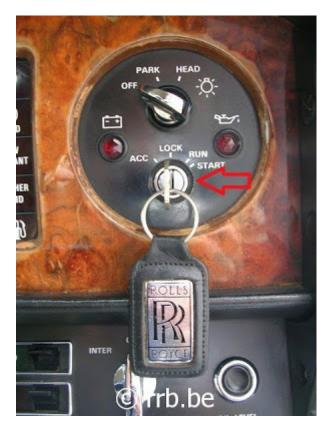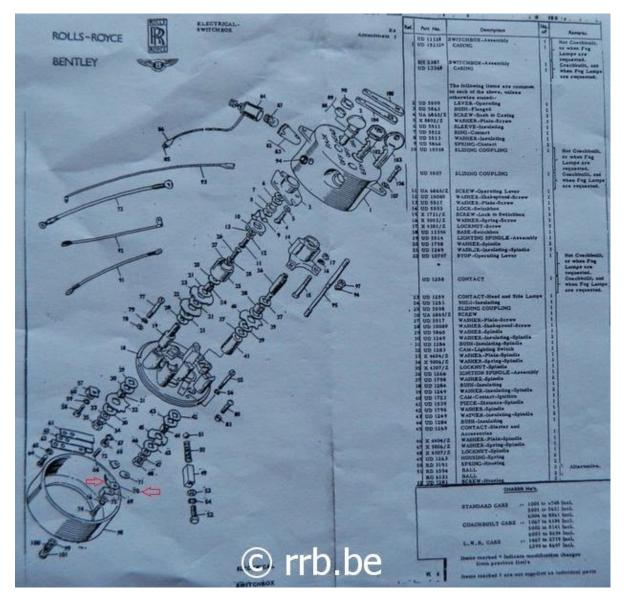Starting problem with your Rolls-Royce or Bentley?

It often happens that - on the old Rolls-Royce & Bentley - by turning the ignition key to "Start" the ignition does not come on, so the engine does not light up. The key must be turned repeatedly to start. Recurring problem that often gives a hard time, some looking for the problem at the petrol pump, others at the starter.

And yet, the solution is simple because it is simply copper strips that no longer contact in the switchbox. You must therefore determine that they are the able that make the contact at startup.

Attention: This tutorial is based on a Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit of 1981, chassis BCH02209. Check whether your Rolls-Royce or Bentley model meets these specifications.

1. Turn off the vehicle power (circuit breaker if there is one or battery terminals)

2. Remove the paneling from the dashboard.

3. Unscrew the 3 screws holding the swithbox.

4. Remove the dashboard switchbox and disconnect the connections. Needless to note the connections, for resting it is enough to match the colors.

5. Unscrew the 3 bolts on the back of the switchbox.

6. Divide the metal parts of the switchbox into two halves.

7. Locate the contacting slats. To do this, simply turn the key in the contact to see the slats moving.

8. Carefully clean these slides with emery paper, avoiding bending or even breaking them. Some copper strips may be folded, so be careful to put them straight again.

9. Connect the connections, turn on the power and test.

If the work has been done, the problem should be solved.

But sometimes it's not as easy ...

The worst case scenario, one or the other slat is broken. Rarely, you have to replace them. Longer work since you have to reach them and thus undo some threads. Moreover the replacement of the Copper strip contacts is expensive, they are sold in lots of 5 for a hundred euros! But if this is the case, there is no hesitation ...

Thanks to Wim Swann of Beroparts for his valuable advice.