



Fitting a Hoyle independent rear suspension upgrade on an RV8

Steve Newton at Clive Wheatley mgv8parts has fitted a number of Hoyle rear suspension upgrade kits and provides an outline of what is involved.

The key feature of the ingenious Hoyle independent rear suspension upgrade, designed and supplied by John Hoyle, is it bolts directly on to existing mounting points on an RV8 or MGB bodyshell. Hoyle supplies the subframe assembly, special short half shafts and drive flanges with the MG stud pattern. He can also supply the Sierra differential, hubs, CV joints and disc brakes with new alloy callipers. As the Factory specification for the RV8 included a Quaife differential most enthusiasts go for a Ford Sierra limited slip differential. Most of the Ford parts are supplied new and the differentials are re-built to "as new" condition. Clive Wheatley says "if you decide to find your own differential then do doublecheck the diff ratio before buying a Sierra unit although it is safer if John Hoyle supplies it." The subsequent sale of the original RV8 back axle as a complete unit can generate a useful sum which can partly offset the cost of the Hoyle upgrade.

The first stage of the installation is the removal of the exhaust system and then the existing back axle, springs, shock absorbers and their mounts to the chassis. This involves disconnecting the two flexible brake hoses connecting to the brass T union over the back axle. The handbrake linkage is removed right back to the connection at the bottom of the handbrake lever. The flow and return fuel lines have to be cut at a point above the axle.

The next stage sees the Hoyle subframe offered up and bolted on to the existing damper and leaf spring eye fixing points. With an RV8 installation Steve Newton notes you have to "ding" the battery box in a couple of places, or make some small cut-outs, as the box interferes with the heads of some of the bolts fixing the Hoyle suspension frame. At this stage the subframe will need to be centralised and may need shims to do that. Hoyle supply shims with their kit. The fuel pipes have to be reconnected below the top tube of the subframe assembly.

Also included in the