

NEWSLETTER

In this Newsletter:

Spotlight on...

Unleaded petrol - the options, additives, cylinderhead or LRP

Winter Offers

Special offers to help your MG through the winter.

Car Sales

Selected MGs with LMG service history

Waxoyling

Importance & tips

~ Welcome ~

Welcome to our first customer newsletter. We aim to produce these quarterly. We hope you will find it interesting & useful, and if you have any comments or ideas please let us know - see back page for the address.

Unleaded petrol - Choose now



Leaded petrol, due to be phased out on January 1st, has already disappeared from most filling stations to be replaced with LRP - Lead Replacement Petrol. As one of our customers has already found, a local Esso garage is selling LRP from 4star pumps still labeled as 4star with just a tiny sticker, easily missed, telling you that it is LRP - beware!

LRP is supposed to have alternative additives which it is claimed will protect your engine as effectively as leaded 4star. As yet there is no proof or guarantee, and the leaflets available at garages about LRP tend to be sketchy. The commonly used protective ingredient is Potassium and it is supposed to be the same octane as 4*. Whilst LRP, and even unleaded, will not cause any immediate harm it, could cause problems in the longer term after a higher mileage or where the engine is under greater load, and it hasn't been tested to a British Standard.

So what are the alternatives? Well, the first is to modify the engine to run on unleaded. This involves fitting an unleaded cylinder head (and in the case of injected TR5s & 6s changing parts of the injection system). The engine may also need re-tuning. This is the best long term solution if you do a higher mileage and though costly initially will enable you to use cheaper premium unleaded.

It is important when choosing an unleaded head not to be influenced purely by price. Our base price for the MGB is £195 + £195 labour + £24.50 for gaskets & consumables. The head should ideally be matched to your particular engine so that the compression ratio isn't excessive (+£85), which can lead to poor running, pinking & running on. Gas flowing and bigger valves are also beneficial (stage I head - £395, stage II £475). *Note: vat to be added.*



The other option is to use a fuel additive. Although a wide range of these are available a number of such additives were recently tested at MIRA and just four found to give adequate protection. These are :-

- 1. Red Line Lead Substitute** - Sodium based, proven track record in the US. Passed MIRA full throttle test and recommended by us for high performance applications.
- 2. Valvemaster Lead Substitute** - Phosphorus based, proven overseas and marketed in the UK by Castrol. Endorsed by the MGOC. Not entered for MIRA full throttle test but ok for everyday driving, though Phosphorus may cause damage if mixed with other additives. Also available with mild octane booster (plus 1 oct.).
- 3. Millers VSP Plus** - Manganese based, includes octane booster. Not entered for MIRA full throttle test and question mark over toxicity of

exhaust. Requires 1 250ml bottle per 40 litres so more expensive 8p/litre 4. **Superblend Zero Lead 2000** - Potassium based new product. Passed MIRA full throttle test but no other track record.

Our conclusion from all of the sometimes conflicting information we have managed to collect is to recommend a cylinderhead replacement where this is affordable or needed for some other reason, otherwise to use unleaded fuel with either Red Line or Valvemaster additive which both cost around 3p per litre of petrol. We can supply either Valvemaster at £5.99 or Valvemaster Plus at £9.99 for 250ml or Red Line at £13.50 for 355ml.

Winter Waxoyle



Protection

The benefits of waxoyling to protect bodywork and chassis sections against damp winter conditions cannot be over-emphasized. Even if you try not to use your MG or TR in the wet, a damp garage and the condensation generated as temperatures fluctuate can still create the ideal conditions for rusting. Treating properly with waxoyle can slow this process down considerably. It not only protects hidden box sections but soaks into existing

underseal and helps to keep it working. If you don't want to do this messy job yourself, let us do it for you. Prices start at £85- please phone for details.



It is important when applying waxoyle to chassis box sections to thin it down, either with white spirit or by heating it up, so that it really flows into the welded seams and soaks into the existing underseal.



Wiring Loom Fire Risk

Over the years we have seen a number of cases of parts of wiring looms burning out, and the first question usually asked is why the fuse didn't blow first. The surprising answer is that some circuits on most classic cars are not fused at all.

One example is the overdrive wiring on the later MGBs, which is particularly dangerous as the wires run along the outside of the gearbox and up through the gearlever to the switch, which is obviously being moved around most of the time. Any moving wiring such as this can chafe through and short out, and although actual fires are very rare, the repair costs can be expensive and inconvenient.

A solution is to fit a battery cutout switch in the main battery lead which can instantly cut the car's electrical power and be reached from the driver's seat. As well as safety, the switch adds to car security and also makes disconnecting the battery more convenient (especially for MGB

owners - need we say more!). See special price offers.

Winter Special Offers

Screenwash- stops freezing & better cleaning - £2.05/litre

MGB/GT Battery cutout switch fitted price - £125 (normally £140)

Camshafts: Kent 718 scatter fast road & Piper HR255 mild £77

K&N filters to fit in original airboxes (improved performance and reuseable) £29.96 each

*All prices include Vat
Offers end 1/3/2000*

Car Sales

MGB GT 1978, Tahiti blue, black leather seats, walnut dash, lowered suspension with GB alloys, freeflow manifold & 1 3/4" S.U. carbs, LMG service history 5 yrs, £6.5K spent over last 3 yrs.

£5,800

MGB GT 1972 tax exempt, teal blue, black interior, LMG history for 4 yrs, last owner 5 yrs, just serviced.

£3400

Contacts

For more information on LMG services contact Stuart or Russell at

LMG (Kent) Ltd

21 Upland Road, Bexleyheath
Kent DA7 4NR

Tel: 0181 303 4811 / 2593

Whilst every care is taken in compiling the contents of this newsletter we accept no responsibility for any effect from errors or omissions.