McIntosh MC2505 and MC2105 Meter Brightness

We often see the McIntosh MC2505 and MC2105 with dark meters:



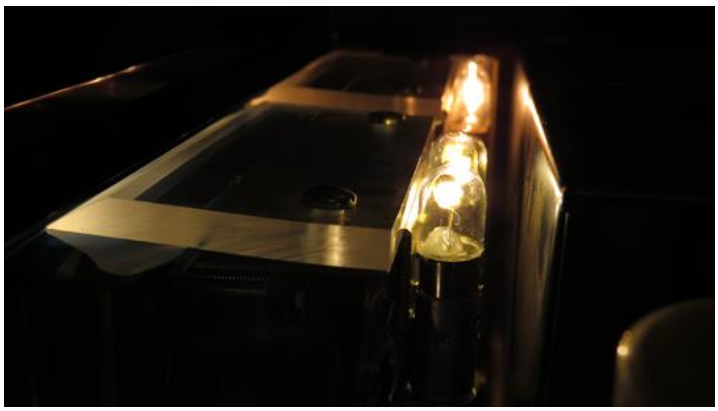


This is the way they were designed to look:

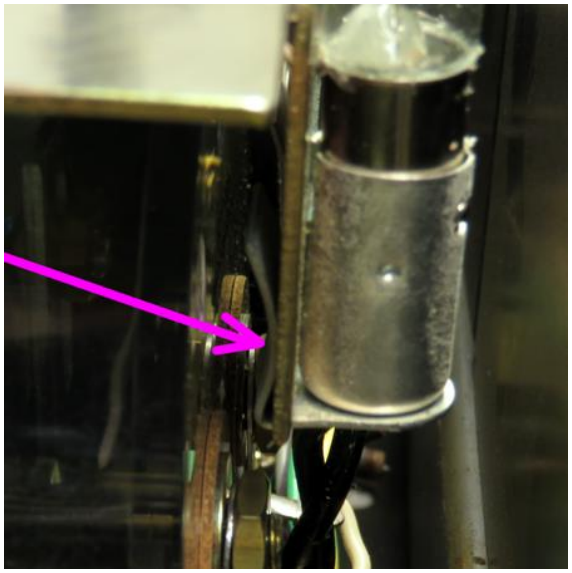


The meters are illuminated by a clear Plexiglas light bar. The bar is flat on the end toward the bulbs and angled at the other end. When the light travels through the light bar, it strikes the angled part and is deflected downward to light the meter.

For the light bar to work properly, the filament of the bulb must line up with the light bar:



Normally, bayonet mounts for the meter bulbs are firmly riveted or screwed to part of the chassis. In the case of the MC2505 and MC2105, the bayonet mounts have a spring clip that just clamps onto a piece of sheet metal:



To either insert or remove a bulb, you must press down and then rotate the bulb. The mere act of pressing the bulb down into the socket, makes the whole bracket move down slightly. Over the years with multiple bulb replacements, the bracket becomes low enough that the filament of the bulb no longer lines up with the light bar. Only a portion of the light from the bulb passes through the light bar – resulting in a poorly lit meter.

It is an easy fix! After replacing the bulbs, just press up on the bottom of the bayonet socket to return the bracket to the full up position.

If the meters don't quite match in terms of brightness, you can adjust the brackets downward or side-to-side to regulate how much light passes through the light bars.