

CHRISTMAS DILEMMA

When it comes to Christmas and Birthday times I usually have no trouble finding something I want for the 'B'. However, this year I was struggling. That's not to say I have everything I want, but a 5 speed gearbox, or an independent back axle conversion wouldn't fit easily into my Christmas stocking, to say nothing of the cost.

After perusing the MGOC and Moss catalogues I finally came up with a new set of plug leads and a stainless steel coil cover. The existing plug leads were those on the car when I bought it, and although they looked reasonably new and the car was running well, I thought a nice coloured set wouldn't come amiss. The stainless steel coil cover is a bit of bling (I know, I'm old enough to know better), but I thought it would improve the look of the engine bay.

The plug leads were easy to fit and I even managed to get them attached to the correct spark plugs! When I took the car for a run it might have been running better, but maybe that was wishful thinking.

The big disappointment was the coil cover. I was expecting something like a soft drinks can with one end missing so that it slipped over the coil, covering it completely, but was only a bit of curved stainless steel sheet to wrap around the coil and a new stainless steel coil clamp. Both had fearsomely sharp edges. When the stainless sheet was wrapped around the coil it turned out to be longer than the coil, and because the coil on the 'B' is mounted upside down (it is on mine anyway), it looked a bit silly (Fig 1).

In the end I ditched the wrap, cleaned up the sharp edges on the mounting bracket, and polished up the aluminium coil housing on a spare coil. Maybe I should just have done that in the first place! Fig 2 shows the new plug leads and polished coil in place. If anyone needs a bit of stainless sheet to wrap around a leaking exhaust you know where to come.



Fig 1. Coil cover



Fig 2. New plug leads and polished coil.