



## BRAKE PAD SQUEAL REDUCERS

by Ray Calvo

In preparing my 993 for it's first track outing, I decided to do what I had done on my previous Carrera - switch to a race compound brake pad, namely "Cool Carbons". Unlike my old Carrera, I found out the OE brakes had some anti-squeal functions which greatly increased the difficulty in changing the pads. I first thought this was unique to the 993, but have since found out that many recent models have these fixes (George Riggini indicated he has seen it on the Carrera 2/4, and I found a Technical Bulletin describing them on the 1989 928 S4). Therefore, if you decide to change brake pads on your '90s vintage Porsche, you might want to read this.

After jacking up the car and removing the wheel, I tried to remove the pads by grabbing one with my hook tool and pulling it out. No luck; the pad remained frozen inside the caliper. No amount of pulling or tugging would release it. Finally, I got down on my side and had a hard look at the back of the brake pad to see what was causing it to hang up. It was difficult to see, but I noticed a backing "pad" on the back of the metal backing plate, along with just a hint of the outer rim of the circular anti-squeal shim peeking out from behind one of the brake pistons (see photo; rectangular anti-squeal pad was glued to the metal backing plate on the brake pad; circular anti-squeal shims fit into the brake pistons). The shim was firmly embedded in the backing pad, so I figured my only option was to try to break the backing pad free from the metal brake pad backing plate. Since the pads were relatively new, I didn't have much room to get a tool in there or to retract the pistons. I used a stiff paint scraper in between the anti-squeal pad and the metal backing plate and entirely freed the two pieces. The pad was then able to be removed.

One warning about "Cool Carbons"; they don't squeal, they S-Q-U-E-A-L; enough to drive you batty after even a short trip. Therefore, for daily use the OE pads went back in. I did not reinstall the above removed pad or shims, and so far the car has been practically squeal-free (only a hint of a squeak once in a while, only when stopping at a light).