FUSE PANEL LEGEND

By: Mike Bouse

If you are anything like me, your memory isn't getting any better. And, any time I have an electrical issue with my Fiat Spider, one of the first things I check are the fuses. Anyone wanna confess that in an emergency, they could have used a fuse that was of questionable amperage? Anyone wanna confess that they've never looked at all the fuses in their Fiat fuse panel, assuming that the previous owner used the correct style fuses and the correct amperage fuse for each slot?

Well, we have owned our 1978 Spider for nearly four years, and just this past weekend I decided to tackle an electrical issue. This meant opening the fuse panel for the first time since buying the car. I was not surprised to see GM style glass fuses in the fuse box. I groaned, not at the wrong fuses, but at the fact that - - once again - - I'd have to dig out that big shop manual just to look up the correct fuse amperages for all ten fuses.

I don't wanna do that again, so I created this little template and Scotch taped it to the inside of the fuse panel cover. It's from the book, so it has to be correct…and I don't need to grab the book off the shelf again for this task.

Now, can anyone tell my why Fiat decided to number AND letter each fuse? And, why didn't Fiat have the foresight to mold in the amperage themselves on the fuse panel cover? Why do some things gotta be difficult?