

V8

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RV8 Japanese Number Plates and their Meanings

A number of our members own reimported Japanese RV8's and often wonder about the provenance of their vehicles, starting life in Japan. One such owner is Ian James, who bought his smart Oxford Blue RV8 late in 2017. As Ian's vehicle was reimported, he started looking in detail at the Japanese documents which came with the car. Of course, they were all written in Japanese, so Ian set to work trying to figure out how to obtain a translation. Ian's work business sometimes dealt with Japanese companies, so Ian saw a potential opportunity to arrange a translation. Before the idea became reality, however, Covid struck and so the Japanese contracts dried up immediately!

With lockdown time on his hands, Ian set about looking at another option, via Google Translate. Although the translation App was free, it only allowed 5 sections at a time to be translated, per week! After 3 weeks, Ian had

the information he needed. This included original registration details, the dealership to which his RV8 was dispatched to in Japan and even the address details of the first owner. The next task was to understand how all the information fitted onto the Japanese licence plate. Ian found a company called JLP – Japanese Licence Plates, which contains a wealth of information about Japanese plates generally, drilling down into significant levels of detail. Details such as engine size, private or commercial use, original registration area, etc. are used to identify exactly what size and style of plate is required for a given car. The website is very comprehensive and so Ian was able to specify the exact plate requirements for his car and order his specific plate. The plate arrived a few days later and Ian was able to mount it on his car, using some old redundant UK plates, cutting the blank ends off (so that the UK plate details don't show) and mounting the Japanese plate to suit. Using some rally plate suckers, Ian is now able to show the plate at private show grounds and meetings. If you follow Ian's example, do please remember to remove the 'show' plates from your car before returning to the UK roads. More details of Ian's own story

can be found on the 'More' page at www.v8register.net/more.htm

