



QUALITY... PLAIN & SIMPLE®

**Cable Operated Sensor Kit Installation Instructions  
For Ford AOD, 4R70W, and AODE  
With New Style Decoder Box**

**General Installation Notes:**

Please read these instructions completely before beginning the installation. If you have any questions, please call.

Before beginning the installation, disconnect the negative battery cable and use wheel chocks to block the vehicle's wheels. Do not attempt to install this product while the engine is running.

Make sure the engine, transmission, and frame are properly grounded. We recommend applying anti-seize lubricant to all aluminum threads before final assembly.

All Lokar Installation Instructions can be found by visiting [www.lokar.com/installations.html](http://www.lokar.com/installations.html).

Refer to Fig. 1, 2 and 3 for the component names.

**NOTE:** There are two styles of decoder boxes: OLD and NEW. See Fig. 3 to determine which type you have. If you have the OLD style decoder box, these are NOT the correct instructions. You need instructions # INS0039, which can be found on the Lokar website or can be emailed to you by contacting Lokar Technical Support.

**MOUNTING OPTIONS:** The Lokar Cable Operated Sensor Kit is equipped to mount the sensor either on the passenger side of the transmission using the sensor bracket, or in a remote location within 5 feet of the transmission selector shaft using the provided universal mounting bracket.

To mount the sensor remotely inside the vehicle, a Lokar Remote Mounting Cable Kit (part # CINR-1796) will be required. This extends the cable 7 feet, for a total of 12 feet.

The decoder box should always be mounted inside the vehicle and out of the elements.

**Step 1:** Assemble the upper and lower parts of the adjustable cable mounting bracket by installing two #8-32 x 5/16" button head screws and lock washers using a 5/32" Allen wrench. Do not fully tighten the screws yet. The orientation of the upper part of the adjustable cable mounting bracket will depend on the orientation of the trans arm on your selector shaft. See Fig. 4.

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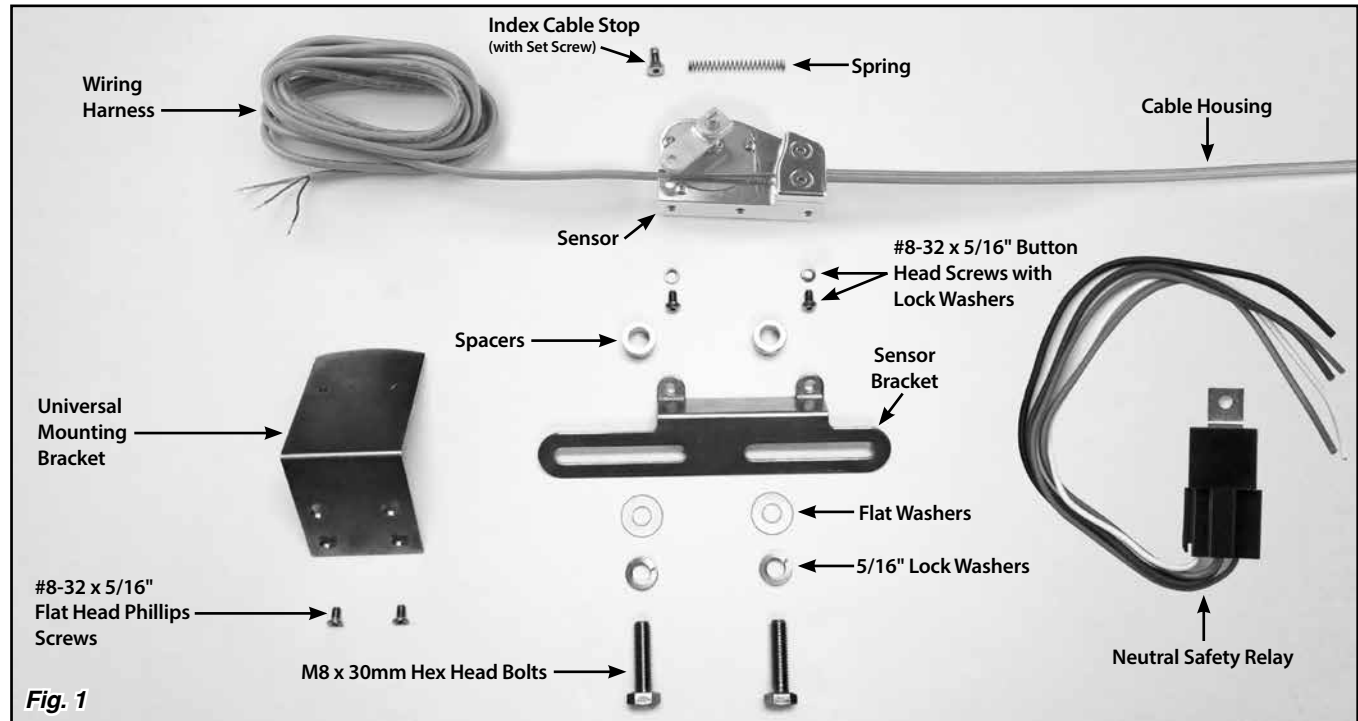


