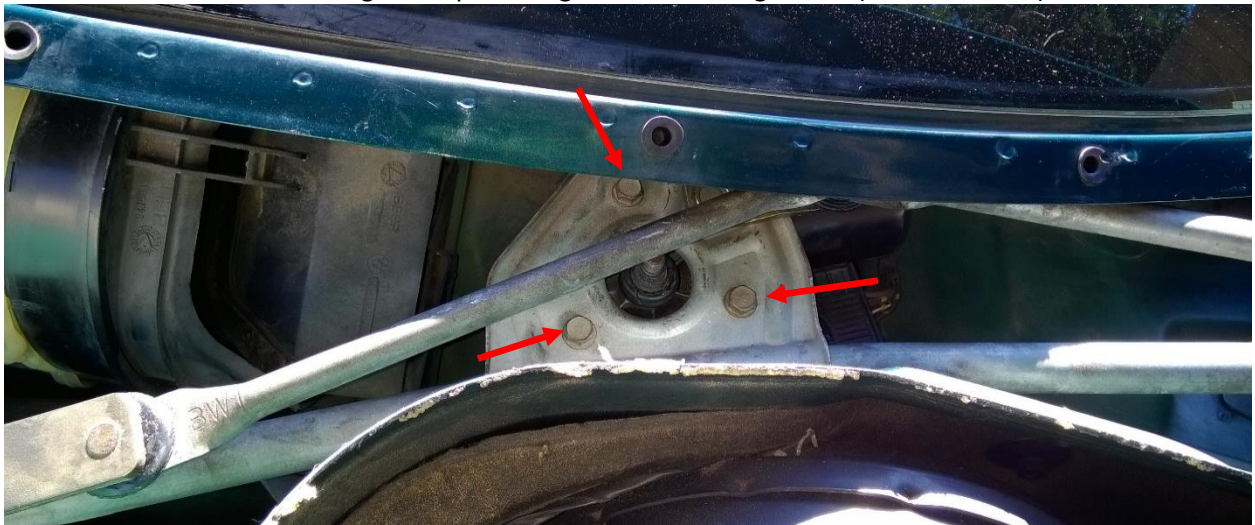


I'm not sure it's necessary but I put a mark on the wiper motor shaft and drive arm so that I could put them back in the same alignment. Remove the nut and wave washer retaining the drive arm to the motor shaft (13mm socket).





Remove the 3 screws attaching the wiper linkage to the motor gearbox (10mm wrench).



Remove the two Torx head screws securing the ends of the wiper linkage. Lift the linkage out.





Remove the spring clips securing the linkage arms to the pivot points. Careful to not launch the clip into oblivion.



If you had rubbing between the corner of the drive arm and the mount bracket, now is the time to fix it. I ground the corner off the drive arm to get a more generous radius. To prevent rust, I painted the area where I ground the plating off the drive arm. Notice in the photo below, the radius on the upper corner of the arm is larger than the lower corner of the arm.



I also repainted the spot on the mount bracket where the paint had been rubbed off. You can see in the photo below, where the arm was rubbing on the mount bracket. I wonder if the bracket was slightly under bent before they welded it on, causing interference?

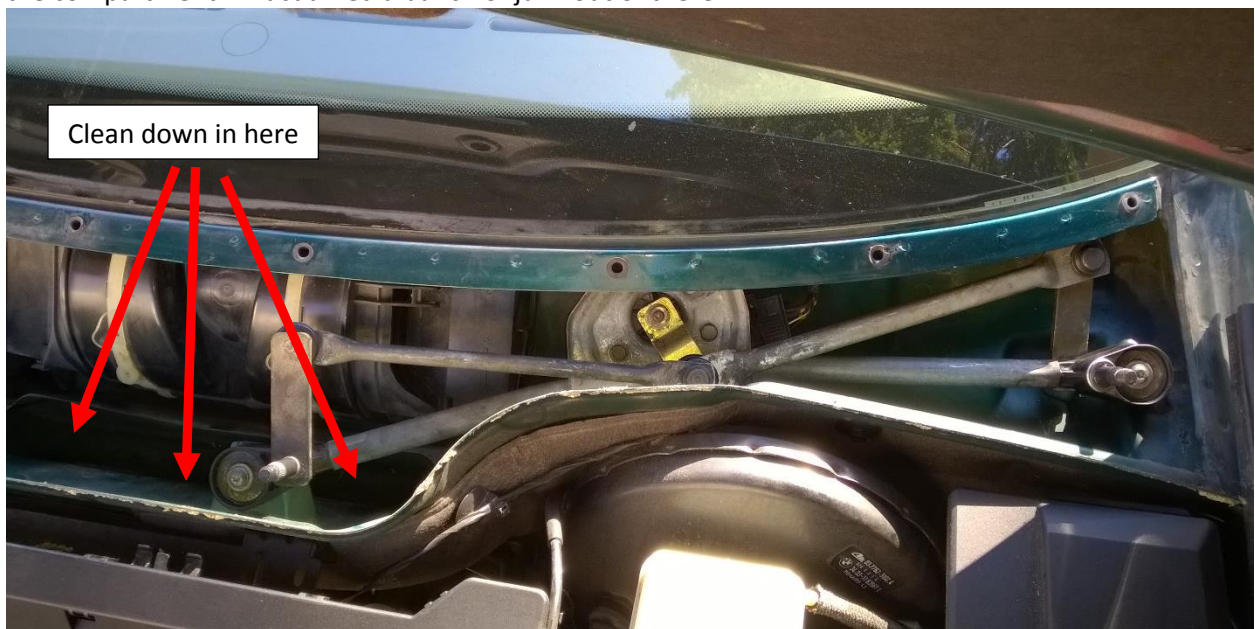


Clean, re-grease and reassemble the linkage pivot points. Also repack the rubber boots of the other joints with grease. Sorry this one is blurry.





Now is a good time to clean out the wiper compartment, around the heater blower and do a bit of detailing while you have the access. Clean out the compartment drains in the bottom center front of the compartment. I vacuumed a bunch of junk out of there.



Place the linkage back into the compartment. Attach the linkage to the motor gear box with the three screws. Line up your marks on the motor shaft and drive arm. Reinstall the wave washer and nut on the motor shaft.

Reinstall the two Torx head screws attaching the linkage to the mounting brackets.

Try the wipers to make sure the linkage is working properly. You'll need to get everything back into the "off" position before you attach the wiper arms. **MAKE SURE YOU TURN OFF THE WIPERS WITH THE WIPER SWITCH** and not the key to ensure the drive motor stops in the correct "off" position.

Reinstall the cover and wiper arms. Check operation. If OK, install cover fasteners and bulb seal.