

Fitting an oil thermostat to an MGBV8



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Ralph Coulson from Somerset describes how he installed a full-flow oil thermostat on his V8 Roadster. (Dec 10)

I installed a full-flow oil thermostat to my V8 Roadster conversion two years ago and I believe it's a worthwhile modification. It made sense to me not to pass cold oil through the oil cooler before the sump oil reached working temperature.

I used a Mocal thermostat with male threaded unions, 1/2" BSP (Moss type TT29602). This necessitated new braided hoses which were made up to my specification by a local hydraulic hose supply company. The oil-cooling radiator fitted to my car is 9 row and under-slung in 'Rubber Bumper' fashion. To complete the installation 5 hoses were required and the lengths I have specified apply to installations with an under-slung oil cooler.

Hose lengths and designations, see photograph above right:

| | | |
|-----|---------|--------------------------|
| 'A' | 7 1/2" | Oil filter to thermostat |
| 'B' | 12 3/8" | Thermostat to engine |
| 'C' | 10 1/2" | Thermostat to cooler |
| 'D' | 11" | Engine to oil filter |
| 'E' | 22 1/8" | Thermostat to cooler |



For top mounted oil coolers hoses C & E would need to be shorter, by the depth of the cooler and terminate with 90deg' elbows.

Fitting is straightforward with the thermostat positioned just behind the grille, see photograph above left and supported by the two braided hoses A & B. The thermostat is very light and the braided hoses are quite capable of supporting it.

Finally I fitted an oil temperature gauge, with the sensor at the oil filter. When the engine is fully warmed, 90deg C is maintained under all conditions.

So far the installation has been tested by two long motorway trips from Somerset to Scotland, two runs on the rolling road at MGLive! meetings at Silverstone and an MGOT track day at Castle Combe. Therefore any fears I may have had about oil starvation have been safely 'put to bed'.

Mocal website: www.thinkauto.com

See also Ralph Coulson's article on his V8 Roadster:
www.v8register.net/articles/RalphCoulson111007.pdf

See also Rene Coulson's report on their track day at Castle Combe
www.v8register.net/subpages/trackdaycastlecombereport070109.htm

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