

THE OFF-SIDE UNDO



“A gentleman does not motor about after dark.”

Joseph Lucas

One HOT Lotus Europa!

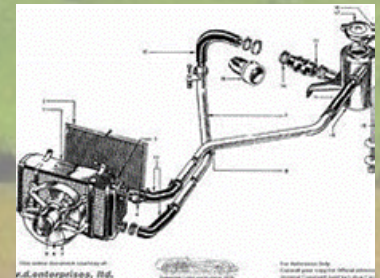
September 2023

By Richard Greene



My 72 Europa TC (nudge Mike Glore) in traffic and stop and go, it runs hot. Here in Mississippi, it's usually over 85 during the day. If I shut it down when it is hot, it won't start until it cools down. Vapor lock, perhaps. I did install an override switch that allows the fan to run independently of the fan sensor (Otter switch). Pretty sure it doesn't do much as my fan does turn on at the proper temp. Pretty sure a better fan might help. Not much airflow thru the Europa when not moving fast and the radiator is pretty small. Don't really drive it much in the hot weather (no AC), side windows only go part way down, the windshield lets in a lot of sun and the inside is like an oven.

For those unfamiliar with the Lotus Europa, it is a mid-engine with the radiator in the front compartment that exits the airflow out the right wheel well. The fan is electric and the water pump is mechanical on the engine at the front in the rear of the car. (Try saying that 10 times fast.)



A couple of things that have crossed my mind to help remedy the problem: 1. Install a more modern fan with increased airflow. The stock fan is pretty small and doesn't seem to move much air. 2. Get the tiny radiator cleaned and recored. It is over 50 years old now and is OEM. 3. Install an electric recirculating coolant pump to help cool the engine during shut down. 4. Install a second radiator in the other side-wheel well to work in tandem. 5. Just leave alone and live with it.



Official Publication of the English Motoring Club of Mississippi

Online at www.msemc.org/club-news/

NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION

Quick and Easy Betson Bolt

By Charlie Durning



Back when I had the engine out of the GT, I got to thinking that now is the time for a Betson Bolt. A Betson Bolt is a fix to prevent the soft plug in the back of the block dislodging and falling out. Once the plug comes out, it's nearly impossible to replace that soft plug with the engine in place. Does that happen often? No. But when it does you will wish you had a Betson Bolt. I will say that I have never experienced that plug coming out, but what the heck, the engine is out so why not.

To begin, I retrieved a manifold washer from the "gold mine". That is the thick washer that retains the manifold to the head. Not only is it a thick washer but one side is convex and it will pilot nicely into the hole of the engine back plate. The smallest size of the convex is 7/8" and the hole in the back plate is 15/16". Maybe in the back of the BMC minds they intended for the washer to be used for as a Betson Bolt.



Another thing that makes the manifold washer perfect is it is soft enough to tap and the hole in the middle can be tapped to fit either a 3/8" or 10mm bolt. In this case I chose a 10mm-1.25 x 40mm bolt. I chose that bolt for 4 reasons. 1) I had the bolt, 2) the bolt is threaded all the way to the top, 3) I had the tap, and finally I didn't want to go to the hardware store to get a bolt.



Once the washer is tapped it can be finagled into the space between the engine and the back plate with 2 long and skinny fingers. Then the bolt, nut, and a fender washer can be inserted into the threaded manifold washer. Being careful that the convex part of the washer is centered in the back plate hole and tighten just enough to contact the soft plug with light pressure. Then tighten the nut down against the fender washer and the bolt will remain in place.

Though I did this while the engine was out, it looks to be possible to install the bolt with the engine in the car. It's worth a try if you have shinny hands.

