

SAVVA Technical tip 158 – Woven brake linings.

Some months ago, we discussed the use of woven brake linings compared to modern harder ones that are fitted today. On good advice I'd fitted woven linings on an early Buick and it transformed the braking so much that I had to disconnect the brake booster that was fitted.

In more recent times I became the owner/custodian of an early Ford bakkie fitted with mechanical brakes. Typical of these early vehicles the brakes were very marginal if not terrifying.

I found that a previous owner had overhauled the brake system, bushes replaced, drums re-sized and new linings fitted. Unfortunately, the linings fitted were the modern bonded linings. To improve the braking I had the hard linings ground off and fitted a set of imported woven linings. The result is much improved braking, although one still has to take deep breath when stopping in a hurry.

Fitting the woven linings wasn't too difficult as the holes were already in the shoes and the linings came correctly drilled. I didn't have a riveting tool so used a punch to turn the rivet heads over. Time consuming, but it worked.

Attached is a picture of the linings in question.