Fig. 1

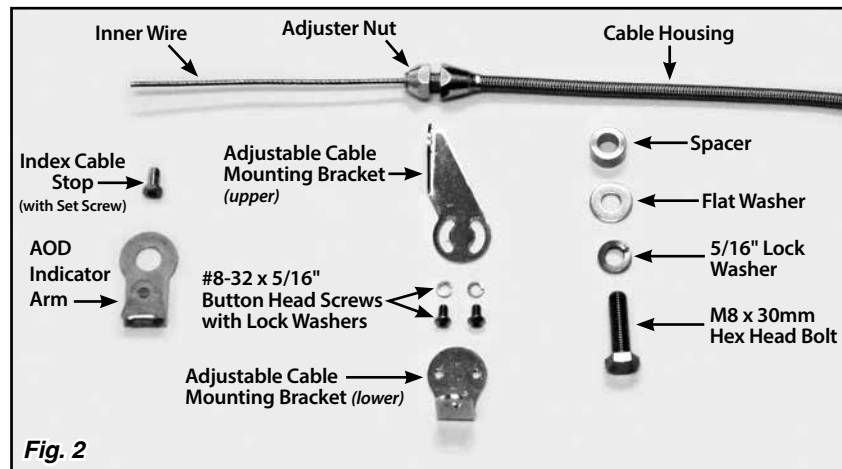


Fig. 2

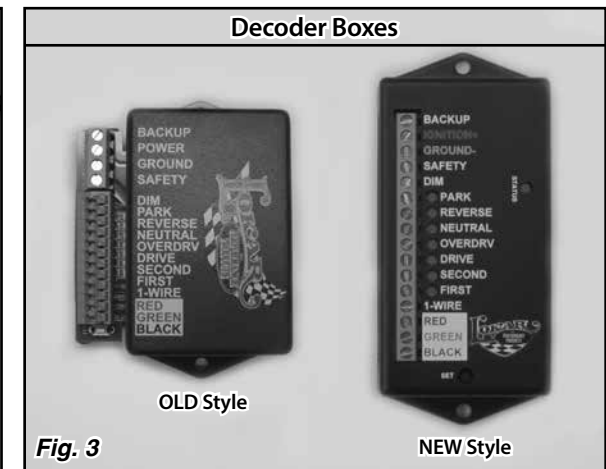


Fig. 3

**Adjustable Cable Mounting Bracket With Trans Arm Pointed UP**



Fig. 4

**Adjustable Cable Mounting Bracket With Trans Arm Pointed DOWN**

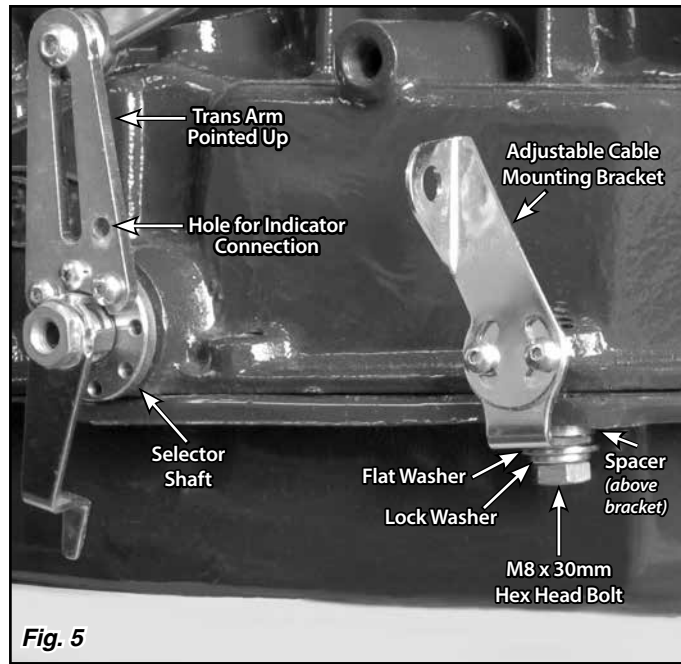


Fig. 5

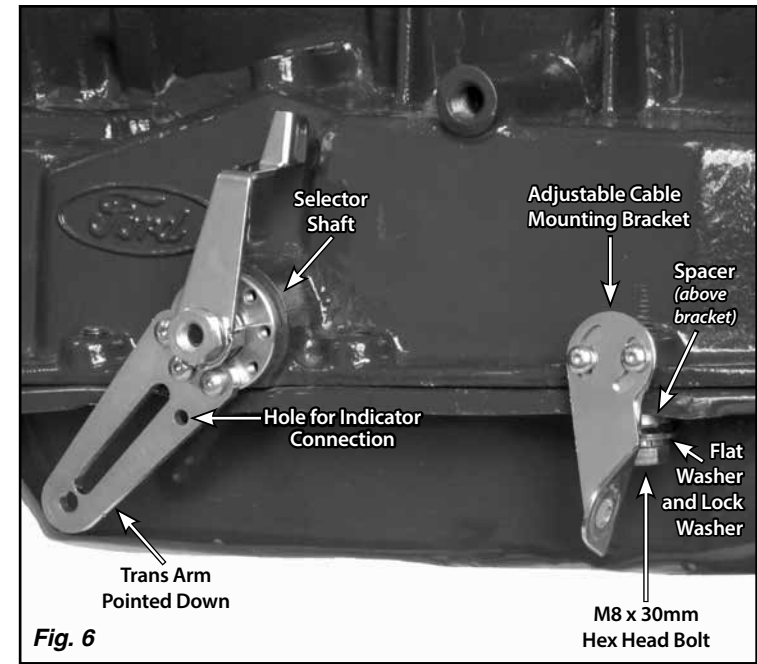


Fig. 6

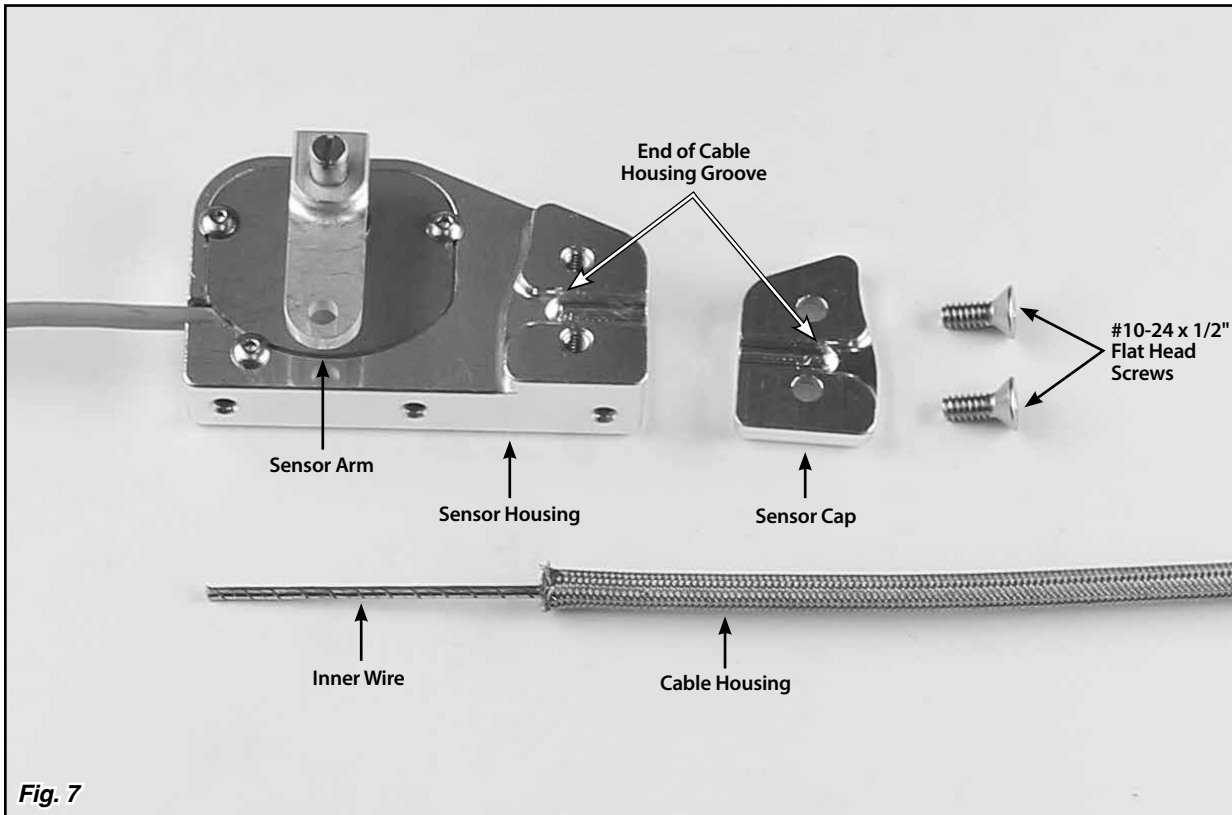


Fig. 7

**Step 2:** Remove the second pan bolt to the rear of the selector shaft. Install the adjustable cable mounting bracket there using the provided M8 x 30mm hex head bolt, lock washer, flat washer, and spacer. **Fig. 5** and **Fig. 6**

**NOTE:** If you have an aluminum transmission pan, the spacer may not be required.

**Step 3:** Remove the sensor cap by removing the two #10-24 x 1/2" flat head screws using a 1/8" Allen wrench, and separate the cable housing from the sensor. **Fig. 7**

**Step 4:** Make sure the sensor arm is parallel to the slot in the sensor shaft, with the set screw in the top of the sensor arm aligned with the slot. If it is not, loosen the set screw in the top of the sensor arm using a 1/16" Allen wrench, and adjust the position of the sensor arm on the shaft. **Fig. 8**

**Step 5:** This step varies, depending on where you are mounting the sensor as described below:

- **Directly onto the passenger side of the transmission:** Use the provided M8 x 30mm hex head bolts, lock washers, flat washers, and spacers to mount the sensor and sensor bracket to the first and second pan bolt to the rear of the dipstick tube. **NOTE:** If you have an aluminum transmission pan, the spacers may not be required.

