



V8

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MGBGTV8 – Rubber or Chrome Bumper?

This month Richard Claydon has been in touch with a brief history of his association with MGs, in general and V8s in particular. Richard's story follows.



"My relationship with MGs started in 2000 when we bought a Midget for my wife. I was quite taken by the little car; it was a joy to drive but I hankered for its bigger brother. I soon found a great looking MGBGT 1800 that we ran for a few months. I started to investigate a few small blemishes and as I dug deeper it became very apparent that the car was a masterpiece of fibreglass and filler! Not to be deterred I made



plans to begin the restoration process. My mechanical skills aren't too shabby as on leaving school in 1981 I undertook an apprenticeship as a mechanic. (a proper 'old school' apprenticeship). On completing this, I decided to take a different route and joined the London Fire Brigade in which I served for 30 years! However, I digress. Needless to say, during my time in the Brigade, I've kept my hand in, working on a whole range of older vehicles. The GT was slowly progressing when I was offered a very



solid but decidedly shabby factory V8. We ran this for about a year, but due to a relocation from Cambridge to London, we had to sell all the old cars. Since then, we've had a plethora of classic cars. I still have an ex works rally Hillman Imp and a 1965 Cooper S works replica. Over the last couple of years, we've gone back to MGs. Initially I bought a lovely Pageant Blue Rubber



Damask 445. Retore or not restore?
 Bumper GT and soon found another V8 in need of a light restoration and recommissioning. This is 445 in Damask. Whilst that is progressing (or not!) I felt the need to have a V8 to drive rather sooner. Thanks to the wonders of the internet, I found a very nice rubber number factory car (2166). It's not a standard colour and it does have leather seats but we love it. We're currently making the decision whether to get 445 restored or to let her go. The jury's currently out on that one for now!.