Overheating Dynamo

Purists, please look away now. However, if practicality is more important than originality, and your headlight bulbs are a higher wattage than standard (or you have other additional electrical loads - heated seats, hairdryer etc), the following modification might help your six-volt dynamo lead a long and healthy life.

Austin Seven dynamos have a reputation for becoming unreliable when asked to provide additional output in order to maintain a charge at typical engine speeds (by rotating the third brush anti-clockwise as you look at the end of the dynamo). The problem is due to overheating that in extremis can melt solder joints in the dynamo.

The problem can be overcome by simply removing the dynamo brush cover, but this exposes the commutator and brushes to the ingress of road grit etc. The following photo' shows the modified cover on my car that provides improved cooling whilst still offering some protection. Although the third brush has been adjusted to maintain charge at 30 mph with all lights and wiper motor switched-on, the arrangement seems reliable.

The original band was cut as shown and fine expanded metal mesh (ex B&Q) soldered in position. Seems to
work a treat.

**Bob G.**

(no photo available, Ed)