Adjust the sensor and sensor bracket forward or backward until you can move the sensor arm through its full range of travel without the sensor arm interfering with the transmission case. Tighten the M8 x 30mm hex head bolts that are used to mount the sensor bracket. **Fig. 9**

- **In a remote location:** Make sure the sensor is close enough that the cable housing can be routed into the back side of the adjustable cable mounting bracket. Install the universal mounting bracket onto the vehicle using the two smaller holes in the bracket and your choice of fasteners (not included). The small holes in the universal mounting bracket may be drilled out larger if needed. Once the bracket is installed in the remote location, remove the sensor from the other sensor bracket. Install the sensor onto the universal mounting bracket, using the #8-32 x 5/16" flat head Phillips screws. There are two pairs of countersunk holes on the universal mounting bracket and three holes in the sensor to allow for different mounting positions.

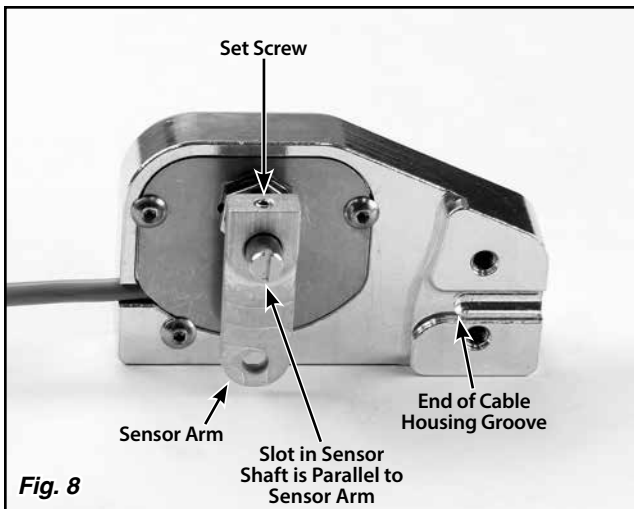


Fig. 8

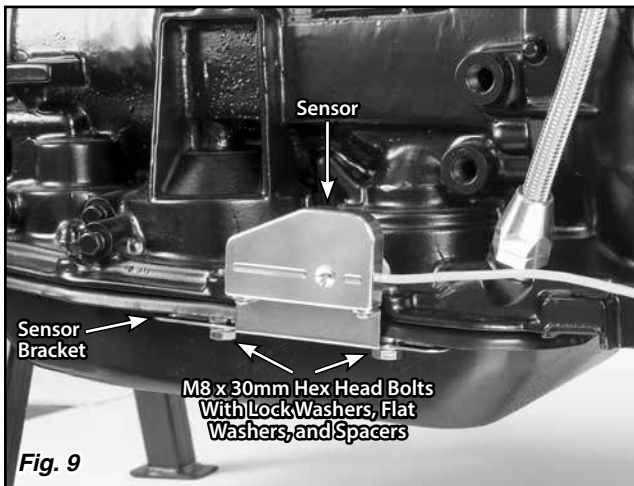


Fig. 9

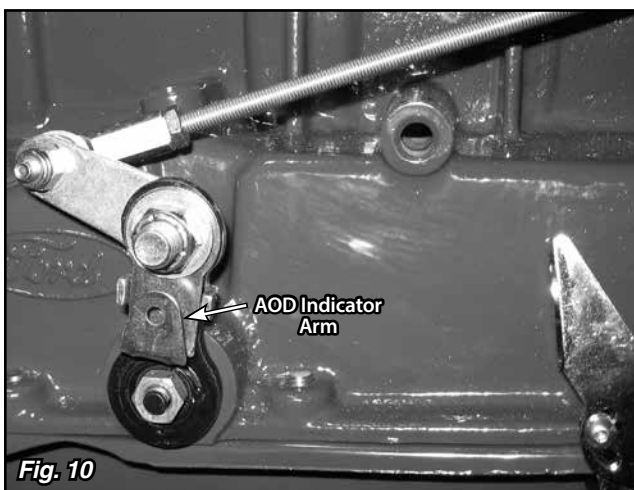


Fig. 10

**Step 6:** This step also varies depending on what selector shaft is installed in the transmission.

- **With a Lokar selector shaft:** The trans arm has a 3/16" diameter hole in it for the indicator cable to connect to. Make sure that this hole is to the rear of the slot in the trans arm. If it is not, remove the trans arm and re-install it with the 3/16" hole to the rear of the slot in the trans arm. **Fig. 5 and Fig. 6**
- **With any type of selector shaft EXCEPT a Lokar selector shaft:** Install the AOD indicator arm onto the trans arm. The open part of the "J" shape in the AOD indicator arm should face away from the selector shaft. **Fig. 10**

