Parabolic rear springs correct spacers?

Good afternoon Gentlemen,

I have just purchased from a fellow V8 owner a pair of parabolic rear springs and Koni shock absorbers for MG rubber bumper GT (2171) they have never been fitted and come with a selection of packing shims. Has anyone fitted them to their cars and can confirm how many and where (top or bottom) they go in relation to the spring to establish he correct ride height, any help would be appreciated as I intend to fit over the Easter week end. Many thanks in advance.

Ian Temple

19 March 2008 @ 12:17

Under topic: V8

Parabolic rear springs correct spacers?

Hello Ian.

I have fitted parabolics to my chrome bumper V8 (0183), but I am still completing some other jobs so have not yet been able to try it on the road. It is not the easiest of jobs, getting the old springs off can be challenging as the front eye bolt is often seized solid.

I found fitting the rear shackle pin awkward as the pin was a very tight fit in the yellow urethane bushes supplied and the camber on the springs (at least on the ones I have) is I believe wrong. The rear eye of the spring wouldn't reach the rear shackle (due to the excessive camber). To overcome this I carefully jacked the spring in the middle, with a piece of hard wood sandwiched between the rear spring eye and the "chasis" rail to maintain the correct clearance, until the spring eye lined up with the shackle pin. The next problem was that the pin was a tight fit in the bush and initially would not go all the way through. I had to polish the pin and use some lubrication to get it through. If you have the standard rubber bushes this might not be a problem.

On the guestion of the spacers I have put 3 on top of the spring and 1 below. However the static ride height is too high at the back. Measuring from the wheel centre to the bottom of the chrome body strip at the rear was 16.25 inches, the same dimension at the front (with new front standard springs) was 15 inches. I believe I read somewhere that about 14.5 inches is ideal. So currently it is too high at the back. Whilst it should settle a bit I don't think it will loose nearly 2 inches. I could move the single bottom shim to the top of the spring but I don't think it will make much difference.

I would be interested in anyone else's experience as I am aware that there is a view that the parabolics won't take the torque of the V8 for extended periods, I believe there were some pictures published on this or another bulletin board a while back. Anyway I hope this has not put you off doing the job, in theory it sounds like a worthwhile mod. By the way think that parabolics should only be fitted in conjunction with telescopic dampers. Good luck

Malcolm Venables

19 March 2008 @ 20:26

Parabolic rear springs correct spacers?

Thanks for that Malcolm, I know its not a nice job as I did replace the rear springs on my 1800 MGB last year and as you say the front bolt is a swine. I had to heat it to get it out of the bush eye. I do have Koni telescopics to go with them, but im still unsure about correct spacing as its a rubber bumper V8, I will have to see. Thanks for the reply anyway.

Ian Temple

21 March 2008 @ 19:06

Parabolic rear springs correct spacers?

I have parabolic springs on my RV8 hybrid car, as the suspension dimensions are the same as the rubber bumper MGB I would suggest that the spacing would be the same. I have all the spacers above the spring plus an additional 30mm alloy spacer. The ride height is perfect and level. I have taken a photo of my set up and if you give me your email address I will send you a copy for reference. Hope this helps.

Pete Jevons

22 March 2008 @ 22:37

Parabolic rear springs correct spacers?

Yes i would appreciate any photos you might have, i have no alloy spacer with the kit only steel shims! might i have to source something? anyway email adress is iantemple30@hotmail.com

Ian Temple

26 March 2008 @ 16:33

Parabolic rear springs correct spacers?

I had them fitted on my V8 for about 18 months (3-4k miles). They didn't like the torque, check out my photos. Might just have been a bad batch I suppose. I got a refund and replacement BGT V8 standard leaf springs instead.

http://www.jimmcglynn.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/parab/index.html

Jim McGlvnn

29 March 2008 @ 14:23

Parabolic rear springs correct spacers?

Hi Jim, got your photos and thank you very much, that is a little concerning!! talk about having second thoughts. Is yours a standard car engine wise or are you putting huge horse power through the rear axle. I would appreciate any one else's comments on parabolic spring and their failure rate!!!

Ian Temple

30 March 2008 @ 12:16

Parabolic rear springs correct spacers?

lan as I suggested in my email with the photo I intend to fit an anti tramp bar set up, which will eliminate the wind up problem Jim experienced with his parabolic springs. The RV8 original set up has a single leaf tapered spring with anti tramp bars, and as this set up has been proved reliable over a number of years I would suggest it will work ok with the thinner parabolic springs. Any one else out there who has this set up on their V8 or MGC?

Pete Jevons

30 March 2008 @ 13:43

Parabolic rear springs correct spacers?

My car is a conversion, running an SD1 engine in standard form and a Holley carb. I raced it once at Santa Pod and it performed exactly as you'd expect a standard GT V8, so probably circa 150 bhp. I agree about the anti tramp bars. In my opinion, you need them with Parabolics on a V8; there is just not enough metal in parabolics to handle the torque. Hope that helps.

Jim McGlynn

31 March 2008 @ 20:50

Parabolic rear springs correct spacers?

Thank you all (Malcolm Jim and Peter) my minds at rest now, so it looks like anti tramp bars are on the shopping list, any suggestions as to where to buy, Moss have them I see or would a set from a RV8 be a more in keeping solution?

Ian Temple

31 March 2008 @ 22:15

Parabolic rear springs correct spacers?

Ian I am hoping to get a set from Moss in the near future. I was advised by them at Stoneleigh that they were not in stock. Not sure of the current situation. SC Parts also list them as does Brown and Gammons. Going down the RV8 route would be enormously expensive plus the bracket at the front shackle end would have to be fabricated and welded. I just hope Moss have them soon.

Pete Jevons

31 March 2008 @ 22:43

Parabolic rear sprngs correct spacers?

lan

Picked up the anti tramp bars from Moss today, they are back in stock. The good news is that they have a sale on with a 12.5% discount.

Pete Jevons

10 April 2008 @ 22:48

Parabolic rear springs correct spacers?

Hi Pete, just seen your post, i will contact Moss first thing Monday Mornning, hope there still discounted.thanks again for all your advise and help, ive just done the MOT on my other halfs Riley Elf so she can use it this summer (Ha) so its out of the garage and the V8s in now. I will start stripping the rear springs off tomorow (sunday) so its back on the road next week end so i will report as to the difference. thanks again.

Ian Temple

19 April 2008 @ 18:32

Parabolic rear springs correct spacers?

I rang Moss, what a disaster!! I got a complete Muppet on the phone who knew nothing but tried anyway to help (tried my patience more like) after 15 minutes of him asking, me telling while referring to their website while in front of me, him looking, then asking again, me telling again, him asking a "collogue" me confirming AGAIN!! Him repeating the part numbers I have just told him, him confirming the prices, giving me a total and then "wallop" he tells me there out of stock!!!! Can some on please advise where I can get anti tramp bars for my factory rubber bumper V8. Very disillusioned with Moss, it shouldn't be that hard work to make both an enquiry and then hopefully a sale

Ian Temple

29 April 2008 @ 21:47

Thread from V8BB Archives

http://www.v8registerdata.net/viewreply.asp?id=2053&mtid=&topicid=5384#TOP5384

Jim McGlynn's webpage

http://www.jimmcglynn.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/parab/index.html