

# Moe's

## Tech Talk of the month

### *“Shifter Change Out”*

Changing out the shifter, is probably the most valuable purchase to the Volkswagen enthusiast.

With more than 25 different shifters on the market today, you can find the right one for around \$100.00, two bolts and a little dab of grease, you too can be in first gear with that new shifter you installed yourself. This change out applies to all beetles, buses, ghia's and even rail buggies. You'll see, this purchase is well worth the time and money. Not only will it allow you smoother shifting but also a closer gear pattern.

Depending on which style you go with, there are a few things to keep in mind. Safety is your number one goal. Start off by applying the emergency brake and blocking the wheels. Place the vehicle in neutral and with a 13mm socket, remove the bolts in front and rear of the shifter. Once you lift the shifter out, you'll find a large spring, and the reverse plate, you will want to remove both of these pieces. With everything out of the way, its time to look down in the hole and inspect the shift rod bushing. It is also a good time to remove the back seat and the inspection plate to look at the shift rod coupling, determine wear and tear, to see if they also need replacement. March issue of Hot VW's actually touches on this subject (Page 52) "Check it out!"

Now, depending on what shifter you decided on to fit your needs, it's a good idea to keep around the parts that you have already removed. The reason for this, is some of the aftermarket shifters request you to reuse the reverse plate from the original shifter. If that's the case remember when you reinstall the reverse plate the curved ramp is on the right side. Be sure to dab a fair amount of grease in the ball fitting of the shifter rod prior to the installation of the shifter.

Remember to use the mounting bolts that come with the new shifter. In some cases the new shifter bolts are a little longer than the stock ones. Once installed this may take a series of adjustments to get the gear selection to your liking. Please read the instructions for the shifter you selected prior to installation, because they all vary little. Be selective when choosing your shifter, they all have something different to offer comfort, to lock out reverse, and street or competition.

So shift into high gear and put this on your wish list as the next project you plan to tackle when you work on that Volkswagen. The list below is just a few resources you may use when looking for that next shifter.

[WWW.SCATVW.COM](http://WWW.SCATVW.COM)  
[WWW.MOOREPARTS.COM](http://WWW.MOOREPARTS.COM)  
[WWW.CSP-USA.COM](http://WWW.CSP-USA.COM)  
[WWW.PAIFICCUSTOMS.COM](http://WWW.PAIFICCUSTOMS.COM)  
[WWW.GENEBERG.COM](http://WWW.GENEBERG.COM)