**Step 7:** Remove the inner wire from the cable housing. Temporarily install the threaded end of the cable housing into the adjustable cable mounting bracket and secure it with the adjuster nut.

The cable is designed to be cut-to-fit. Route the cable housing from the adjustable cable mounting bracket to the sensor.

There is a groove in the sensor housing that the end of the cable housing fits in to. Mark the cable housing at the end of the cable housing groove. Remove the cable housing from the adjustable cable mounting bracket. **Fig. 7 and Fig. 8**

**Step 8:** **Make sure the inner wire has been removed from the cable housing.** Wrap tape around the area to be cut and use a cutoff wheel or fine-toothed hacksaw to cut the cable housing at your mark. You also may use heavy duty 8" diagonal cutting pliers. Lokar recommends Klein brand Diagonal Cutting Pliers, # D2000-28 available at The Home Depot or through W. W. Graingers, Part # 4A838.

Before moving forward, make sure the end of the cable housing that you just cut is open and the inner wire will slide in without interference.

**Step 9:** Remove the sensor from the sensor bracket using a 5/32" Allen wrench. Reattach the cable housing to the sensor by clamping it between the sensor housing and the sensor cap, making sure the cable housing does not extend beyond the end of the cable housing groove in the sensor housing. Secure the sensor cap using the #10-24 x 1/2" flat head screws you removed earlier. Then, install the threaded end of the cable housing back into the adjustable cable mounting bracket.

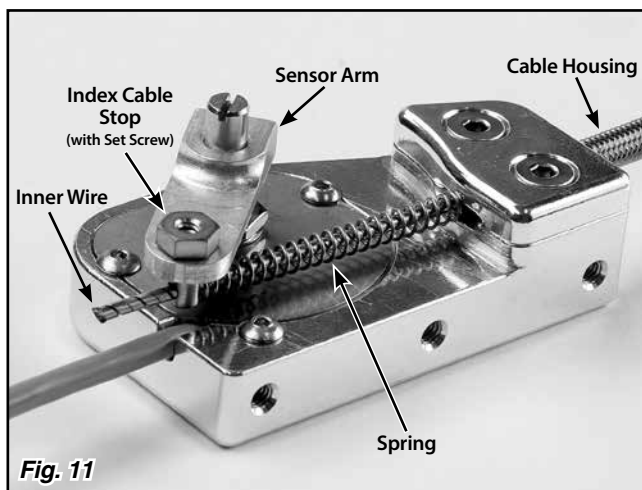


Fig. 11

**Step 10:** Slide the inner wire into the cable housing until it is protruding from both ends. Put the spring on the inner wire between the sensor arm and the sensor cap.

Install the index cable stop into the sensor arm with the cable hole between the sensor arm and the sensor. Slide the inner wire through the index cable stop, so that at least 1" is protruding beyond the index cable stop. Make sure the inner wire is on the correct side of the sensor arm. **Fig. 11**

**Step 11:** Reinstall the sensor onto the sensor bracket using the #8-32 x 5/16" button head screws and lock washers (transmission mounted sensor bracket) or the #8-32 x 5/16" flat head Phillips screws (universal mounting bracket).

**Step 12:** At the opposite end of the cable, install the index cable stop into the trans arm or the AOD indicator arm. Slide the inner wire through the hole in the index cable stop so that approximately 1" is protruding. You should now have excess inner wire at the opposite end of the cable (at the sensor).

There is a set screw in the hex end of the index cable stop on the trans arm or the AOD indicator arm. Tighten the set screw using a 1/16" Allen wrench. Adjust the angle of the adjustable cable mounting bracket so that the inner wire will not bind or kink as it goes through the gear selections. **Fig. 12 and Fig. 13**

**Note:** **It is very important that the cable housing is secured. Fasten the cable housing tightly so there is no slack or movement in the cable housing.**

**Step 13:** Make sure the transmission is in Park.

• **All applications with the trans arm pointing UP:** Push the sensor arm up against the spring, so that the spring is compressed approximately 1/8" at rest in Park. **Fig. 14** While holding that position, tighten the set screw that is installed in the index cable stop on the sensor arm using a 1/16" Allen wrench.

