



*The central focus of a refurbished interior . . . a new shifter handle!*

## Get a Handle On It!

by Rick Mitchell

If your Mustang is equipped with an automatic transmission, then here is a \$20 repair for your interior that will take only 20 minutes to accomplish. But the results will make your car look like a million! *Replace that worn out shifter handle!*

The assembly involved is part number C5ZZ-7213-R, described in most vendors' catalogs as, "'65/66, chrome T-handle, automatic transmission, with black side knobs". It usually sells for \$19.95 plus shipping. These are nicely made reproduction pieces which install very easily.

The only tool needed is one of the smaller sized hex key wrenches (or "allen wrenches"). Find the size that fits the chrome handle's small set screw. Be sure your engine is off with the car parked on a flat surface. Keep the emergency brake on at all times. While sitting in the driver's seat, use the hex key and carefully remove the set screw in the rear of the old shifter handle. Gently grasp the old handle and depress the left black button while pushing the handle and shifter forward about a half inch. At the same time, keep the left button partially in and

pull the entire handle assembly upwards. Off comes the old knob!

The left black button will come out of the handle if needed. When reinstalling it back into the handle, be sure the center slot with the bigger opening faces the floorboards.

To add the new chrome handle, adjust the pivoting cable and small wheel on the head of the shifter stalk so that it is facing up as much as possible. Then install the left black button in the handle as noted earlier. Lower the new knob onto the shifter stalk with the set screw hole facing the rear. Don't force it! Add the set screw using the hex key.

Now check the movement of the shifter. Keep your foot on the brake at this point! Depress the left black button and shift into each position making sure nothing is binding. Check the left button while doing this to see if it has that same "spring loaded" feeling it had before. Assuming nothing went in backwards, the job is done!

Shifting your automatic never felt like so much fun before!

*Rick Mitchell is a long time MCA member and founder of the Early Six Mustang Registry. Rick is also an excellent Technical Writer, as evidenced by his HORSE SENSE articles. Look for more of Rick's common sense approach to Mustang maintenance in future issues of the Times. — Editor*

