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MG TA ENGINES—REAR ROCKER PILLAR KIT (TA183)

The MG TA has for many years suffered from oil appearing into the coolant and surfacing in the radiator header tank. Brown & Gammons Ltd have identified the usual source of this problem and have produced a kit to resolve the problem. Not visible unless the engine is dismantled the kit is relatively simple to fit and should be within the ability of a competent home mechanic.

The problem emanates from the pressure oil feed into the cylinder head and is generally caused by some porosity in the casting. The kit isolates the oil feed from the rear of the head where coolant is present and provides the same oil feed into the rocker shaft by diverting the pressure feed.

The kit replaces the rear rocker pillar enabling the oil feed to be diverted. It is not necessary to remove the cylinder head from the block.

The task breaks down into four elements:

1. Remove the rocker cover and remove the rocker shaft assembly.
2. The present oil feed pipe to the head is then disconnected and the male/male connector removed. Using a 5/16" UNF, tap into the far end of the existing oil feed drilling in the head. Then, using the allen key supplied, fit the threaded plug using some 'loctite' pipe sealant to seal off the end of the drilling effectively blanking off the oil feed from the end of the head drilling and the existing feed to the old rocker pillar.
3. Using the new rocker pillar for positioning, drill a 1/8" hole vertically into the head so that the oil way in the new rocker pillar aligns with the newly drilled hole. Ensuring no swarf remains refit the male/male connector.
4. Remove the rear rocker pillar from the shaft and refit the new replacement one. Refit the rocker shaft assembly to head checking valve clearance as you do. Remove the sparking plugs and disconnect the main HT lead so that no sparks will occur. Operate the starter until oil pressure is generated and oil is seen to flow from the rocker shaft. Refit rocker cover, sparking plugs and HT lead and you should be good to go without oil in the radiator!