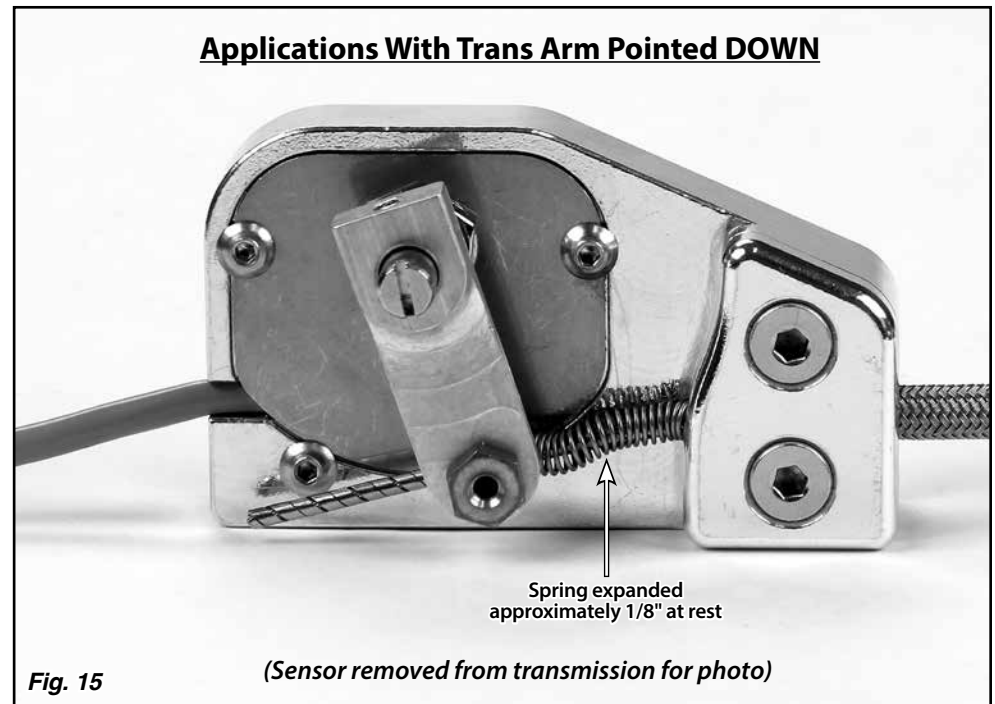
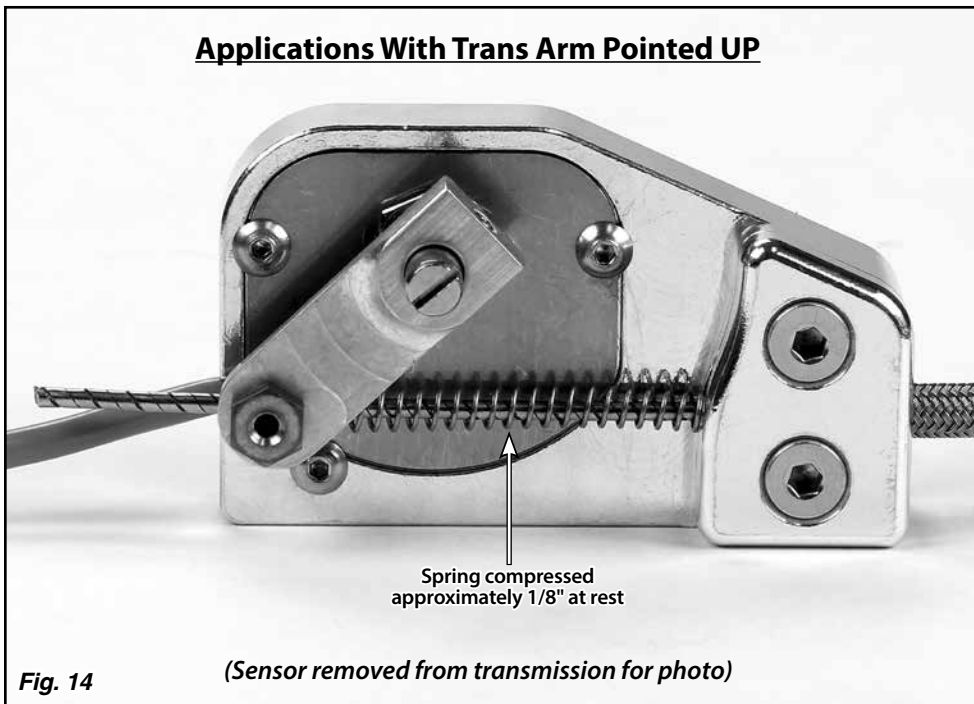
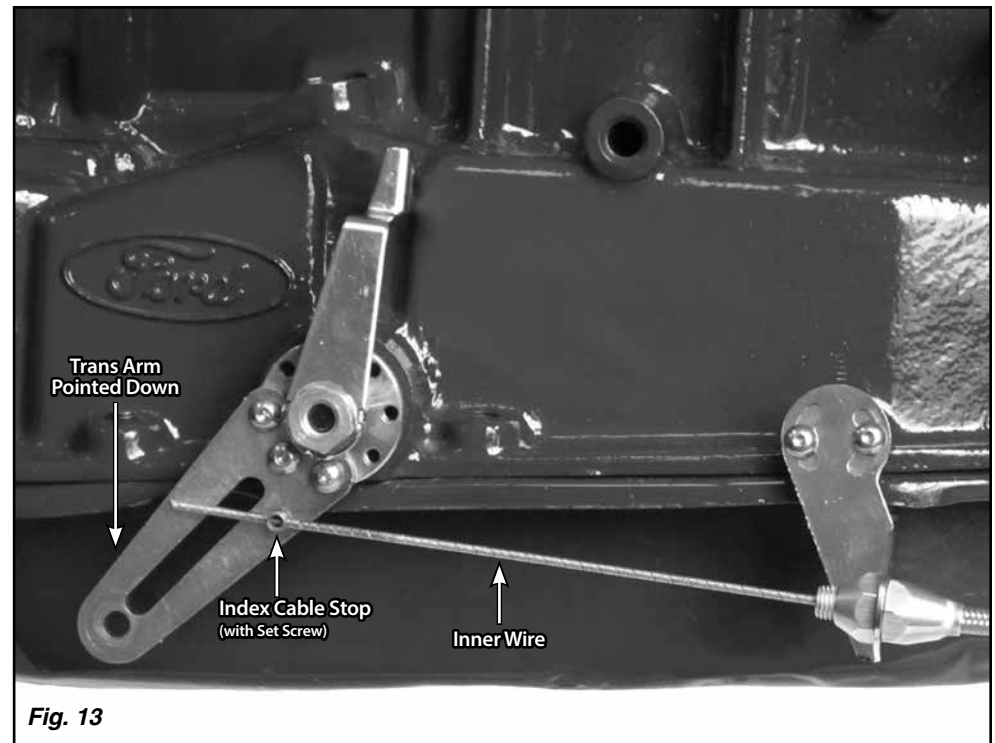
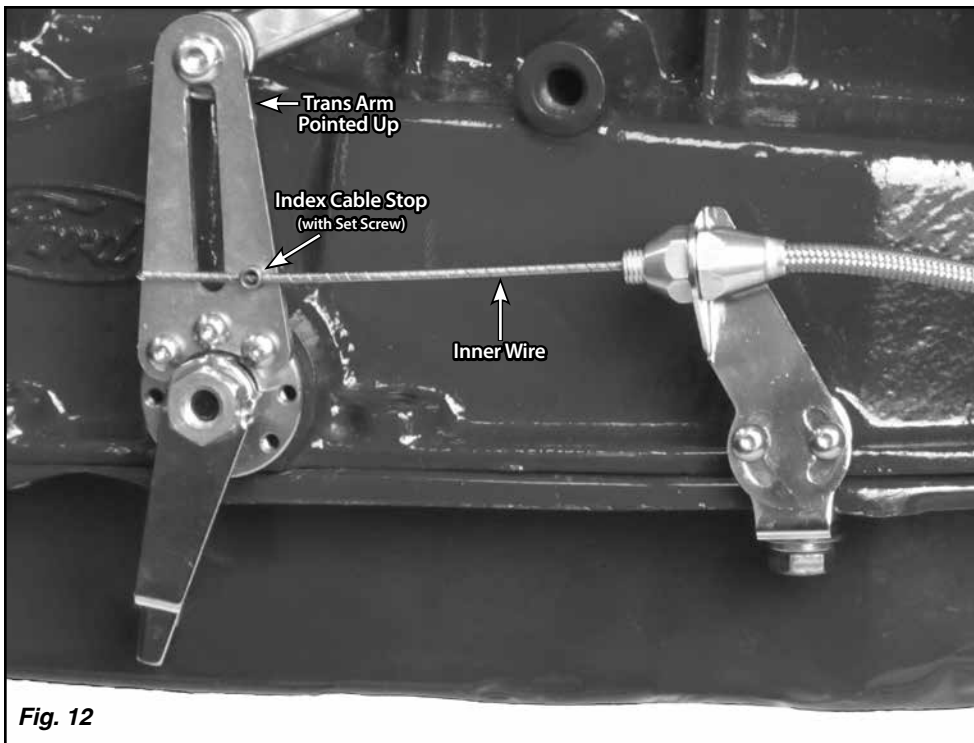
• **All applications with the trans arm pointing DOWN:** Push the sensor arm as far as it will go until the spring is completely compressed. Then, let the spring expand approximately 1/8". **Fig. 15** While holding that position, tighten the set screw that is installed in the index cable stop on the sensor arm using a 1/16" Allen wrench.

