

How do you get the windscreen and rear window chrome inserts back into the rubber surround? – V8NOTE421



Conor O'Brien posted a request for advice on how you get the chrome trim inserts back into the rubber window surrounds on an MGBGT V8. Some useful advice followed from two fellow members. (Jan 11)

Conor said "I'm hoping that someone can point me in the right direction regarding the chrome inserts for the front and rear screens on my V8. I'm having Glacier White 1211 resprayed at the moment and wondering if there is an equivalent to V8NOTE173 from Volume 4 that explains how to get the chrome inserts back into the rubber surround? By all accounts it's a tricky job. By the way it took me a month to get my hands on a set of inserts for the rear screen - they are out of production for the last six months."

Dave Wellings responded saying there is no single way of doing this. You do need plenty of lubrication, I prefer a silicon based product although WD40 would do it. Mask the paintwork off with several layers of masking tape,

but be careful if the paint is fresh. Do the rear screen first as it's much easier than the front, being effectively curved in two dimensions instead of three. The rubber insert can be shoved in with nothing more than strong fingers. When it comes to the shiny finishers, it will be easier in a warm environment as it softens the rubber. Enter the side closest to the paintwork, then when you start to tease the opposite side in, if you slip, you'll get the glass, not the paint. With practice the rear screen can be done in an hour comfortably. But the front is a different ball game.

Start with the corner sections on the front screen, then the verticals. Finally the upper and lower rails. Mark the centre of the rail and rubber because it's very easy to work these off centre and have to start all over again. My tool of choice is a stainless dental tooth lifter, but a small screwdriver with the corners rounded off will do the job. I have also seen it done with wooden tools.

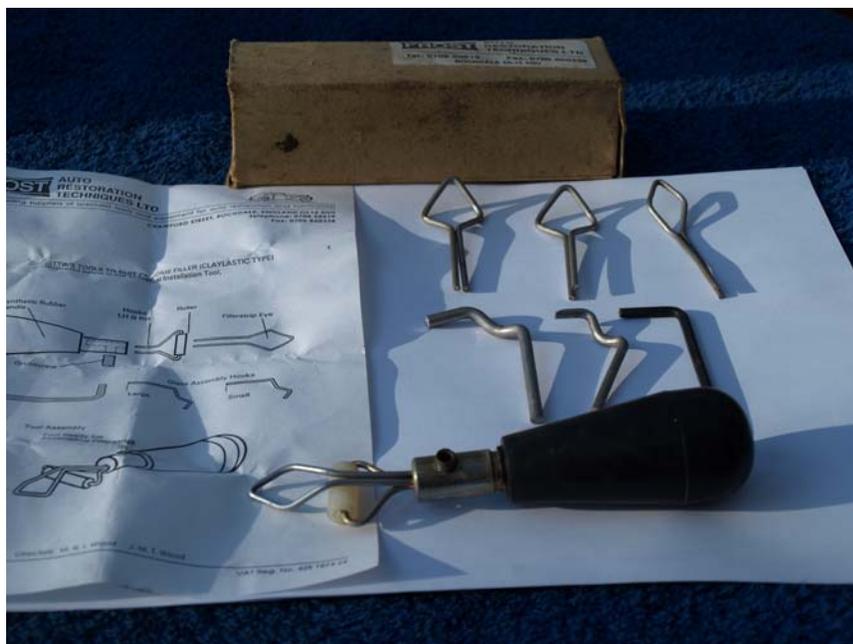
In 1982 I had my MGBGT screen replaced by 'Autoglass' after it was badly cracked. When the operator arrived, he was relieved that it wasn't an MGB Roadster. In less than an hour he had replaced the screen and re-used all the rubbers and shiny finishers. His tool was a small screwdriver. As he teased the finishers out without damaging the rubber, they curled round like pigs tails. He said that this was normal, and that they were easier to refit when curled than when flat. It was a very impressive performance from a skilled fitter. Incidentally the original rubber seals were supplied by C O H Baines (a Google search will bring them up). That's where I purchased my last set of new rubbers. Good luck.

Pete Jevons added you might have a look in the Frost Restorations' catalogue as they used to do a set of special tools for inserting the chrome surrounds, I have a set and have used them three times so far – see main photo alongside. The quality of the rubber windscreen surround is the key to success, there were some very inferior quality products around which made the inserting of the chrome nigh on impossible. Dave's technique is the only one that works plus loads of patience and lots of lubrication. It is also worth filing the leading edges of the trims to avoid the sharp corners snagging the narrow channel in the rubber. If you want to borrow the tools call me on 01344 457726.

Getting hold of rear window chrome strips is a difficulty because they are at present "no longer available". When I called Brown & Gammons they told me there is only one source for the chrome strips (which as you will know are decorative and not essential for a good weatherproof window) but the supplier has had problems with the tooling so he has not produced

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any new chrome strips recently. So for the time being your best source is scrap yards and secondhand spares dealers.



Matteo Masi was interested to know where Conor O'Brien got his replacement chrome trims from. Conor replied "I got them from a place called Just MGs in Belfast - one half was a new item that he happened to have in stock (his last one!) and the other was a used one he took out from a scrapped MGBGT. It took me a long time to get my hands on them! The website for Just MGs is: <http://www.mgpartsireland.co.uk/>. Lawrence is the guy I was dealing with there - I found him to be extremely helpful, and he is worth a try, but I doubt that he has any other ones. I also tried B&G, Moss, MGB Hive, MGOC Spares, MG Breakers and lots of others. The other item I ran into difficulty with was the MGBGT Badge for the tailgate - there were no new ones in stock anywhere even at a price of £38 so I ended up buying one on eBay for £10 that required a bit of work.

I'm attaching a few pictures of my MGBGTTV8 with its new coat of Glacier White for you to have a look at. V8s are starting to get quite a following here in Ireland, relatively speaking anyway, with a grand total of seven now in the Irish club.

