

Lucas Electrics: The Smoke and Darkon Theories Explained

Over the years, much has been said and written about Lucas Automotive Electrics. Actually, a great deal of what has been said has never been written down, as it was not suitable for the general public, or anyone else that had not owned a British car. For some reason unknown to mankind, the electrical system on most British cars has more gremlins than the average breakfast cereal has vitamins and minerals. You would think that a climate as damp and cold as the British Isles would spawn water-proof, corrosion resistant, hermetically sealed electrical parts. The sad truth is that quite the opposite has happened, and many a long night has been spent trying to find the reason that a fan, light, gauge, or radio on a British car doesn't work.

One favorite concept associated with Lucas Electrics is the famous "Smoke" theory. As most of you know, the Smoke theory (also known as the Jackson Postulate) holds that British cars do not have electrical components at all, but have mechanical subsystems that operate from the gas pressure of moving smoke within tubes disguised as wires. This smoke is pumped under pressure through turbine like devices which generate power for the radio, lights, fans, etc. Now, I'll grant that this theoretical exercise fits the experimental evidence, i. e., smoke can be seen leaking out of some of the components under the hood just before they quit working. However, new and startling evidence has just been brought before the public which finally explains the Lucas Electric paradox.

A distant relative of my Uncle Nigel's has "gone public" with knowledge he gathered during some 35 years of working at Lucas. Sedgewick, Nigel's cousin on the Abercrombie side, wanting to clear his conscience and make a few quid from the British tabloid press, has just revealed the existence of a little known subatomic particle, which threatens the very foundations of quantum-mechanics and physics as we know it. (Quantum-mechanics are the dreams that stuff is made of.)

The problem is that in almost every direct current circuit using the reversed flow of current typical of British electrics, Darkons will be separated from electrons in small quantities. Have you noticed how the lights of an old British car tend to flicker? It's caused by a surge of Darkons flowing through the unit, causing the lights to work backwards momentarily, and take in light instead of giving off light. In some cases, notably alternators and starter motors, appreciable numbers of Darkons will be generated, causing the alternator to suck all the electric energy out of the battery, or causing the starter to stop the engine. There are unconfirmed reports of a surge of high-energy Darkons from an ignition coil leaving spark plugs permanently inoperative. Ever hit the "Save" button on your PC, and had the document disappear totally. Has a tape deck ever suddenly destroyed your favorite "Little Fear" cassette and then resumed normal operation? Darkons at work!

During WWII, this information was classified. Darkons were the secret weapon of the allies. As the war drew to a close, Lucas Electrics sought to patent Darkons, and began to research peace-time applications for them. To their dismay, they discovered that Darkons have few peaceful uses, and furthermore, they cannot be completely reclaimed once separated. The engineers at Lucas attempted to do away with the wartime stockpiles of Darkons, but were not able to discover a way to destroy them, or to re-combine them with electrons. The Pandora's Box was opened, and can never be closed. Lucas spent billions trying to recycle Darkons, and that much again to cover up their existence. Do you recall the British publishing magnate that disappeared from his yacht, never to be seen again? He had just interviewed several former "Darkon Department" employees. Coincidence?

So that's the whole, dark, secret of Lucas Electrics. All we can do now is wait stoically until the final Darkon surge takes out all of our electronics. It may not be the greenhouse affect or some terrible invaders from space but the Darkon that topples civilization as we know it. There's nothing mankind can do.

Happy Motoring,



Ron Couturier