**Step 14:** Trim the excess inner wire, leaving about 1" protruding. Shift the transmission from Park, one gear at a time, and check each gear to make sure the arm on the sensor does not hit anything and the sensor does not bottom out on its internal stops. The sensor arm does not need to be the same distance from the stops in Park as it is in low gear. If the sensor bottoms out on its internal stop before the shifter reaches first gear, loosen up one end of the inner wire at either of the index cable stops and move the trans arm/AOD indicator arm or sensor arm. **Make sure you maintain at least 1/8" or more of compression on the spring at the sensor end of the cable when the transmission is in Park (applications with the trans arm pointed up) or Low gear (applications with the trans arm pointed down).**

Once the sensor is operating properly and no more adjustments need to be made, cut the excess inner wire within 1/2" of the index cable stop on both ends of the cable.

### Mounting The Decoder Box

The decoder box must be mounted in a dry place. When mounting this unit, keep it within reach of the wires on the LED display and the sensor. The decoder box can be mounted with two screws or double-sided tape. Be sure it is still accessible for connecting the wiring and for programming later.





## Wiring The Sensor and The Decoder Box

The sensor has a 10 foot long cable attached to it. This cable contains three wires which connect to the decoder box: one red, one green or white, and one black. To connect the wires to the decoder box, use a small flat blade screwdriver to loosen the screw terminal. Strip 3/8" of the insulation off of each of the wires. Connect the red wire to the terminal marked RED. Connect the green or white wire to the terminal marked GREEN. Connect the black wire to the terminal marked BLACK. **Fig. 16**

**NOTE: The red, green or white, and black wires on the sensor should ONLY be connected to the terminals marked "RED", "GREEN", or "BLACK" on the decoder box. DO NOT connect any of these three wires to the "IGNITION+" or "GROUND-" terminals on the decoder box.**

## Wiring a Lokar Three-Wire LED Indicator

Locate a fused (15A), switched 12V + power source that supplies power when the ignition key is in the "ON" or "RUN" position, but does not supply power when the key is off. (**NOTE: If you are going to use the optional Neutral Safety Relay discussed later, this wire will also need to supply power while the key is in the "START" position.**) Run a red wire (not supplied) from that power source to the decoder box. Join the end of that wire to the end of the red wire from the LED indicator. Insert the joined end of those wires into the "IGNITION+" terminal on the decoder box and tighten the terminal screw.

Connect one end of a black wire (not supplied) to a solid chassis ground. Join the other end of that wire to the black wire from the LED indicator. Insert the joined end of those wires into the "GROUND-" terminal on the decoder box and tighten the terminal screw. **Fig. 16**

**NOTE: When you are finished with this step, there will be two (2) wires connected to the "IGNITION+" terminal on the decoder box, and two (2) wires connected to the "GROUND-" terminal on the decoder box.**

**If installing a Lokar Three-Wire LED Indicator, DO NOT connect the remaining green or white wire from the LED Indicator to the decoder box until you have programmed the gear positions.**

## Programming The Gear Positions

Programming is done using the push-button SET switch on the top of the decoder box and watching the programming LED's located next to each gear position designation on the decoder box.

**NOTE: For the programming procedures below, you will be watching the LEDs on the decoder box, NOT on the Boot Indicator or Dash Indicator.**

**The programming sequence must be completed without interruption for the settings to be saved. If you stop or turn the key off at any point during the programming sequence, you will have to start over from the beginning.**

- Step 1:** Place the transmission in Park and make sure the key is off. Reconnect the negative battery cable.
- Step 2:** Press and hold the set switch. **Fig. 16** Turn the ignition key on while holding the set switch down. Then, release the set switch.
- Step 3:** The programming lights will come on either all green or all red, except for the STATUS light which will be red. All green means the decoder box is currently set for ground (-) outputs, which is correct for a Lokar indicator. If you are using a Lokar indicator and your programming lights are green at this point (except for the STATUS light), proceed to **Step 4**.

**Step 3, continued:** If the lights are all red, that means the decoder box is currently set for positive (+) outputs, which some other brands of indicators use. If your lights are all red and you are using a Lokar indicator, press and release the set switch. This will change the mode of the decoder box to ground (-) outputs. The programming lights will turn green, and you can then proceed to **Step 4**.

If you are using an indicator from another manufacturer, determine if your indicator requires ground (-) outputs or positive (+) outputs. Press and release the set switch if needed to put the decoder box in the correct mode for the other manufacturer's indicator. Follow the instructions provided with the other manufacturer's indicator.

