

Ask Ronny

by Ronny Shaver @ Ronny's Garage

Answering Your Questions About Classic Car Care Service And Restoration

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What Is The Bijur System and How Do I Use It?

by Ronny Shaver

The Bijur system lubricates the chassis from a central location. A reservoir and pump is mounted on the firewall and has a pedal under the dash to operate the system. The system uses 30W oil and the level should be checked every 2500 miles or so. The system is also a "total loss" type, meaning it is not sealed and will eventually reach the ground. It is normal to see drops of oil from various areas of the frame and suspension. Puddles of oil in one or more spots may indicate a break in the piping or a worn suspension joint.

The pump assembly is connected by small pipes and junctions throughout the suspension and frame to all the points needing lubrication. On cars prior to the Silver Cloud 1 and Bentley S1, drip stops are used to control the flow and properly lubricate the system. The Silver Cloud 1 and Bentley S1 cars used predetermined orifice sizes to control the flow. Silver Cloud 1 and Bentley S1 cars used grease fittings for steering links in conjunction with the Bijur system. The Bijur system was no longer fitted from the Silver Cloud 2 and Bentley S2 series onward. These cars used grease fittings exclusively for suspension lubrication.

To operate, simply press the foot pedal under the dash all the way to the stop on the firewall and let it go. The pedal should very slowly return to its original position. Sometimes it can take up to five minutes. If it returns immediately, then the reservoir could be empty or a problem with the pump may exist. If it doesn't return at all, then the felt filter could be clogged or another part of the system is plugged.

On the Pre-war cars up to and including the Mark 6, Silver Wraith and early Silver Dawn, recommended use is one pump prior to first start-up and then once every 100 miles thereafter.

On R Type, later Silver Wraith Silver Dawn models, recommended use is 3 or 4 pumps at first start-up and then once every 200 miles thereafter.

On Silver Cloud 1 and Bentley S1 models, recommended use is 4 times every 200 miles.

Normal servicing of the Bijur system includes keeping the reservoir filled and changing the felt filter at the bottom of the reservoir. It is also important to inspect all the lubrication points to insure that they are supplied with oil. Sometimes the oil pipes and flexible hoses can become plugged causing insufficient lubrication. Dry suspension joints can result in creaking noises, harsh ride and premature failure of expensive suspension parts.

Happy Motoring!
Ronny Shaver

Note: Information for this article was found in RR/Bentley shop manuals, owner's handbooks and an amazing web site called "The Website for Enthusiasts of Rolls-Royce and Bentley Motor Cars", I recommend that every owner visit the site. (www.rrbew.co.uk)