



## Origins of the original Dunlop composite wheels on the MGBGTV8

The Dunlop composite wheel, with an alloy centre with 10 trapezoidal holes and a chromed steel rim, is a particularly strong wheel and in the 1970s it was the type of feature you would have more likely seen on exotic sports cars. They advertised them as their "Formula D4 alloy/steel composite wheel" to "give your car real personality!" In 1973 MG chose these distinctive wheels for their new V8 powered MGBGT model launched in August that year. Above is one of Dunlop's adverts in Motor Sport in March 1970.

Peter Beadle (formerly parts manager with University Motors, then with Sprite & Midget Centre and later Moss Europe) recalls a replica centre alloy casting for the composite wheel for the MGBGTV8 was made by Specialist Car Products back in the 1980s & 90s on which MWS then fitted the chrome rim. Peter adds the tooling and patterns for those wheel castings are now long gone.

Peter adds "a similar looking Dunlop composite wheel was used on the 1972-1977 Reliant Scimitar GTE (SE5/a and SE6), although this version of the wheel was wider at 14 x 5.5 inches and sported different centre caps. Even with these differences, the Scimitar wheels will fit the

MGBGTV8. With the wider wheel the offset on the steel rim was greater than on the MGBGTV8 version and the machined profile of the Scimitar GTE wheel differs from the V8 wheel as the raised part of the trapezoidal cut out in the alloy centre comes to a point on the GTE, whereas on the V8 it is radiused."

These Dunlop composite wheels were also used on the 751 special "Jubilee" MGBGTs built between April and June of 1975 for the home market. The "Jubilee" cars were produced to celebrate the 50th anniversary of MG sports car production. They were finished in new Racing Green paint, with gold body side stripes, a numbered dash plaque and Dunlop composite wheels, whose machined silver and chromed surfaces were painted in a gold finish.







## FORMULA D4

Light alloy/ steel styled wheels Here's the latest concept is styled-wheel technology which achieves the ultimate in elegance. By utilising the versatility of cast aluminium. Duslop brings you the most advanced 'genenium' wheel available. Ac combination of cast alloy centres and storting, these wheels are all extra wide to improve road holding. Most sizes accept fat tree. Matt black and polished alloy centres with chrome plated steet rims, chromed muts and attractive Duslop hub caps.

DAINLER Severeign 2.8 & 4,2 Saloons (1989 onwards) V8. 250 Saloon Severeign Saloon (Up until Oct. 1989) FORD	6JK - 15 6JK - 15	A	1.0101017
	63K +15	A	LPSSE2 LPSSE2 LPSSE2
Cortina (1906 onwards) 1300; 1600; 1600ff; G.T.; Letus: Estate Corsair 1500; G.T.; V4; 2000; 2000ff;	5jJ : 13	n	LP948
Estate	513 +33	.13	LP948
Capri 1300; 1600; 2000; 2000 including G.T.'s HILL,MAN	51J +33	- 13	1,1948
Minx; Minx Estate; Hunter (1967 onwards all models) Hillman G.T. (1969 onwards)	5 3 :13 5 3 :13	n n	LPSH
HUMBER Sceptre (1967 onwards)	51J × 13	n	1,1948
JAGUAR XJ 6 Series 2.8 & 4.2 Saloons E Type Series 4.2 & 2 ÷ 2 200 Saloon	6JK + 15 6JK + 15 6JK + 15 6JK + 15	A A A	LP908 2 LP908 2 LP908 2 LP908 2
OPEL Kadett/B; S; Coupe S (1995 onwards) Fastback Limousine Sport	53 -13	c	LP950
(1967 onwards) Kadett Estate (1966 onwards) Ballye Kadett Beknyd Coupe (1963 to 1965)	22 : II	0000	LP900 LP900 LP900 LP900
Bekord B-Coupe/L5; 1.7; 1.9; (1966 onwards)	53 -13	e	LP900
Bekord C/Coupe/L5; L7; L9; 2.2 (1967 onwards)	53 -13	c	LF900
SINGER Gazelle (1907 onwards)	5)3 13	В	LP908
Vogue Saloon; Estate (1907 onwards both models)	5(3 -13	n	LF948
SUNBEAM Rapier & Rapier H.120 (1908 onwards both models) Alpine (1988 onwards)	5[3 : 13 5[3 : 13	n B	LF948 LP948
VOL.VO 142; 144 & 145 Series	5J = 15	A	LP008

Formula D4 wheels with 8 trapezoidal holes were made for Ford and Rootes Group cars but the 10 trapezoidal holes version with a 4 stud fixing seems to have been used only on MGBGTV8s and Jubilee MGBGTs and also on Scimitars. Peter says "however I have seen an Austin 1800 fitted with a 5 stud version of this D4 wheel - perhaps a "Styling Project" which never went into production?"



## What options are available if you have corrosion on Dunlop composite wheels?

Preventative measures to avoid rusting of the chromed rims

Regularly polish the rims and spray the wheels with WD40 when parked in the garage – it will displace any moisture and the oil in the mix will form a waterproof coating to help resist corrosion.

WD40

£7 Halfords

Halfords

Complete restoration of original Dunlop composite wheels

Skilled process: splitting the steel rim from the alloy centre, marking them so they go back together exactly as they come apart, re-chroming the rim, refurbishing the alloy centre, reassembly and careful balancing.

Renowheel

£600 per wheel Renowheel

Renowheel

Refurbishment with rust removal and a polished silver paint coating

Refurbishment by grit blasting the rim to remove corrosion, filling any cavities from the rust removal and finishing the wheel with a self-etching baked primer and a polished silver paint coating.

Solent Wheels

£75 per wheel Solent Wheels

**Solent Wheels** 

Buy a set of new all-alloy Dunlop composite lookalike composite wheels

All-alloy wheel that looks very close to the original steel and alloy composite wheel. Only available in a 15" size, aimed principally at the MGV8 Conversions market. A practical & affordable option.

Clive Wheatley mbv8parts

£446 per wheel Clive Wheatley mgv8sparts

Clive Wheatley

Advert for a set of used Dunlop composite wheels in good condition

Adverts on the "Spares Wanted" webpage on the V8 Website have produced results in the past as a number of current and former V8 owners have had individual Dunlop composite wheels or a set for sale.

Spares for Sale or Wanted

Free ad for V8 members Adverts on V8 website

Wanted advert

Replacement Minilite die cast aluminium alloy wheels

Original Minilite wheel, was probably the most successful competition wheel in the 1960s and 70s, is being produced in an affordable aluminium alloy to that original design. The style is never out of fashion.

Minilite

£650 (set of 4) Minilite

Minilite