The president's platform

Look out for shift fork "buttons"

COLUMN BY LARRY HAGEMEISTER

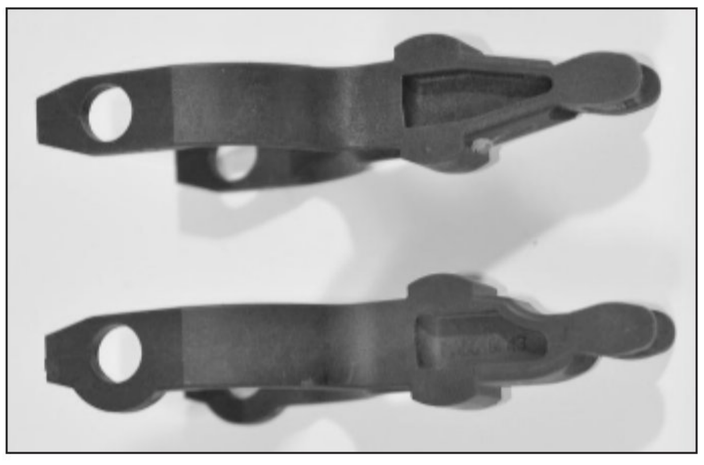


We recently had a problem with a PMGR Ford starter with a 12 tooth drive. We sold the customer an exchange starter. They called and complained that the starter would not engage all the time. The starter was returned to diagnose the problem.

Upon disassembly of the starter I noticed the shift fork did not look right. I knew the Ford PMGR starters with a rubber boot on the solenoid plunger had a different shift fork. When assembling those starters it does make a difference which way the fork goes in the starter. The OEM core did not have a rubber boot on the solenoid plunger but it did have the different looking fork with what I call "buttons" that need to be facing the drive when installed in order for the drive to work properly.

Our rebuilt had the fork in backward and that's where the engagement problem came from. As you can see by the picture of the shift forks there is a noticeable difference. Early on in the PMGR Ford starters it didn't make a difference which way the fork went. Needless to say that's not the case anymore.

We pay very close attention now when we are rebuilding PMGR Ford starters. I



believe it's very important to share technical information when we come across a problem in the rebuilding industry, just as many of us did last month at the ERA Show in Nashville.

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