



Time Tested • Time Proven

Technical Service Information Bulletin

July 8, 2015
updated Feb. 3, 2020

Subject:
**Installing the Brake-Lite
Relay in 2014-20 Jeep Cherokees**
(does not apply to Jeep Grand Cherokees)
For use with Roadmaster braking systems only

TSIB number 144

Why you need to read this...

- Wiring the 2014-2020 Jeep Cherokee generates more tech support phone calls at Roadmaster than any other vehicle. Read this to avoid phone 'on hold' time.
- If you don't know the nuances of the new Cherokees, the Jeep will throw error codes caused by your installation. You may have to take the vehicle to Jeep to reset them.
- If you install the Brake-Lite Relay the same way you do all other vehicles, then the Jeep will **not** start when you are done with the installation.
- Knowledge of the Cherokee' uniqueness will save you time, frustration and make you the wiring expert on this vehicle for your dealership.

1. Turn the ignition off!

These models of the Jeep Cherokee have advanced electronic sensors which are able to detect any interruption in the vehicle's electrical circuits. If a sensor finds an interrupted circuit, it may disable the circuit or set error codes with one of a number of systems.

Therefore, **whatever circuit you're working on must be off before you cut any wires**. If you're installing the Brake-Lite Relay, or diodes on the tail lights, or *any* aftermarket electrical accessory, the ignition must be off before you cut wires.

Note: for more information about wiring the vehicle's lights for towing, see the vehicle specific instructions — <http://roadmasterinc.com/pdf/85-5241.pdf>

2. Deactivating brake light switch

The Jeep Cherokee has a special self-adjusting brake light switch that deactivates itself when it's removed from its holder.

Therefore, none of the wires will show a signal on a test light when the switch is removed from the holder. Catch 22 — it's nearly impossible to identify the correct wire for the Brake-Lite Relay without removing the switch from its holder. So trust us, we've identified the correct wire (see below).

When you remove the brake light switch from its holder to install the Brake-Lite Relay, take care not to pull outwards on the plunger (see Figure 1), since this resets the self-adjusting mechanism.

When you reinstall the brake light switch, the brake pedal must be fully released. Otherwise, the self-adjuster will not set itself in the proper position. It can be tempting to push down on the brake pedal when you're reinstalling the switch, since

continued on the next page

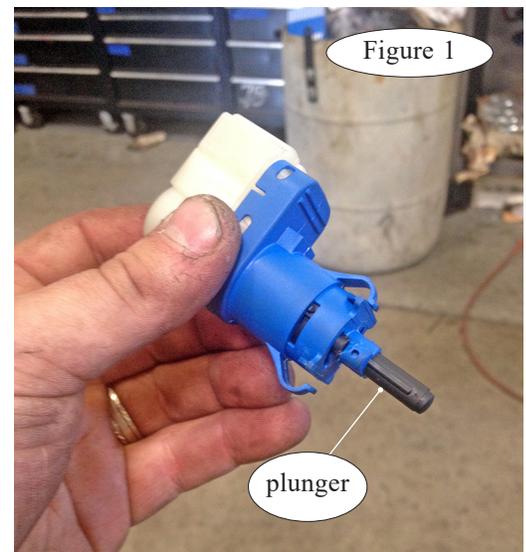


Figure 1

continued from preceding page

that makes it easier to see what you're doing. However, **if the switch is installed with the brake pedal depressed, the brake lights will only be activated if the brake pedal is 'floored.'**

3. Cut the correct wire.

The wire to use for a Brake-Lite Relay installation is dark green with a **light green** stripe (see Figure 2). This isn't the easiest to identify under a dimly-lit dashboard, especially since it's right next to a dark green wire with a yellow stripe. In this photo, we've installed a butt connector on the correct wire.

4. Identify the ignition system.

Two different ignition systems are available for these Jeep Cherokees — push button start or conventional ignition key start. If the vehicle has a push button start, follow the "B" (normally closed) instruction sheet from the Brake-Lite Relay instructions. If the vehicle has a conventional ignition key start, follow the "A" (normally open) instruction.

Note: if the vehicle has a push button start, it will not start if you follow the wrong instructions.

To read the Brake-Lite Relay instructions, go to <http://roadmasterinc.com/pdf/85-2701.pdf>.

