



### Trying to find a good set of Dunlop composite wheels – a member's experience

A V8 member was seeking a good set of Dunlop composites for his MGBGTV8 and posted a "wanted" advert on the V8 Website. Here he relates how his search went.

When I brought my V8 I wasn't aware that finding a set of Dunlop alloys would be quite so difficult. Reading an [article](#) on the V8 Bulletin Board made me realise the complexity of the problem. I was offered five wheels for restoration (see below) from a fellow V8 member, and I paid £600. They are usable and presentable, from a distance, could be cleaned up with polish and refreshed with black paint. They would show their age but would benefit from restoration. I brought them having not completely given up on finding a company that might be able to restore them.



Top, wheel from the five Dunlop composites (see above) purchased from the first V8 member responding to the "spares wanted" advert

This was when I contacted the V8 Webmaster to change the "wanted" advert to try and find a set of **reconditioned** Dunlop composites. Then I was contacted by another V8 member and I went to see him and paid £2,200 for four restored wheels (see the two photos, above right). He had sold an MGBGTV8 and for whatever reason didn't put these wheels on his car for the sale! The wheels were purchased eleven years ago and he thinks they were reconditioned by MWS who sadly ceased offering a restoration service for Dunlop composites several years ago.

From my research of the articles on the V8 Website I realised I wasn't going to find better or cheaper original wheels for my V8. I have reservations over whether the rivets will 'seal' so maybe I will



Refurbished Dunlop composite purchased as a set of four need to use inner tubes. The V8 member selling the four wheels to me has looked into whether he could restore these wheels as he had the presses, but realised this was extremely specialised work and never pursued it.

It's been quite a journey getting a good set of Dunlop composites but at least I now have a set of originals to try. I will now save up and get some tyres and see if they can be balanced and seal. I am worried the wheels may be too good to put on my car and I may end up with a set of all-alloy lookalikes from Clive Wheatley next year and fit them so I can save these for best. I can see a market for 'new' 14 inch all-alloy lookalike wheels coming very soon for around the price of the 15 inch he is offering!

Footnote: Clive Wheatley and the specialist wheel manufacturer he has worked with to create the 15 inch all-alloy lookalikes have investigated whether they could produce a 14 inch all-alloy wheel but have found there is not enough room for the standard front brake calliper. For the time being that sourcing option has halted.

Photos of the first set of five Dunlop composite wheels



Wheel 1



Wheel 3 (with Wheel 4 on page 1)



Wheel 2



Wheel 5



<< Alongside is a close up of the condition of one of the wheels in the first set of five wheels purchased from a fellow V8 member.