

Barrie's Notes



Maintaining an MGB GT V8 in the 21st Century

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Many MGB enthusiasts have enjoyed reading the tips and advice on maintaining an MGB in a neat A5 sized 82 page book called Barrie's Notes written and illustrated by Barrie Jones. It sold well through the Club's online shop. Barrie has now produced a new book of his notes for the

MGBGT V8 with useful information and tips on maintaining the model. Publication has recently been launched on the V8 website and copies are available on the Online V8 Shop.

Barrie Jones is very well known to V8 enthusiasts for his fascinating series of reports of a major rebuild of an MGBGT V8 he found parked behind a garden shed which featured on the V8 website a few years ago. Those reports were an eye opener for many V8 enthusiasts and in 2013 Barrie brought the car to MGLive! for display in the V8 Marquee where it attracted a great deal of interest.

The book highlights useful information on the V8 engine – threads, corrosion, cylinder heads, the rocker shafts and hydraulic tappets, oil pressure and engine mounts. He touches on ethanol in motor fuel and the undesirable effects on rubber fuel hose and the absorption of water, particularly when a car is stored over winter. His coverage of ignition components and maintenance are helpful and he concludes his car is noticeably smoother and more responsive since fitting an electronic ignition package. Ten pages of notes on the gearbox and overdrive are good although he recommends removing overdrive on third gear but recognises others feel it is an attractive feature, but one that needs to be used carefully.

His coverage of electrics on a V8 ends

with some suggested modifications – the popular replacement of the sealed beams with a halogen upgrade, a relay on the twin horns to overcome difficulties with the horn push mechanism, rerouting the twin cooling fan wiring to a spare terminal on the alternator and adding a blade fuse, and upgrading the single speed heater fan to the later two speed spec. There is no mention of the benefits of a single 12 volt battery conversion to replace the original twin six volt arrangement and no mention of the addition of a simple blade fuse on the overdrive circuit to the solenoid. He covers suspension and brakes well including brief comments on modifications like anti-tramp bars, castor reduction and rear anti-roll bars.

The book ends with 12 pages covering some well-illustrated concerns over the structure of the car and corrosion of the chassis and body based on his experience of two major rebuilds involving cill replacements and more.

The appendices including three pages with the V8 wiring colour codes and combinations and a very useful fault diagnosis checklist over two and half pages are both likely to be of practical use for most owners at some stage.

It's a book written in an informed but modest style with a wealth of useful information and tips – an essential book. Softback pp82 over 22 photos
Victor Smith