

## ***Replacing the Half-Shaft Boot Seals on Rolls-Royce & Bentley SY Series Cars***

by  
**Colin Gurnsey**

Much to my surprise, changing the half-shaft boot is quite easy. I took the usual route, researched the heck out of the procedure, asked everyone I could find who should know at the last National I attended (Skamania), carefully reviewed these forum notes, but received few answers to my dilemma. I then asked an old time factory trained RR service person who told it's a quite simple procedure. He offered to show me the procedure if I brought in the half-shaft.

I removed the half-shaft assembly from the car and took it and a new boot seal to my service person who went zip zap and it was done. At about the speed you read zip zap.

Apparently trained service personnel often revised their techniques based on experience.

The steps followed were:

1. Remove old boot/seal and half shaft from car.
2. Carry out items 1 through 6 in Workshop Manual Chapter J: Half shaft - to dismantle.
3. Excessively lubricate half-shaft , trunnion pin and boot with a good lanolin based grease and or rubber grease on the boot. My service guy literally grabbed a handful of lube grease and smeared gobs of it over the end pieces especially the trunnion pin.
4. He next slipped the small end of the boot / seal over the end of the shaft and one pin end.
5. A large screwdriver (about 12 -18 inches long) was inserted through the boot/seal to rest on the trunnion pin that the boot was still to be gotten over. A prying action was then used to slide the boot seal over the very slippery / greasy trunnion pin. Total time to do steps 3 through 5? - less than five minutes.

I know what you're thinking. I put off the job for a year worrying about wrecking the seals etc. When finally done I wondered what took me so long.

I followed the manual and removed the whole half-shaft assembly from the car. I was then told I didn't need to remove the final drive side housing to change the boot/seal. The second shaft took about half the time of the first.

Colin