



V8

Victor Smith 0208 392 9434
victorsmith@v8register.net
www.v8register.net



RV8 rear lamp repair

An increasing number of RV8 owners have reported damage to their rear lamps from a scrape or an impact by a careless driver of another vehicle and then they have found a replacement lamp unit is no longer available at present from parts suppliers. The good news is Clive Wheatley mgv8parts has been working with a specialist in the West Midlands to create the necessary

tooling for the manufacture of a new supply of the lamps. The progress has been frustrated by the pestilence but with the gradual release from lockdown the project is making good progress.

In the meantime a useful RV8NOTE has been contributed by Aidan Pavey in Australia who had his rear lamp damaged in an accident. As he still had the damaged lamp and as they are in short supply he thought that he might try and repair it. His note describes what was a "repair journey".

Aidan says the photo alongside shows the damage to the tail light with some parts dislodged – fortunately I was able to collect all of them. On inspection I found that some of the parts needed to be fitted from inside the light. There was also a reflector inside the light that had become dislodged, therefore I needed to take the light apart.

To get the lens off the main body of the lamp unit, I needed to remove the mushroom ends of the red plastic pins while trying to retain as much of the pin as possible. I used a Dremel with a bur tip. Not all the pins survived but I was able to disassemble the light. I initially tried gluing the broken parts together with super glue. However this proved to

be problematic because the parts would not fit together neatly and the cracks were highly visible. On closer inspection I found the parts didn't fit together well. This is because when the plastic breaks it tears and stretches, as a result the mating edges don't match. Therefore I needed to trim some of the pieces to get a better fit. Unfortunately this did leave some gaps.

I put the super glue aside and found that the better solution was plastic hobby glue. But there were gaps which I filled with a red material which once hardened I wet sanded with grades of grit paper. I followed this up with polishing compound until I was satisfied with the look. Cracks are still visible but it was looking much better. The last step was reassembly of the lamp unit.



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