

More on fitting Electric Door Mirrors to an RV8



Following RV8NOTE375 contributed by John Taylor and John Cumming, which described how the RV8 can have electrically controlled and heated mirrors, Tim Smith owner of Nightfire Red 1218 has added notes from his experience of fitting the mirrors.

Part Numbers and Purchase of Second-hand Mirrors

Most people will wish to purchase second-hand mirrors for around £25 rather than new at well over £100 each. The best way is to buy a pair of mirrors from the same scrapped MG TF. If buying the mirrors singularly be careful to purchase the correct RHD driver and passenger mirrors. This may seem obvious however more than one eBay seller believes that the driver's side and passenger's side are the same, which they are not. There are 5 different parts:

Part Number	RHD or LHD	RH (Driver) or LH (Passenger)	Mirror Glass
CRB110160 XXX	RHD	Driver	Convex
CRB110170 XXX	LHD	Driver LHD	Convex
CRB110180 XXX	RHD (actually also for Australia)	Passenger	Convex
CRB110190 XXX	LHD	Passenger LHD	Convex
CRB110200 XXX	RHD Aus	Driver	Flat?

The two mirrors are similar but the passenger side is constructed to allow for the greater angle the mirror glass has to sit at to provide the correct rearward view

from the driver seat. The two required are **CRB110160 XXX** and **CRB110180 XXX** where XXX is the colour code - for example **COQ** for Nightfire Red.

Colour

It is possible to take apart the mirror units to allow the coloured shells to be changed or for ease of spraying if the correct colour cannot be purchased. The colour codes for each RV8 are printed on the VIN plate.

MG RV8 bodywork colours

The standard and optional colours and the paint codes are set out below. Please note each paint code shown below is prefixed by "BLVC":

Paint colour codes	Paint Code	VIN Colour Code
Standard colours:		
Black	BLVC644	PMF
BRG	BLVC617	HNA (M)
Caribbean Blue	BLVC911	UME (P)
Flame Red	BLVC818	COF
Nightfire Red	BLVC916	COQ (P)
White Gold	BLVC933	GMK (M)
White Gold (later cars)		GMN (M)
Optional colours:		
Le Mans Green	BLVC1202	HPD (P)
Old English White	BLVC1205	NNX
Oxford Blue	BLVC1203	JSJ (P)
Woodcote Green	BLVC1204	HPE (P)

Where (M) denotes metallic and (P) pearlescent paint. The codes are cross-referenced to the BLVC code as it sometimes easier for some paint suppliers. See RV8 Workshop Note 125 for more information on RV8 paint colour codes.

Control switch

This is a common Rover MG TF or Discovery 2 part which should cost about £7 on eBay, usually cheaper when listed from a Discovery. If possible buy it with connecting cables. The switch is operated by turning the "joystick" either to the 10 o'clock or 2 o'clock position where it will control the left hand or right hand mirror. The switch controls both horizontal and vertical movement of the mirror but not the heating elements.

Heating elements

These can be powered from the same "on with ignition" supply used for the mirror control but as mentioned above does require another switch; Tim Smith chose a "push on switch with an inbuilt LED.

Mounting the control knob and heater switch

Tim mounted these with the heater switch at the top on a simple home made right angle bracket cut and drilled. As the bracket was deeper than others have used

More on fitting Electric Door Mirrors to an RV8



for mounting just the control knob it was fitted by the right hand door pillar to avoid it being near to the drivers left knee. Fitting used an existing hole in the car metalwork but did need a hole to be drilled through the inside trim. The bracket was coved in leatherette matching the RV8 trim.

Cables and looms and connection

The door mirrors come with about 300mm of cable finished with a plug. This plug, shaved down slightly can be threaded into the body of the door. There it can be connected to a piece of scrap loom from a TF. It is best then to tape the plug and socket together as they may be a loose fit if the plug has been reduced in size.

Loom

It is best to purchase the relevant part of a scrap TF loom to obtain the relevant sockets for the mirrors and a plug to go into the control switch. This loom can be extended if required. To operate the system Tim connected it to the radio power cable which gives live with ignition.