

TC Door Sill Plates . . . More Originality

By Doug Pelton

I was somewhat surprised when I first bought TC7410 as there were no classic markings on the door sill plates that I was used to seeing. You know.... "The MG Car Company Ltd.". Here is what I have found out about the sill plates.

Sill plates have been a part of the MG body since early days. According to Tom Metcalf, Safety Fast Restorations, "pre-war and MMM cars definitely used sill plates." The purpose of the sill plate is to give an appealing finished look to the sill to cover the inner wrappings of the lower quarter panel transition into the tub. Secondly, MG used this plate as a public billboard for their company



Metcalf's MG PB0268 with The MG Car Company Ltd marking

name. Also, The TA and TB parts manuals confirm sill plates on these cars along with reports of same. However, did the TC continue using the traditional sill plate?

A review of the TC parts manual shows that, yes, sill plates were also used throughout the entire TC production. However, there was a change noted with the sill plates commencing with production of TC4837. The change in the plates has to do with the physical dimensions. Early plates were 25 1/2" long and later plates were 23 1/2". (Both had same width of 1 3/16")

Remember that the early TC tubs

had exposed wood around the door. This also changed at TC 4837 when the wood was covered with sheet metal strips around the door perimeter and then spot welded in place. So, the purpose of the early door sill was to provide a finished trim piece across the full length of the door sill to also cover the exposed wood. This surface is not flat and the ends of



the sill had to be bent to conform to the corner radius. When the sheet metal was added to the doors at TC4387, the sill plate was shortened by 2 inches making a much easier install without having to form fit the corner radius. Original fasteners were slotted #4 x 3/4" raised (oval) head self tapping screw. Also, the screw pattern for both early and late sill plates was the same. There were 2 screws on each end about 3/4" inward and then the remaining 3 screws equally spaced in between. Finally, there was never any writing on the TC sill plates. Modern day replacement plates with "MG Car Co. Ltd" are appropriate for pre-war as stated. Although not proper for the TC, they do add a nice look for the car.

As always I would welcome comments and observations.

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