

STAR ONLINE PUBLICATION

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Symptom/Vehicle Issue: Radio And Instrument Cluster Backlighting Brightness Cannot Be Controlled

Discussion: Owners may complain that the headlamp switch thumb wheel dimmer does not change the cluster panel backlighting as expected. The thumb wheel will only function during cluster night mode. "Cluster Night Mode" is solely controlled by the cluster ambient lighting photocell Fig 1,2.

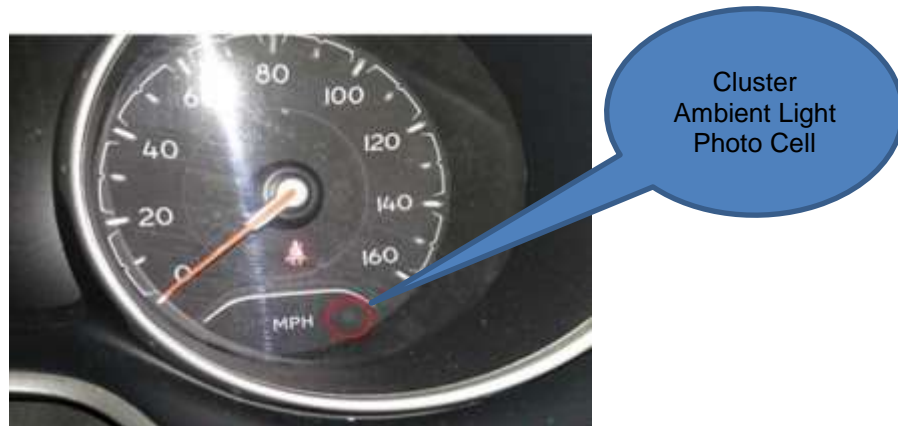


Fig 1

NOTE: The thumb wheel dimmer controls will only operate when the cluster ambient light photo cell senses that it is (DARK) and the head lamp switch is in the park lamps on position. The Instrument Panel Cluster (IPC) and the Integrated Center Stack (ICS) use the electronic dimming level messages to control the illumination intensity of their own back lighting. In addition, when the interior lighting thumbwheel of the dimmer module is moved to the PARADE (or funeral) mode detent position, all of the electronic display units are illuminated at their full intensity levels. The PARADE mode has no effect on the illumination intensity of incandescent panel lamps. See below testing.

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Contact STAR Center, or your Technical Assistance Center Via TechCONNECT or eCONTACT ticket if no solution is found

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To test to see if the cluster illumination dims, place the headlamp switch in the lights on headlamp/park position to simulate night time driving. Using a business card or shop rag, block the ambient light sensor in the cluster. The cluster can take up to 8 seconds to switch between modes from day to night. If cluster lights adjust do not replace any parts; operation is normal.

If the cluster brightness is not adjustable under these conditions, check for any cluster software updates and update the cluster prior to any other repairs. If still no change, use the scan tool to view the headlamp switch inputs under the data display of the cluster (see headlamp switch input data using the scan tool). Validate the headlamp switch output is not showing parade mode setting, use the thumb wheel to reposition as needed.

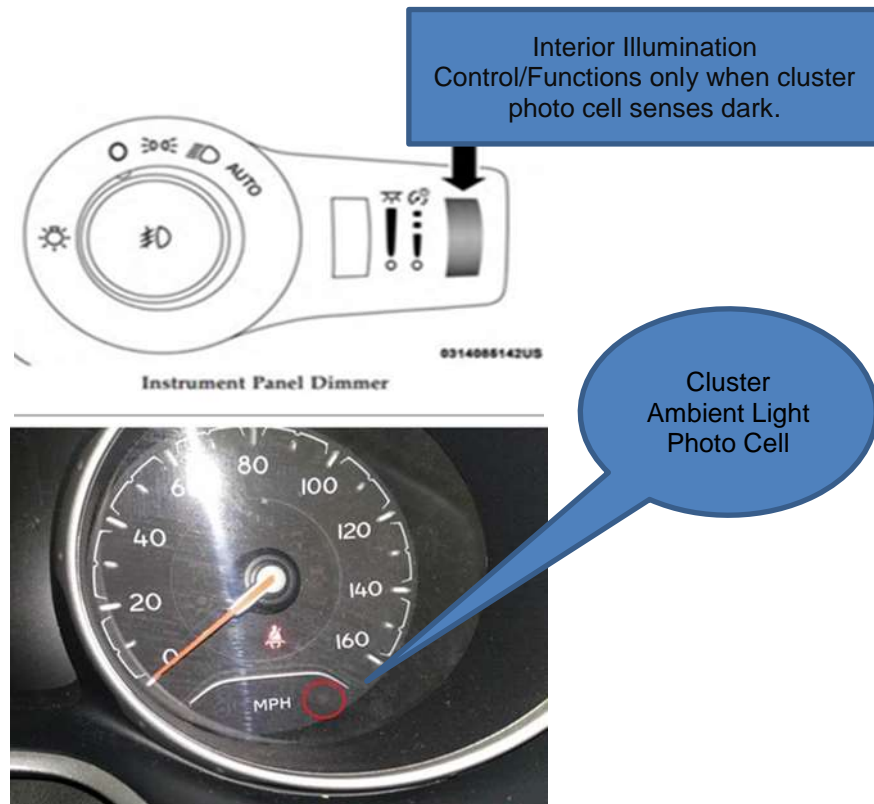


Fig 2

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