



LHD USA Spec V8 bodyshell built as an MGBGT V8

Mike Authers has been making good progress with restoring a rare MGBGT V8 built by Cliff Humphries using a bodyshell that had been sitting outside the MG Plant for two years before Cliff managed to buy it for the princely sum of £100. You can see it has the US indicator repeaters on the sides of both front and rear wings. Mike bought the car from Cliff and has been carrying out a restoration and says "I've been working all week on the V8 and it's now running and the brakes are all changed with just a few hoses to finish off. A lot of work was needed to bring the original Dunlop composite wheels back to a decent standard!"



The Factory had two LHD USA Spec V8 bodyshells built, these were painted and trimmed at Cowley and fully glassed. But when management shelved the idea of an export model these two bodies sat outside for two years before Cliff managed to buy one. He then set about sourcing the other parts needed to fully build the car. A V8 engine and gearbox were bought from the Development Department for another £100 and a V8 rear axle for £20. The engine had only been run on the dyno in Development and produced 148bhp. It has an unusual engine number and red rocker covers, so it was different from standard production engines. Mike has subsequently discovered that the engine number means it was produced by Buick and shipped to Rover where they gave these engines a 2158 number, meaning 215 cubic inches and 8 cylinders.



See Mike's earlier article on this MGBGT V8. [More](#)