

Wheels: Roy writes, “I read your column in the Dayton Daily News weekly and thought that you might be able to offer a suggestion to help me resolve a brake light problem on my wife’s 1999 Oldsmobile Silhouette.

About every 30-60 days for the past 6 months, I have had to replace the left brake light bulb (the top bulb in the four-lamp taillight assembly). Each time, I find that the plastic base of the bulb (#3057) is melted around one of the four contact pins. The bulb itself is not burned out, but the melted base prevents contact between the pin and the contacts in the socket. Do you have any thoughts on what might be causing this? Your advice would be greatly appreciated.”

Halderman: The melted plastic indicates heat (obviously) and this is usually due to high resistance at the connection with the bulb.

The best way to repair this is to replace the bulb socket. This part may not be available as a separate part so be prepared to replace the entire tail lamp assembly. You may be able to get a small pick into the socket and pry the contacts toward the center where they can make a better connection.

