



V8

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V8 Gear Lever Issues



Nick Collingridge posted on the V8BB recently that he was having troubles with the gear lever on his V8 jumping out of reverse and rattling under hard acceleration. Mike Dixon posted that turning the gaiter around may solve the

'jumping out of reverse' issue (as he had experienced the same problem) but this did not solve Nick's problem. On closer inspection Nick found that the rubber boot or grommet (beneath the leather gaiter on all V8s and Bs) was very thick and hence, too springy. I contacted Nick and shared my experience that the rubber boots on earlier Bs (at least in my experience) were of thinner rubber and hence, a good second hand one may offer a solution.

In the meantime, Nick cut his original 'stiff' boot in half, horizontally, along one of the pleats and although this hasn't entirely addressed the issue, the split boot is a lot better, as the jumping out of gear is considerably reduced. The noise reduction function doesn't seem to be too much affected either. However, this is not seen as a long-term solution.

V8 Workshop Note 279 explains the problem and states that this is not a new issue and not uncommon amongst V8s. The late Geoff Allen (the former V8 Historian & Archivist, who worked in the MG Rectification Department) added to this note: "I think it is more likely to be caused by the gaiter than anything more serious inside the gearbox." This, in turn, suggests that Nick is heading in the right direction.

Has anyone else encountered similar problems on their V8?
Regarding the issue of the gear lever rattling on acceleration, Nick has yet to work out the cause. Thoughts tend towards the anti-rattle plunger and spring, so more investigation will be required on this one.

Clive Wheatley Classic Car Show, Sunday 10th May

The event will take place at High Grosvenor, near Bridgenorth in Shropshire. Clive says "We will have use of the grounds for a display of MG V8 cars and the use of the garden rooms for refreshments." This will be a great social event and an opportunity for V8 Register members to meet one another. With tickets at £10 it will be an excellent day out. Note, all proceeds will go to the 'Breast Cancer Now' charity. Booking details are on the 'More' webpage.

V8 Tour 2026, Peak District

The 2026 Tour takes place between Monday 8th and Thursday 11th June 2026. Bookings have been strong so if you'd like to join in the fun, please check availability soon.

Further details can be found on the 'More' webpage at

<https://www.v8register.net/more.htm>