



TARTING UP THE P6

Oily BITS



My 1971
2000 TC was
bought new
by my
Grandad from
the Bridgenorth

Garage in April 1971.

12 years ago, the Rover

passed in to my

ownership as the fourth

family owner. Fair to say that she wasn't in the prettiest of shape and has cost me a pretty packet to date, but I thought I'd share with you some of the inexpensive things that I've done to improve her appearance, all of which can be carried out by anyone.

Dye your boots!

My boot was in a right state. My cousins were farmers and the Rover had often carried cow muck back from their farm for our garden. As a result, the spare wheel cover had seen better days. It was still in perfect condition, just stained with mud and muck! No amount of washing up liquid would shift it. The answer lay in the common black shoe dye. One application later and she was fit for inspection!

Always try this first on an inconspicuous area first as I found that the rubber wing/wheel arch covers don't like shoe dye at all.

Paint the Battery Cover

For those of us with a battery in the boot, the cover does get somewhat dirty after 30 odd years. It may not be made of metal, but it takes the Satin Black aerosol paint from Halfords very nicely. Put a new negative earth label on it and it'll pass as new.

Airfix Paint is great for plastic

After years of being hit by stones on the road, my egg-box plastic grill was looking the worse for wear. I remembered the airfix aeroplane models that I used to make as a boy and used a little tin of silver model paint - number 11. I forget who makes it now, but it works a treat. I did mine 10 years ago and it still looks excellent.

Superglue - miracle for rubber

Whether it be a tear in the dashboard mat, a rip in the gear lever gaiter or anything else rubber, stick it with superglue.

Be prepared to wait!

I've taken my Rover into the Garage many times for a quote on a job, my local garage will give me a very good deal if I leave the car with them for as long as it takes (sometimes 3 weeks for a job that could be done in a day). If they can do the work when their 'normal' work runs out - the last hour of the day, then I've had a significantly better hourly rate. Be prepared to haggle and ask! This is normally dead time to them.

Wheels are the eyes of the car

Improve the look of the wheels and the car will take on a whole new appearance. Rub down the black painted areas of the stainless wheel trims, mask them off and spray them with Halfords matt black aerosol. Buy some new wheel centre badges, lever the old ones off with a screwdriver and glue the new ones on with araldite. It will make the world of difference.

Brian Humphreys