



RUSTPROOFING AN MGB/GT



By Roger Cooper

There's never been a better time to think about Waxoyling your car.

The added protection it offers your car to keep the ravages of rust at bay is well worth the time and effort.

Before You Start

The success or failure of this operation depends on three things:

- Condition of the car before you start. The makers of Waxoyl claim that it kills rust but it cannot of course strengthen areas weakened by very heavy corrosion any more than it can restore metal which has already completely disintegrated.
- The thoroughness with which you carry out the job of treating your MG.
- Waxoyling should only be done after all welding and painting is complete.

Preparations

You will need at least five litres of Waxoyl to carry out a full proofing job. You might even think it advisable to buy a larger quantity and have some left over or restoration in case of small accidents.

Before embarking on the task, I looked at various sprayers in DIY and garden shops but eventually settled for Waxoyl's own unit which is really tailor-made for the purpose and is very easy to use. It is a good idea to make sure you have a couple of litres of white spirit or turps substitute handy in case you need to thin the Waxoyl down a little and to clean the equipment when you have finished.

As an alternative to thinning Waxoyl you can do the job on a hot day or if you carry out the job on a cooler day, you can put the can of Waxoyl in a bucket of very hot water to warm it up. You will also need a small paintbrush and an old clean jam jar, some rag, a couple of large plastic bin liners to cover the brake discs to keep the Waxoyl off them, and some rubber blanking plugs to put in some of the holes you will have to drill for access to various box sections. Make sure your plugs and your drills are compatible.



