Lucas Wiring in Colour - Pilfered by Tom Hodgson

This article was stolen from the Winter 2000 "Octagon" of the MG Car Club of Toronto - who stole it from the Emerald Necklace MG Register Inc. - who stole it from MG Club of Central Florida. It was then entitled, "The Colourful World of Lucas Wiring".

Lucas used colours in their wiring to tell us a story. If you look at a group of wires that are going to various parts of the car, there will be several colours. Plain solid colours like red, white, brown, black, purple, green and blue tell you which circuit they belong to:

Black (B) is ground

Brown (N) is hot, but not fused.

Purple (P) is always hot, but fused.

White (W) is hot when the ignition is on, but not fused.

Green (G) is hot with the ignition on, but is fused.

Blue (U) is the Headlight main feed, not fused.

Red (R) Parking /tail lights, not fused. (Perhaps they should be.)

These colours sometimes have a second colour running through them, known as a tracer. For example:

Blue/white - blue belongs to the headlight circuit, the tracer is for the high beam part of the circuit.

Blue/red is for the headlights, but the tracer is to say it is for the low beams.

Red/white is for the parking/tail lights. The white tracer says it is for the panel lights.

White/black is for the ignition, the tracer says it is from the distributor.

Green/yellow - The green wire is hot with the ignition on, the yellow is to say it is for the right direction signal.

Green/blue - The blue tracer this time indicates it is for the left direction signal.

Purple/black - Purple is hot and fused. The black tracer says it is for the horn button (on later cars).

Green/black - The green is hot and fused with ignition on, the black says it is for the fuel gauge from the gas tank.

For cars before 1980 or so, you should now be able to trace most of your car's circuits.

Assuming you aren't colour blind...