

BREATHING MORE EASILY

When I bought my MGB 5 years ago it was fitted with K&N pancake air filters, in place of the factory fitted 'bucket' filters.

K&N filters are supposed to give a small improvement in performance over the standard filters due to greater air delivery to the engine. However, I was uncertain at what mileage these filters had originally been fitted by the previous owner, or what sort of service life they had seen (e.g. if they had been used in dusty conditions). When I saw a K&N cleaning kit on special offer I decided to buy it and give it a try.



Cleaning Kit



Cleaner & oil

I removed the two filters, and although they didn't look too bad (Fig 3) I decided to clean and re-oil them.

The cleaner, which I assume is just a detergent, is applied by spray and then left for 15mins, before being washed off. The instructions say use a low pressure water spray. I found a running tap wasn't very effective, so I used a

garden hose spray, set for a jet pattern. The water didn't seem to come out particularly dirty, but I did notice quite a few dead midges being dislodged. These were presumably a legacy of our holiday in the west coast of Scotland a couple of years ago!

The filters were then left to dry, before the oil was applied using an aerosol. The oil has a red dye in it so that you can see where it has been applied and what parts have been missed. I then re-installed the filters, Fig 4.

Incidentally, when you install K&N filters it is recommended that you use slightly richer needles in the SU carbs than standard, in order to balance the increased air flow with a bit more petrol to get a suitable mixture. When I bought my car it seemed to have a flat spot and I discovered that it still had the standard AAU needles in the carbs. When I replaced these with the recommended AAA type, the performance improved.

Did cleaning the filters make any additional difference? I can't say that it did, but I felt better for it and it kept me out of trouble for a few hours!



Filters before cleaning



Filters reinstalled (note red colour)

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