

ROUND CAPS

For Your Modern Battery with 3-gang Rectangular Caps

I couldn't find six vintage battery caps to replace the two 3-gang caps on the modern plastic case Group 27-F battery in my 1955 MG TF-1500. So I made some. I'm not trying to fool Concours judges, but they are a fun detail at car shows. They are for show only, not for use on-the-road.

Materials:

- 6 Plastic bottles of 7-Up or any bottle with caps that you like. Cap color varies with date.
- 6 #3 rubber corks from a hardware store. Test fit in the battery and the bottle.
- 12 Brads (stainless steel preferred)
- Plastic primer, paint, clear top-coat

Process:

- Drill a 1/8" hole through each cork top to bottom as a vent.
- Cut a 3/8" threaded ring from the top of each bottle. I used a scroll saw.
- Push the cork firmly into top edge of the ring.
- Secure the cork inside the ring. I created the hole with a hot brad, removed it, then inserted another brad cut to seat fully below the ring. I inserted two brads at 90-deg into each ring/cork.
- Cut off the excess rubber from the top of the cork. Cut a groove in the top of the cork from the center hole to the edge to vent gases.
- Prime the caps; paint to match the logos on the battery (air brush); seal with a clear top coat.

To install on the battery:

- Loosen the cap a few turns from the ring.
- Push the cork firmly into a fill-hole in the battery.
- Tighten the cap until it contacts the battery.

Lucas decals, a wooden tray for the battery, and helmet terminals on the cables complete the "look."

