

Delco 50MT Shift Fork Problems

by Larry Hagemeister

Rebuilders need to be aware of a problem in the industry with 40/50 shift forks. A couple of months ago, Chris Thompson at Electric Motor Service (EMS) posted a problem on the ERA Web site, about the 50MT shift forks. Thompson mentioned that they were hitting the center housing because the bend is wrong on the shift fork. EMS tried several different suppliers and they were all the same.

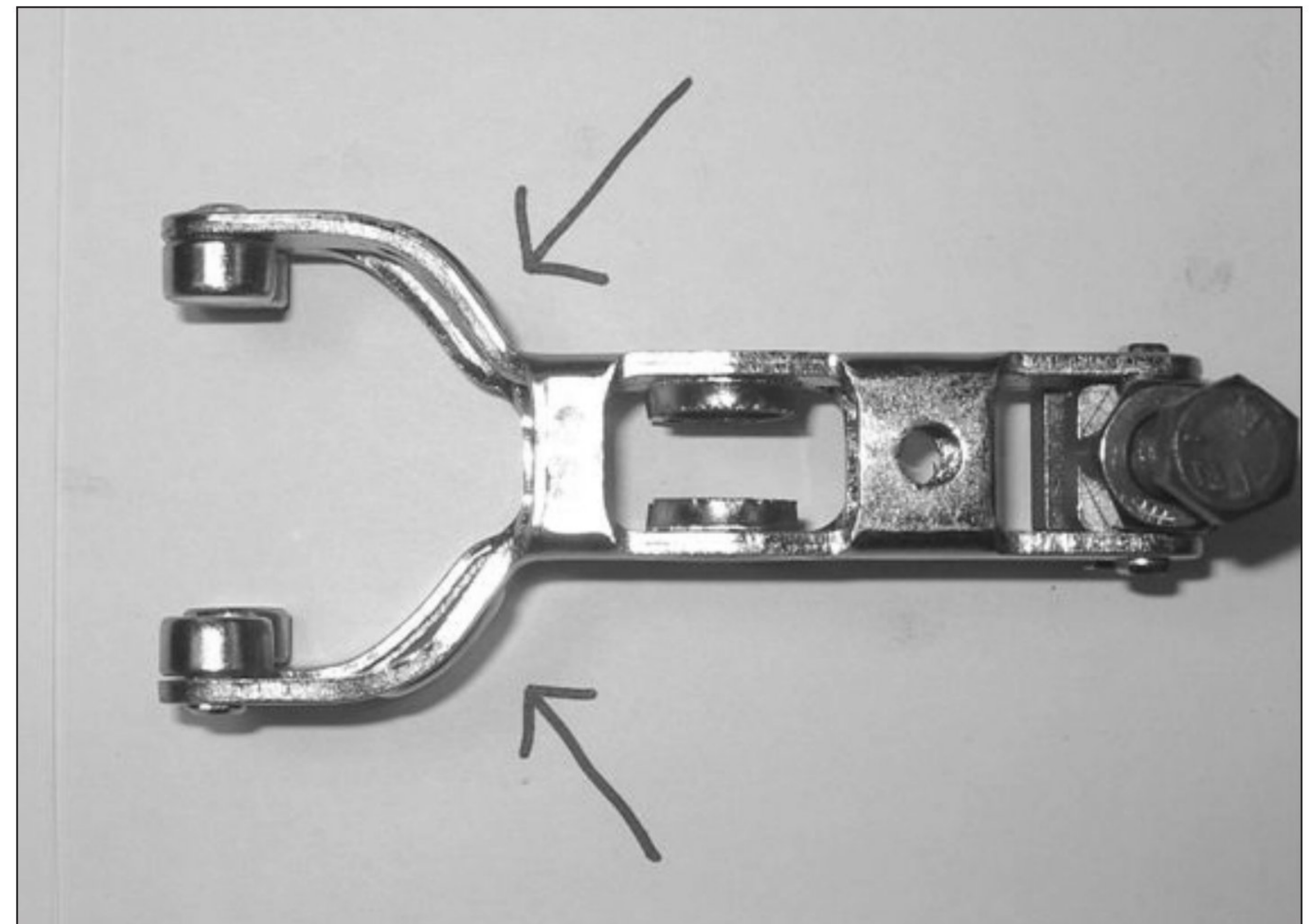
We experienced the problem first hand at Hagemeister Auto Electric when we were installing a 50MT on a silver 92 Detroit in a 1979 Peterbuilt truck. The starter would not engage properly. After removing the starter and doing some measuring, we found that the shift fork was binding against the center housing. We ordered a new one from Delco, part no. 1945484. As you

can see from the pictures on pages one and 12, there is a significant difference in the shift forks. Also, there is a picture of an old-style two-piece Delco shift fork. I don't think anyone is manufacturing shift forks this way anymore.

Hopefully the suppliers will take a look at this problem and make the necessary changes to the way the shift fork is made to solve this problem. I also understand that many rebuilders are grinding out the 50MT center housing to allow clearance for the shift fork.

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