

Routine checks on brakes are well worthwhile

Thankfully classic cars continue to have an annual MOT test but not every problem with an ageing car is revealed by that test as a note from Steve Newton highlights.

When an RV8 came in for an oil change recently Steve said "what about checking the brakes" as his routine is to remove the wheels and then the brake drums so he can clean them out and check the brake linings, adjust the handbrake and check the two pistons on the single brake cylinders are working well without leaks. The owner mentioned the car had successfully passed its annual MOT test with an "all clear" only 7 to 10 days earlier but when the car was in the workshop Steve removed the wheels and the rear brake drums and found the lining on one brake shoe had broken loose from the metal shoe. Steve called the owner over who was shocked to see the damaged lining.

It seems the linings were attached by applying a bonding material applied through holes in the linings but the bond between the lining and metal shoe had failed. The moral for the story a routine maintenance check is essential to ensure you can pick up emerging problems like this and replacement parts fitted to ensure a key safety item like brakes are working well.



Brake linings in trouble – they are suffering from a failure of the bond between the lining and the metal shoe. This dangerous condition is not revealed by the brake test on the rollers which is part of the annual MOT test. It's essential the annual service, whether carried out by the owner or by a service garage, includes the removal of the wheels and an inspection of the brake linings and brake cylinders.