**Step 4:** Press and hold the set switch for approximately 3 seconds until all of the programming lights turn off, to save the output setting and put the decoder box in programming mode. Then, release the set switch. For a Lokar Indicator, the PARK light should be flashing green.

If at any point in the programming the STATUS light starts flashing red and green, that means the sensor is not moving.

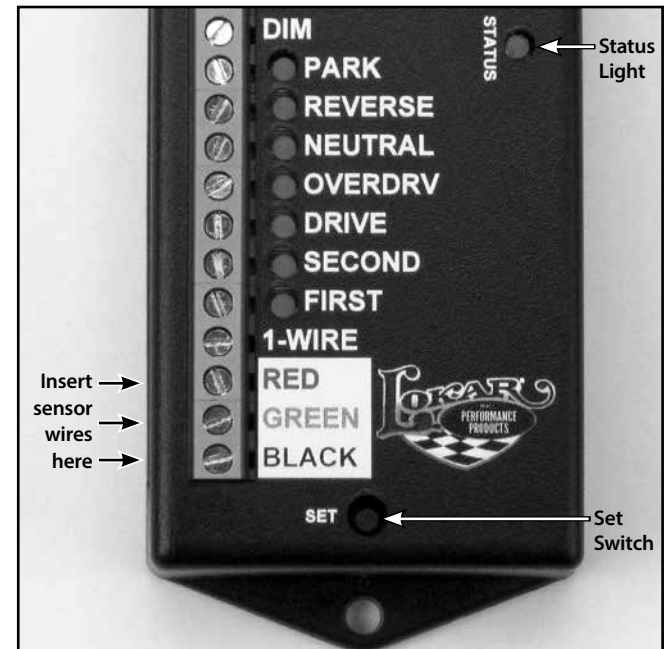
- Step 5:** Press and hold the set switch for approximately 3 seconds, until the PARK light remains on steady.
- Step 6:** Release the set switch. The PARK light will turn off, and the REVERSE light should begin flashing.
- Step 7:** Shift the transmission to Reverse.
- Step 8:** Press and hold the set switch for approximately 3 seconds, until the REVERSE light remains on steady.
- Step 9:** Release the set switch. The REVERSE light will turn off, and the NEUTRAL light should begin flashing.
- Step 10:** Shift the transmission to Neutral.
- Step 11:** Press and hold the set switch for approximately 3 seconds, until the NEUTRAL light remains on steady.
- Step 12:** Release the set switch. The NEUTRAL light will turn off, and the OVERDRIVE light should begin flashing.
- Step 13:** Shift the transmission to Overdrive.
- Step 14:** Press and hold the set switch for approximately 3 seconds, until the OVERDRIVE light remains on steady.
- Step 15:** Release the set switch. The OVERDRIVE light will turn off and the DRIVE light should begin flashing.
- Step 16:** Shift the transmission to Drive.
- Step 17:** Press and hold the set switch for approximately 3 seconds, until the DRIVE light remains on steady.
- Step 18:** Release the set switch. The DRIVE light will turn off, and the SECOND light should begin flashing.
- Step 19:** Press and release the set switch. The SECOND light will turn off and the FIRST light should begin flashing.
- Step 20:** Shift the transmission to First.
- Step 21:** Press and hold the set switch for approximately 3 seconds, until the FIRST light remains on steady.
- Step 22:** Release the set switch. The FIRST light will turn off and the STATUS light will begin flashing red.
- Step 23:** Press and hold the set switch for approximately 3 seconds, until the STATUS light turns off. Release the set switch. The FIRST light should be on steady and the STATUS light should be steady green.

**Step 24:** Shift the transmission through each of the gears to verify that the programming lights match correctly.

**Step 25:** Following the wiring diagram in **Fig. 17**, connect the rest of the wires from the LED indicator to the decoder box.

## Changing the LED Colors

- Step 1:** To enter the color setup mode, put the transmission in Park and turn the ignition key to ON, but do not start the engine.
- Step 2:** With the ignition ON, press and hold the SET switch on the decoder box until the PARK LED on the decoder box turns off (approximately two seconds).
- Step 3:** Release the SET switch. Both the STATUS and PARK LEDs on the decoder box should now be flashing.
- Step 4:** The PARK position on the indicator will now be lit with the current color setting for PARK. To change the color, tap the SET switch (less than one second). The PARK position on the indicator will cycle to the next color. Continue tapping the SET switch until the PARK position on the indicator is lit with the desired color.
- Step 5:** Once the PARK position on the indicator is lit with the desired color, press and hold the SET switch until the STATUS and PARK LEDs on the decoder box stop flashing (approximately two seconds). The color for PARK is now stored.
- Step 6:** Release the SET switch. The STATUS and REVERSE LEDs on the decoder box will now be flashing, and the REVERSE position on the indicator will be lit with the current color setting for REVERSE.



**NOTE: Some indicator sensors come with a white wire instead of a green wire. If your sensor has a white wire, connect it to the terminal labeled GREEN.**

**Fig. 16**

**Step 7:** Follow the above procedure for each of the gear positions, tapping the SET switch to cycle through to the desired color on the indicator, holding the SET switch to save the setting, and releasing the SET switch to advance to the next gear position.

**Step 8:** Once the color for all gear positions has been programmed, the **STATUS** LED should be the only one on and flashing on the decoder box, and the PARK position on the indicator should be on.

**Step 9:** Tapping the SET switch (less than one second) will now cycle through eight intensity settings on the indicator. Watch the PARK position on the indicator, and when the desired intensity is found, press and hold the SET switch until the **STATUS** LED stops blinking (approximately two seconds). The intensity for the indicator is now set.

**Step 10:** Release the SET switch. The decoder box has now exited the setup mode.

### Optional Features and Wiring

**NOTE:** You must complete the "Programming the Gear Positions" section before connecting the wiring for any of the "OPTIONAL" sections below.

#### OPTIONAL: Connecting The Neutral Safety Relay

If your vehicle already has a neutral safety switch in the wiring harness to prevent the vehicle from starting while it is in gear, then you do not need to use the neutral safety switch feature in the decoder box, and you will not need to connect this relay.

If your vehicle does not already have a neutral safety switch, cut the wire that goes from your starter switch to the starter solenoid. Connect the wire from the ignition switch to the GREEN wire from the relay, and connect the BLACK wire from the relay to the wire going to the starter solenoid. For wiring harnesses which provide wires for the neutral safety relay, connect one side to the GREEN wire and the other side to the BLACK wire.

