

Fiero Gauge Needle Restoration

By Jim Hallman

What You Will Need

Tweezers (or a fork!?)

Jeweler's (small, needle nose) pliers

X-Acto Knife

Testors Model Master Fluorescent Red Paint - #FS28915

Testors Gloss White Paint



Photos Needed Before You Begin

- Take three sets of photos of all of the needle positions before you begin. Take the photos directly head on as you will use these photos as reference points when replacing your needles in their correct position on the pintle.
 1. At rest (ignition off)
 2. Accessory on (but engine off)
 3. Engine on – running at idle at start up

Before and After – yellow to orange

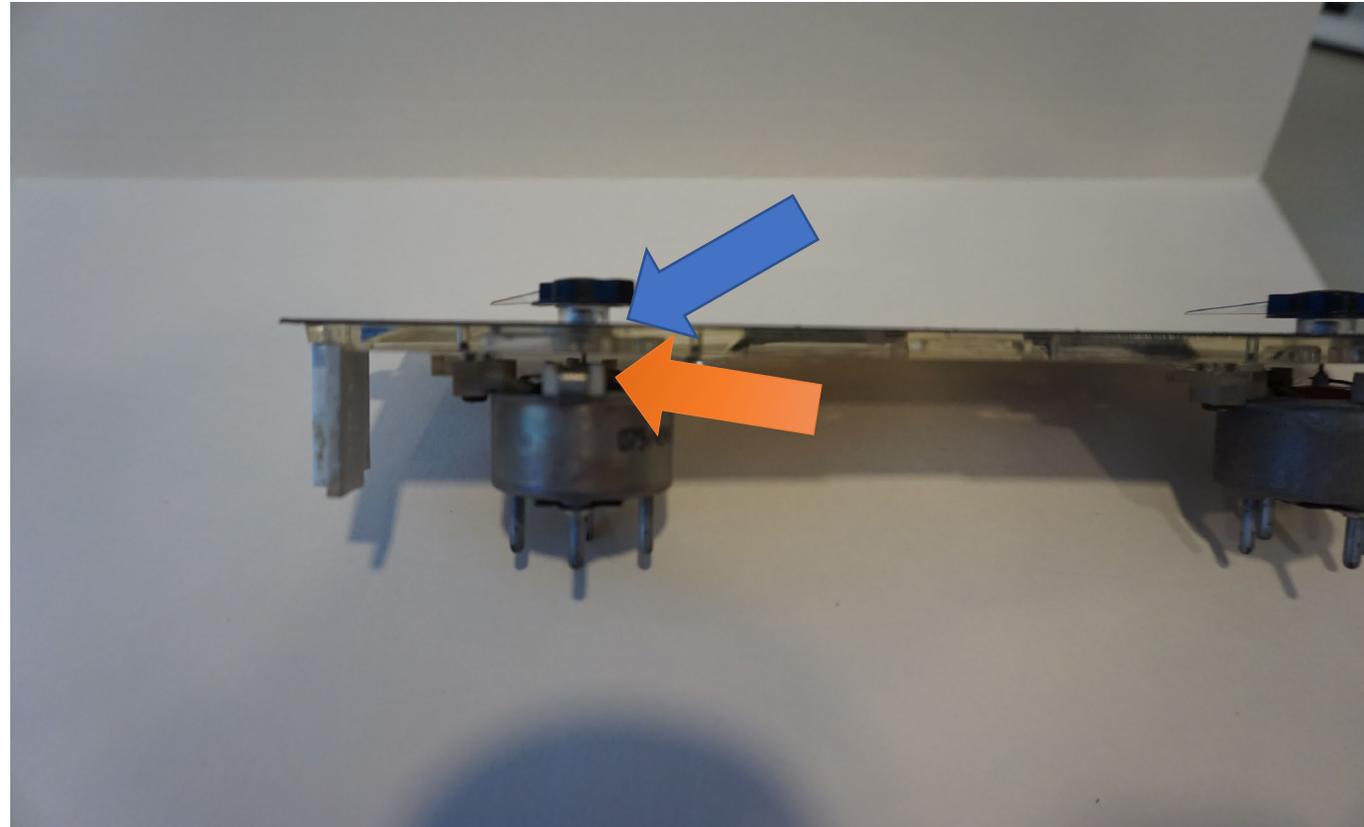
(notice the difference in the placement of the needle)



Needle Removal

Cautiously lift the needle off of the pintle so you don't affect the needle's calibration. Use the tweezers just below the base of the needle (blue arrow) while holding the pintle in place (orange arrow) using your needle nose pliers. The needles are held in place simply by friction.

(Sideview of the volts gauge)



The Next Steps

1. Work on a soft, no-scratch surface to avoid the potential of scratching the clear, plastic needles.
2. Using your X-Acto knife, scrape the old paint from the surface of the needle. Be sure to use a fresh, new blade and hold the blade perpendicular to the surface of the needle and with a swift, continuous, sweeping motion, scrape the old paint off.
3. Be careful not to scratch the clear surface of the needle as you remove the old paint.
4. Only remove the old, yellowed paint on the needle and not the flat black paint at the base of the needle.

Prep For Painting

- Prepare the clear needle surface to paint gently using Meguiar's #7 (Show Car Glaze) or #18 (Clear Plastic Detailer) to polish the surface. If you see any scratches, try Meguiar's #9 (Swirl Remover).



Ready For Paint

1. Begin with two coats of the Fluorescent Red paint. This paint is very transparent. Drop the paint onto the needle's surface and let it flow to the end of the needle; do not brush the paint on. The paint will travel the length of the surface. Allow drying time in between coats.
2. After appropriate drying time, apply the gloss white paint over the two coats of the Fluorescent Red paint.
3. Remove any paint that dripped onto the sides of the needle with your X-Acto knife once the paint is dry being careful not to scratch the sides of the needle.

The End Result













Backlit Images At Night



Other Ideas

- Since you already have the clear, plastic gauge lenses removed, now would be a good time to polish these up as well using Meguiar's #7 (Show Car Glaze) or #18 (Clear Plastic Detailer) to polish the surface. If you see any scratches, try Meguiar's #9 (Swirl Remover).
- Change the light bulbs behind the gauges or consider switching to LED bulbs.

Thank You!

Special thanks to Fred Bartemeyer, Jr. (IA) and Kevin Lindeman (MN) for their guidance and advice with this project.