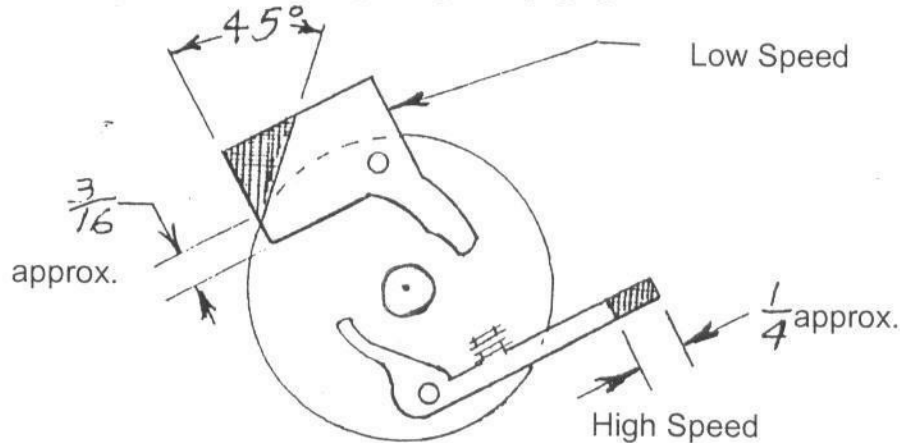


MODIFYING THE AUTOMATIC VANAGON GOVERNOR

The Subaru engines are high RPM engines compared to the Vanagon engines. The transaxle shifts too soon to take full advantage of the power available. Mine (H. Kennedy) shifted a 2500 RPM with full throttle until half the governor weight was removed then the shift point was 5000. One customer was happy that his shifted at 6000.

The governor is located inside a 2" high tin can near the top of the transaxle and held in place with a wire bail. We have not worked with '83 or older governor but it appears the weight could be lightened with holes. The '84 and newer governor has weights as shown. Removal of the governor is simple compared to the '83 and earlier model so do changes gradually by grinding and going for a test drive then grinding and trying again.

Vanagon governor
Late Style

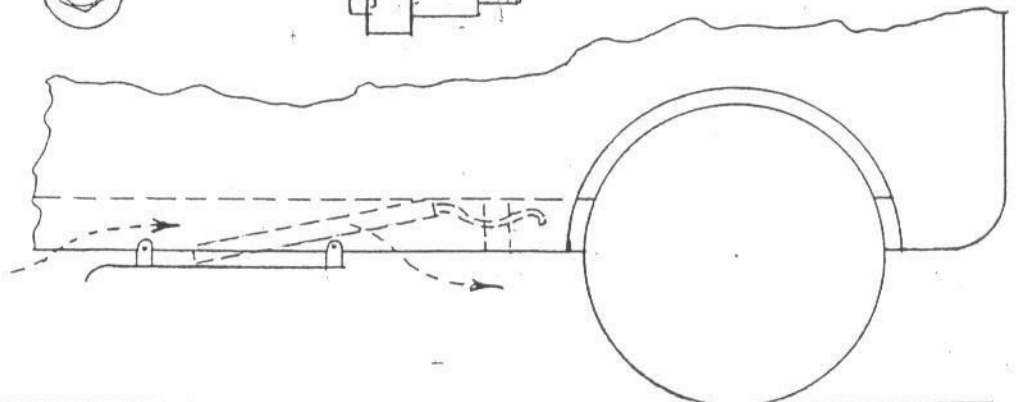
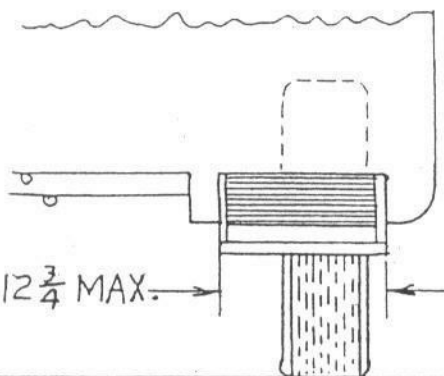
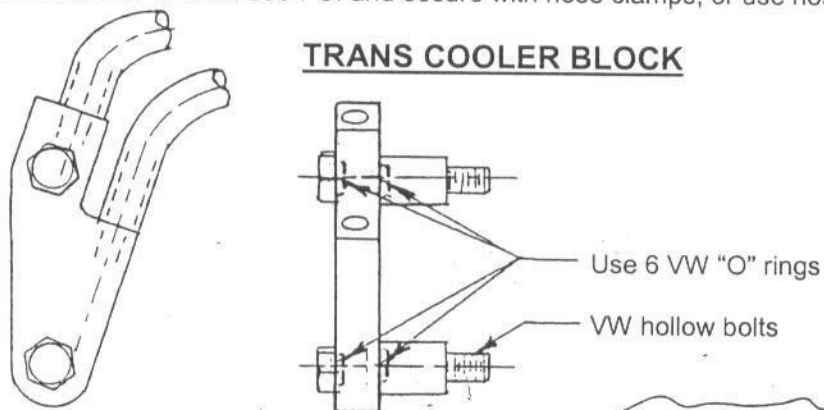


The disadvantage of making this modification on water-cooled Vans is that the higher RPM causes higher oil operating pressure that can fail the trans cooler. When this happens the trans becomes contaminated with water and the radiator is contaminated with trans fluid. I ruined three VW coolers before I replaced the cooler with an aluminum block and hoses to a common aftermarket air-cooled transmission cooler.

You can tap into the transmission case 1/4" NPT if you coat the tap with grease in an attempt to catch the aluminum chips from the tap. Another option is to use one of our trans cooler blocks. It is designed for drivers' side mounting of a cooler and cost \$45. Use hose rated for at least 200 PSI and secure with hose clamps, or use hose with 1/4 NPT fittings.

For light duty, highway use, our simple bypass block for \$20 is adequate. When using this, avoid very heavy slow traffic or long slow mountain roads where torque converter slippage produces a lot of heat.

TRANS COOLER BLOCK



Here is one suggested location to mount a cooler:

Use the largest Trans cooler available that will fit within a 12 3/4" wide space. Depending upon the location of the fittings, it may be necessary to use a smaller one.