

Barrie's Notes



Maintaining an MGB in the 21st Century



BARRIE'S NOTES ON THE MGB

Contents

Contents.....	3
Introduction.....	7
Modifications.....	8
Acknowledgements.....	8
Disclaimer.....	8
The MGB.....	9
Ten things you might not know about the MGB.....	11
Recommended Books.....	12
The 'B' Series Engine.....	13
Threads.....	13
Cylinder Head.....	13
Unleaded Fuel.....	14
Camshafts.....	15
Oil Pressure.....	16
Fuel System.....	17
SU Needle Chart.....	19
SU Carburettors.....	20
Pistons and Dashpots.....	20
Piston Spring.....	20
Centring the Jet.....	21
Float level.....	21
Bi Metallic Strip.....	22
Other problems.....	22
Checking the Mixture.....	22
Adjusting the Mixture.....	23
Adjusting the balance.....	24
Rear mounted fuel pump.....	24
Unleaded fuel.....	24
Bio Ethanol.....	25
Ignition.....	27
Distributors.....	27
Maintenance.....	27
Dwell Angle.....	27

BARRIE'S NOTES ON THE MGB

Replacement Distributors.....	28
Electronic Ignition.....	28
Spark Plugs.....	29
Coils.....	30
Gearbox.....	31
3-synchro.....	31
4-synchro.....	31
Differences in 4-synchro boxes	31
Common Faults.....	32
Exploded diagram of a 4-synchro gearbox	34
The V8 Gearbox	36
Dismantling a 4-Synchro Gearbox.....	36
Whilst the gearbox is in pieces	38
Speedometer drive gears	40
Re-Assembly	41
Rear oil seal.....	44
Electrics.....	45
Safety Warnings	45
Wiring – the Colour Code.....	45
Non-standard colours	46
Other Wiring Oddities.....	47
Omissions from the Workshop Manual	47
Common faults.....	47
Dynamo.....	49
Testing the Dynamo.....	49
Maintenance.....	49
Polarity.....	50
Alternator.....	50
Inertia Type Starter Motor.....	50
Pre-engaged Starter Motor	51
Voltage Regulator.....	52
SU Fuel Pump	53
Instruments.....	54
Conversion to Negative Earth.....	55

BARRIE'S NOTES ON THE MGB

Electrical Modifications	55
Front Suspension & Steering.....	57
History	57
Front Cross Member	57
Bearings	57
Lower wishbone bushes	57
Anti-roll bar	57
Front springs	58
King Pins and Trunnions	59
Steering Rack.....	61
Pinion end float.....	62
Rack damper.....	62
Inner ball joints	62
Shock Absorbers.....	62
Rear Suspension.....	63
Rear Axle	63
Oil leaks	63
Rear Springs	63
Rear Shock Absorbers	63
Rear Anti-roll Bar	64
Propshafts	64
Wheels and Tyres.....	65
Braking System.....	67
Front Discs	67
Rear Drums	67
Handbrake Cable.....	67
Threads	68
Chassis and Body.....	69
Front Suspension Cross-member.....	69
Inside the front wheel arch.....	69
Castle Section	70
Inside the boot	71
Sills	72
Fitting a full outer sill	73

BARRIE'S NOTES ON THE MGB

Inner sill	74
Spring hangers.....	74
Structural integrity	75
Main Chassis Cross-Member.....	76
Major Repairs	77
Doors and Hinges	77
Quarter Lights and Door Glass	78
Appendix (1) – MGB and MGBGT Chassis Numbering	79
Appendix (2) – Engine Numbers	81
Appendix (3) – UK Wiring Colour Code.....	82

