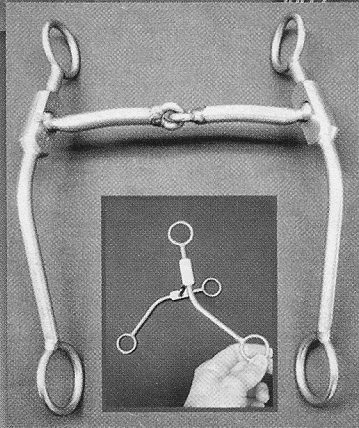


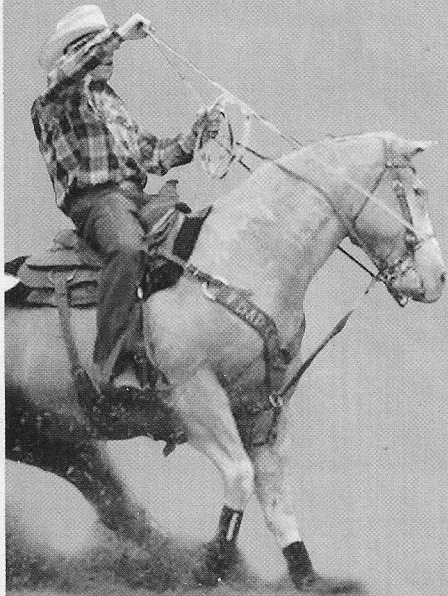
# TRAILER TIPS

## LIGHT & BRAKE ELECTRICAL ISSUES: WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PRESERVE YOUR TRAILER WIRING?



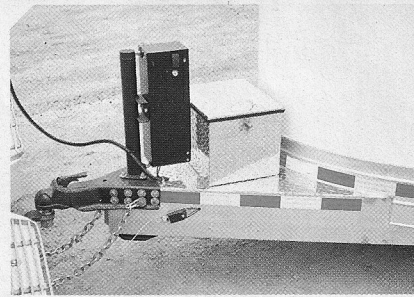
Patented Ball-joint  
connection

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left: Electrical box with wiring- Image courtesy of  
Twister Trailer

Twister also has multiple grounds in their wiring on new trailers, so that if one ground goes bad for some reason there is a backup ground. Trying to find ground problems can be tricky. You need a ground to complete the electrical circuit.

brought to you by **Twister Trailer**  
article by **Robyn Volkening**

**T**his month's Trailering Tips will address the pesky electrical problems that seem to crop up with our trailers while on the road or even in the spring after a winter of a trailer sitting idle. We talk to Daryl Mathews, an electrician with Twister Trailer, who builds new trailers as well as services trailer repairs for all makes in the Twister Trailer Service Department.

**TWISTER:** Daryl, thanks for helping our readers address electrical issues in their trailers. What do you see most commonly with electrical issues in the service department?

**DARYL MATHEWS:** We see lights and brake issues. These trailers, especially stock trailers, take a lot of abuse, driving over rough pasture terrain, sitting out in weather, etc. Sometimes the wires just break, or they rub against metal and wear through or pull loose. Often the problem is just in the plug itself or in the ground wire.

**TWISTER:** Can you give us preventative tips to try to preserve our wiring?


**DARYL:** Well, if you're looking to buy a trailer, buying one with the wires not exposed is helpful in keeping it from getting damaged. You can look inside and under a trailer to see how the wiring has been handled. Twister puts their wires inside light tracks, roof coves, or conduit to keep them from the elements or excess wear. Also keeping your plug on the trailer and truck clean, covered, and away from the elements such as dirt and moisture is helpful. Keep the plug off the ground and facing downward so moisture doesn't run in.

**TWISTER:** So if we hook up our trailer and the lights or brakes are not working correctly, and we are out on the road away from a repair facility, what can we do?

**DARYL:** It's not a good idea to pull a trailer when the lights or brakes aren't working, especially loaded or at night. Cleaning out the plugs can sometimes fix the connection, and making sure that the plug is seated firmly to the truck. If you have access to another vehicle you can see if the problem is with the trailer or the truck. If you have an air hose you can blow out the connections with that. Some folks have success using WD-40 to lubricate and clean the connections. You can check for a short by going along any exposed wire and making sure it's not shorting out where it is touching metal. If just one type of light isn't working, say your brakes or your turn signals, you should check the fuse box to see if a fuse has gone bad. If just one light isn't working maybe a bulb has burnt out or the wire to that particular light has broke or pulled loose.

**TWISTER:** So carrying extra fuses and some basic tools would be helpful.

**DARYL:** Definitely a couple small screw drivers, fuses, and some WD-40 could be useful for many things on the road and knowing where your fuse box is located before you have to find it in the dark is smart. Sometimes it's a good idea after not using your trailer for awhile to hook it up and check lights and brakes before you have to go on a trip. It's always easier to fix things before you are in a hurry to leave.

**TWISTER:** Daryl, thanks for your help in diagnosing issues with our trailer wiring! 

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