

Mustang Brake Job Repair

~ **Paul Moroni**

The tractor made it into the shop to have the sticking brake repaired. To do that in a Mustang, I had to detach both axle shafts by removing the four bolts around the outer axle shaft seal. The Mustang has non-adjustable wheel hubs with a center nut. After pushing the shafts out of the housing and removing the retaining nut, I brought it over to the press to push the hub of the shaft which is tapered with a keyway. It takes a lot of pressure to remove, so watch for flying parts.

The axle bearing (ball bearing type) could now be removed. The bearings had some pitting on them, so I replaced them. Next thing was the axle housing which had to be removed to get to the brake assembly. Looking into the axle housing I could see that grease from the outer bearing seal was leaking down the housing onto the brake discs. I needed to be sure not to over grease the bearing with my grease gun. The bearing seals are felt with steel retainers on both sides of the bearing, I removed all of that and replaced the felt and steel with a new style seal and packed the bearing with grease.

Next, I removed the brake discs. A mouse had peed on them and caused the disc to rust. I removed the fiber brake material and sandblasted and painted the steel parts and ordered new fiber pads with the rivets. *You cannot buy complete brake discs. You have to rivet them on yourself, so you will need a rivet setting tool.*

The brake actuating plates needed to be disassembled, and new springs installed because some were broken. The plates were rusted and needed to be cleaned. I swapped out two of the plates with the Massey Harris 22 I bought for a parts tractor. *You need to be sure that the steel balls between the plate were in good condition.* I put grease where the balls ride in the plates because when stepping on the brake pedal it will roll the two plates up the steel balls. This will cause them to expand and squeeze the brake discs to stop the tractor, so it must all work smoothly.

I also replaced the brake adjusting rods with new grade 8 threaded rods and nuts, and new boot boots to kept to dirt (and mice) from getting in. I put the brake assembly into the housing with the axle shaft and then put the complete assembly on the tractor. *You need to check the axle shaft end play. It will be adjusted with the shims that were removed with grease seal retainer (the piece with the four bolts). Make sure there is some 'in and out' play; otherwise, you may be pushing against the differential.*

Next time the transmission!