



Spax conversion on an MGBGTV8

In his latest update on the rebuild project which has proved popular with fellow members, Barrie Jones had a useful item on Spax telescopic shock absorber conversions on the V8 model. Barrie says that from past experience, he knows the bottom mounting must also be modified otherwise the lower

fixing bolt will foul on the V8 exhaust pipe. Instead of the spacer supplied by Spax, he has used a regular thin 12mm flat washer. He also turned the fixing bolt around, because the head of the bolt is thinner than a locknut, giving more clearance.

The Spax telescopic shock absorber conversion is not straightforward on an

MGBGTV8 because the kit was designed for a chrome bumper 1800cc MGB. On a V8 the front spring mountings are of the 'rubber bumper' design and the V8 rear springs have an extra leaf. As a result, he found that the Spax shock absorbers did not reach the lower fixing points. His solution was to fit the nearside top mounting bracket to the offside of the V8 and vice versa. This moves the top pivots backwards so that each shock absorber now sits more vertically than when fitted to a regular MGB. Note, on a rubber bumper V8 he thinks you would need to mount each bracket upside down.

Barrie also found the rear brakes needed some major work. When he removed one of the rear drums he found it was badly scored as it appeared the car had been driven for some time with the rear brake shoes completely worn out, so the copper rivets had scored two deep grooves into the drum. Worse than that, the brakes had then been fitted with new shoes, and the badly scored drum then proceeded to ruin the new shoes – two large ridges formed in the lining. When components reach this stage, it is best to throw them away so he fitted new drums, new shoes, new cylinders and new adjusters. However when he fitted the new adjusters, he could feel that something was wrong - one of the nuts just kept on turning. Here is the reason - one brand new adjuster with a stripped thread! Barrie says "I do worry about the quality of some newly re-manufactured parts."