Starter Lead Retermination - 1991-up Jeeps

This is probably going to be something you'll have to worry about when installing WiP mains on a later-model Jeep - so I thought it should be covered. Fortunately, the process is quite simple - and will take you about 15 minutes, if you take your time with it.

Note that on the starter end of the OEM lead, you will probably see a moulded rubber block with *two* ring lugs coming out of it - one large, and one small. The large one will be eliminated entirely (and replaced with a new mains cable from your kit,) and the small one is the one that needs to be reterminated.

Granted, these pictures won't be the best of quality, but they should get the point across, and they're taken on a "hobby" bench - hence the clutter.

Look at your OEM starter subharness - it should look something like this at the starter motor end:



That small-gage wire is the one we're interested in keeping. The large-gage wire will be removed entirely, and you're going to clip the small wire flush with the backside of the rubber block, thus:



And put a new ring lug on it. The wire is, as I recall, 12AWG - so you'll want a "blue" or a "yellow" sleeve (either should work,) but the "red" sleeve will be too small. Strip about 14" off the end of the lead, and install the new ring lug (you'll want a #10 ring for best fit - but use *nothing smaller*). You can leave the ring lug be, or squirt a little Ox-Gard on the wire before you install the lug, and then put a bit of heat-shrink sleeving over it all for a nice, clean connection:



Now, wasn't that easy? You're reterminating the original lead because there's some oddball OEM connector on the other end (I don't recall which,) and it's easier to just put a new ring lug on the bottom end than to replace that upper connector - cheaper as well.

Kelley's Works in Progress