The parts I used are one each;

10mm-1.25 x 40mm bolt

10mm-1.25 nut

Fender washer

Manifold washer

3/8" fine or course bolt and nut can be used if you have them

Another Option

After finishing the above Betson Bolt, I found some MGB Valve spring retainers. The retainers I found are for dual valve springs. The benefit to those are the retainers are stepped. The step indexes perfectly into the hole in the back plate so no fiddling to get the retainer centered in the hole. The downside is they are hardened making them tough to thread. The solution is to anneal the retainers by heating them with a torch until "cherry red" and letting them air cool.

Once annealed, the retainers can be drilled and tapped. Since a 3/8"/10mm bolt is too small, I elected to drill and tap for a 12mm x 45mm long bolt because that is what I had. The application is the same as above.





JULY MEETING

Many thanks to the Glores for hosting the club gathering in July!





TIME FOR A BRAKE

By Gene Johnston

Nothing that I shouldn't have done sooner. After a few years of changing pads, modified calipers all of which only seemed to turn into warped front discs and minor vibrations I finally had enough and decided to change out the front brakes on Pearl. I had eyed and discussed the latest release from master fabricator Charlie Durning and decided to give his front disc conversion a shot. I ordered parts according to his parts list and once all had been delivered, I wandered down to Charlie's for a few hours of machine work.

We enlarged the center opening in the new rotors (1985 – 1988 Toyota Cressida Sedan rear rotors) so it would fit over the center of the MGB hub. Then chamfered the stud openings and drilled the disc and hub for two retaining screws. Additional work on the hub consisted of pushing out the existing wheel studs and pressing in MGB stock rear wheel studs to gain about ¼ inch of additional length as the new disc mount to the outboard side of the hubs.



Charlie had previously machined adapter plates to mount the new calipers (1995 – 1999 Nissan Sentra or 1995 – 1998 Nissan 200SX with 54mm bore front calipers) to the existing brake mountings on the MGB swivel axle and had smooth off the casting on the Nissan caliper mounting brackets. The only machining additional machining required was to open the brake flex line locating pins on the back of the caliper. The stock brake flex lines were replaced with late MGA MKII stainless steel lines.



Returning home, I test mounted the modified parts and enlarged the opening in the brake dust covers to clear the calipers.



Next up, I repacked bearings and replaced seals, painted up new parts and finished the project.



Initial seat of the pants impression is that the brake performance is improved, not dramatically but noticeably. One of my likes about this set up is that you can replace the disc if ever needed without the need to remove the hub and OH yes, that pesky braking vibration is now gone.



THE PERFECT PICNIC

(From Hilda Leyer's *The Perfect Picnic*)

Menu No. 18

An Excellent Fish Pie

Cold Tongue

Egg, Watercress, & Nut Salad

Grapefruit Salad with Kirsch

An Excellent Fish Pie Take a pound of cod or any good white fish and cut it up. The slice an onion and put it into a pan with an ounce of butter to brown. Add the fish, pepper, salt, and seasoning and shake it over the fire for a few minutes. Then pour in a pint of hot water; bring it to a the boil and then skim it carefully. Add a cupful of cold semi-boiled Patna rice and cook the whole till the rice is done and the liquid absorbed. Melt an ounce of butter in another pan, let it brown slightly, mix in a teaspoonful of curry powder and add this to the cooked fish and rice and mix all together. Season it will. IN the mean-time line a pie dish with a short crust, put in the mixture, make a lid of pastry and bake in a moderate oven for about an hour. Serve cold.

Egg, Watercress, and Nut Salad Hard boil two eggs. Divide the watercress into sprigs, lay them in the bowl with hard-boiled eggs cut in slices mixed with it and arranged in a ring round the bowl. Chop or mince any kind of nut and sprinkle over the salad. Dress with oil and vinegar.

Grapefruit Salad with Kirsch Peel the grapefruit and take off all the white skin underneath the peel. Cut into thin cubes, removing all the hard part and pips, and putting them into a jug to which half a pint of cold water is added, and the juice. Arrange the grapefruit in a bowl. Strain the water with the pips and core, add enough sugar to make in to a thin syrup and flavor it with three tablespoonfuls of Kirsch. Pour over the salad.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 21, 2023 Scarecrow Cruise & Car Show - Looking for a great weekend auto activity?

