International Dynamo Problem Eddie Loader

An A7 owner in Jersey contacted Eddie with a problem with his Ulster recreation. It has a dynamo, which has been re-built for 12V by removing the third brush and had an Accuspark electronic DK4A 'lookeelikey' distributor, and is negative earth.

The problem is that wiring of the replacement distributor baseplate occasionally burns out, which usually involves a tow rope and scorn from his wife. He has a traditional voltage regulator in the car. He thought the dynamo was simply throwing out too much power if the revs were high. He tried a balancer, but without success. Accuspark tried to help. He asks is the only solution just to be lighter with his right foot?

Eddie replied:

I think your problem is that the dynamo output is too high for the electronic distributor.

Over the years I have carried out several successful 6 to 12v conversions by removing the 3rd brush, and then earthing the redundant brush lead. This conversion will always result in the dynamo generating a very high voltage output, which has to be controlled by a compensating voltage regulator, which can be adjusted by altering the gap in the points.

I suggest that you adjust the dynamo output to a maximum of 8-10 amps, corrected for the ambient temperature in the engine compartment. It is expensive to have a voltage regulator converted, so I use a Morris Minor regulator, which is easily available.

Finally, I personally dislike electronic distributors and prefer to use the standard Lucas version (e.g. a distributor reconditioned by the Distributor Doctor).