The WHITE wire from the relay connects to the "SAFETY" terminal on the decoder box. The RED wire connects to the power wire for the decoder box. For the neutral safety switch to operate properly, the "IGNITION+" terminal on the decoder box must have power when the key is in the "START" position. **Fig. 18**

#### OPTIONAL: Connecting The Park/Neutral Signal To An ECM

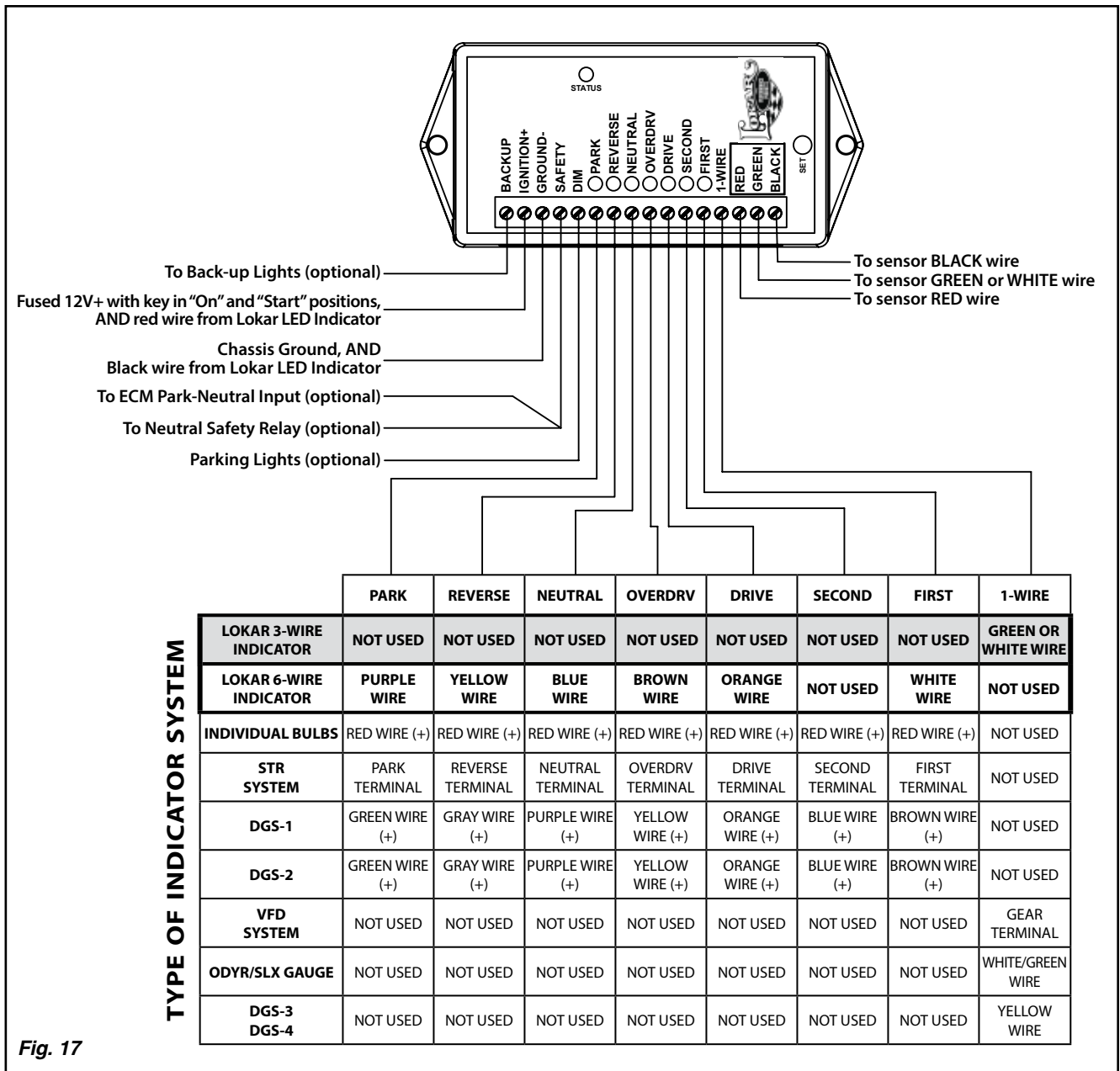
If your vehicle is fuel injected and the ECM requires a signal when the transmission is in either Park or Neutral, the neutral safety terminal on the decoder box can be used. The "SAFETY" terminal provides a ground when the transmission is in Park or Neutral. This can be connected to the ECM in order to pass vehicle inspection. The "SAFETY" terminal can be used for both a neutral safety and an ECM signal at the same time.

#### OPTIONAL: Connecting Backup Lights To The Decoder Box

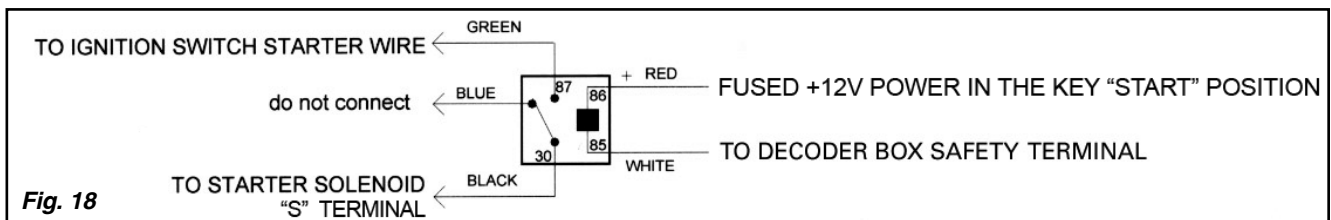
If your vehicle already has a backup light switch, then you do not need to connect anything to the "BACKUP" terminal. If you do not have a backup light switch and will be using backup lights on your vehicle, then connect the hot side of the backup lights to the terminal marked "BACKUP". This circuit is designed to supply up to 15 amps.

#### OPTIONAL: Enabling the Indicator's "DIM" Function

If you want the Indicator's LEDs to dim at night, locate a wire or terminal that only has power when your parking lights or headlights are on. Connect a wire from that wire or terminal to the "DIM" terminal on the decoder box.



**Fig. 17**



**Fig. 18**