This is the 18th year and sponsored by the Mississippi Classic Cruisers. Over 440 cars will be at the show

on Main St in Madison, MS. Last year twelve EMC members lined up their British cars in the shade under the trees. For show registration and scheduling check out their web-site at www.MSClassicCruisers.com.

To reserve a spot to park in the Little British Car area contact Keith Anderson at (601) - 829 - 2573.

A Note of Recognition

In the September/October issue of the North American MGB Register publication, The MG Driver, our noted fabricationist Charles During had an article published! Charlie has fab'd tools to assist with removal and replacement of MGB axles. I've used the replacement tool which avoids driving the axle home by directly hammering on the axle or the outer bearing race. The article was originally published in the February 2023 edition of Off-Side Undo which can be viewed on the website at www.msemc.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 15-16, 2023 – EMC Brits on the Bluff / Natchez MS – We have the promise of a perfect weekend for the 26th Annual BOTB. Hang out on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River starting with our Friday night party and spend Saturday with us overlooking the Mississippi River. For a schedule and registration information click [HERE](#). Details: John Turbeville (601) 940 – 5288, Gene Johnston (601) 941 – 4892.

October 5-7, 2023 – Brits in the Ozarks / Fayetteville AR – Still looking for excuses for a mountain drive? Here's another chance to see the Ozarks in all of their colors and have a car show at the end of your drive. The 19th Annual Brits in the Ozarks will be there waiting for you. Details: www.britishironnwa.org

October 13-14, 2023 – Renaissance Euro Fest Car Show / Ridgeland MS – Come to Ridgeland Mississippi and enjoy the 15th Annual Renaissance Car Fest. The 2022 event was one to remember. Lots of participation from EMC members as well as friends from surrounding clubs will be the order again for 2023. When posted get your entry in early and make plans to attend. You'll see cars that you don't get a chance to enjoy often and in the surroundings of the Renaissance. It's just magnificent. Details: www.euro-fest.net Mike Marsh (601) 946 – 1950.

October (usually the first or second weekend. Dates TBA), 2023 – Nashville British Car Show / Nashville TN – If you're looking for a nice drive up the Natchez Trace there's no better reason than to attend the 28th Annual Nashville British Car Club Show. Lots to do including taking in the Lane Museum of Cars while in town. A reception is held on Friday evening and the shows on Saturday. Details: www.nashvillebritishcarclub.org.

October (usually the third weekend. Dates TBA), 2023 – Scarecrow Cruise & Car Show / Madison MS – Looking for a great weekend auto activity? This local show is in its 19th year and sponsored by the Mississippi Classic Cruisers. For show registration and scheduling check out their website at www.MSClassicCruisers.com. If you'd like to park in the Little British Car area contact Keith Anderson. Details: Keith Anderson (601) – 829 – 2573.

October 20 – 21 2023 – South Alabama British Car Festival / Fairhope AL – It's a nice drive down to the fair community of Fairhope AL so join the caravan to the lovely city by Mobile Bay. The Friday night meet and greet is always fun and the food is fantastic. Join EMC members to drive and celebrate this show in its 33rd year! Details: www.sabcc.org.

November 4, 2023 – EMC Tech Session / Ridgeland MS – We'll have the chili on the stove and a wrench ready for stirring. We'll put together a project or two or perhaps take one apart. Hope you can make the final tech session of 2020. The garage opens at 11:00am and lunch starts at 12:00pm. Details: Gene / Martha Johnston (601) 941 – 4892.

December 2, 2023 – EMC Christmas Party / Clinton MS – The EMC has been invited to the home of Will and Jennifer Duncan for the year end 2023 Christmas Party. Make plans to join us to wind down 2023 with the EMCs year end gathering. Details: Will / Jennifer Duncan JenniferLongmireDuncan@outlook.com.