



The M.G. "YB" 1 1/4 litre Saloon

**U.K. Retail Price
(ex Works) £635
Plus P.T. £354 5s
6d. Total : £989
5s 6d.**

The M.G. "YB" SALOON

THIS car without any doubt appeals to the sports car enthusiast who, having become a family man, has to think in terms of a saloon. My standard start to interviews—the question “What’s new?”—was greeted by Dennis Francis with a grin. “A few items this time — introduced during the past twelve months. One a hypoid axle for quieter running and longer life. Two — bigger dampers all round. Three — improved two-leading-shoe brakes on the hydraulic system with large-area drums. Four — clutch diameter increased by three-quarters of an inch to eight inches.

That was quite a speech and I had to think. Hypoid axle, yes. Hard to describe the design except to say that the teeth slide across each other instead of merely delivering the drive with a push . . . yes, longer life, silence, and lower prop shaft. Bigger dampers meant longer life too, with increased suspension efficiency and steadiness. Brakes improved — yes, always welcome. Clutch diameter increased — yes, that too means longer life apart from anything else.

“Four good points,” I replied, after my rumination.

With his usual anticipation, my most helpful friend offered me a drive. I accepted, of course. After we had done some miles, I turned to him : “ This is a pleasant car . . . saloon comfort with sports car feel and performance, both in speed and acceleration and in steering and riding. Grand!” With his usual grace, D.F. agreed and went on “It seems funny to say it, but an unusual feature is the sliding roof.” Not so long ago it would have been silly to say “unusual” . . . but I’m thankful to see at least this one is retained.

“I’ve not finished yet,” came from Dennis, as we got out of the car from our run. “Look here. Tyres are now 5.50 x 15. Both front and rear bumpers now have over-riders; and the valance on the rear wings has been deepened slightly. That really is the lot as far as new items are concerned.” What a joy to interview someone who provides information without being asked for it or prompted.

As I stood back to look at the effect of these alterations, which are more than acceptable, I considered the run we had just had. “Do you know, Dennis — that’s quite remarkable. We did well over seventy and yet the car was as docile as one could wish. The engine is as sweet as could be and ticks over like an ordinary little family car should do. That’s not always tile case with high-efficiency engines, you know.”

“What’s the colour range?” was my question as we walked away. “Nice names for nice colours . . . Autumn Red, Woodland Green, Silver Streak Grey and, of course, Black.” And I simply thought what a good thing it was that they had thought up some exclusive colour names and shades for such an exclusive machine . . . such a thoroughbred little car.