EXISTING HOLES



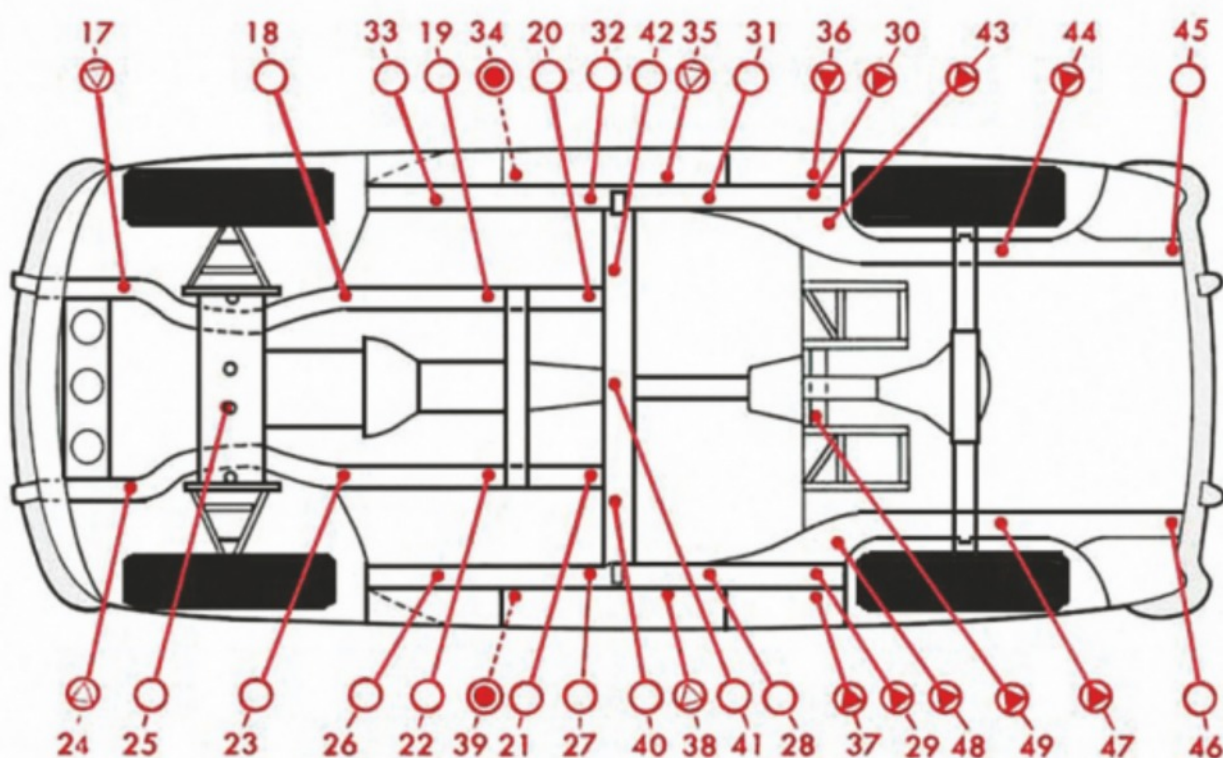
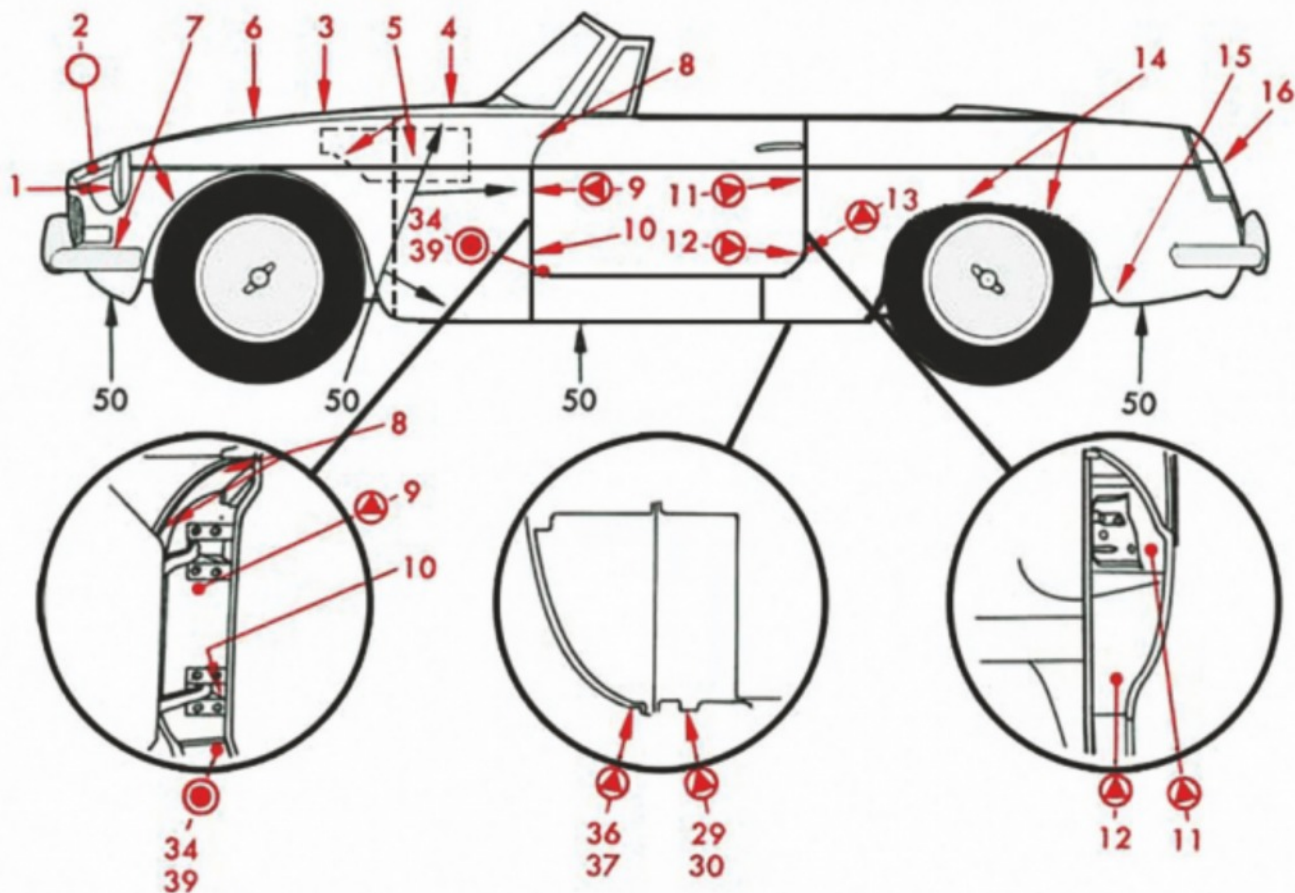
HOLES TO BE DRILLED



EXISTING HOLES TO BE PLUGGED



HOLES TO BE DRILLED AND PLUGGED



Particular areas to check

Although Waxoyl can be applied over a thin layer of road dirt I recommend that you clean the car down thoroughly underneath first, carefully poking all the muck out of all the nooks and crannies with a screwdriver.

Particular areas to watch are:

- Behind the headlights.
- On top of the ledge towards the rear of the inner wing.
- Where the rear end of the sill blends into the rear wheel arch. There is a particularly nasty pocket there almost an inch deep with an open end pointing down and back at 45 degrees.

A stiff scrubbing brush helps remove mud from the wider expanses under the wings. Scrape off any flaking or damaged underseal, paint and loose rust to expose the metal. Sound underseal and paint can be left intact.

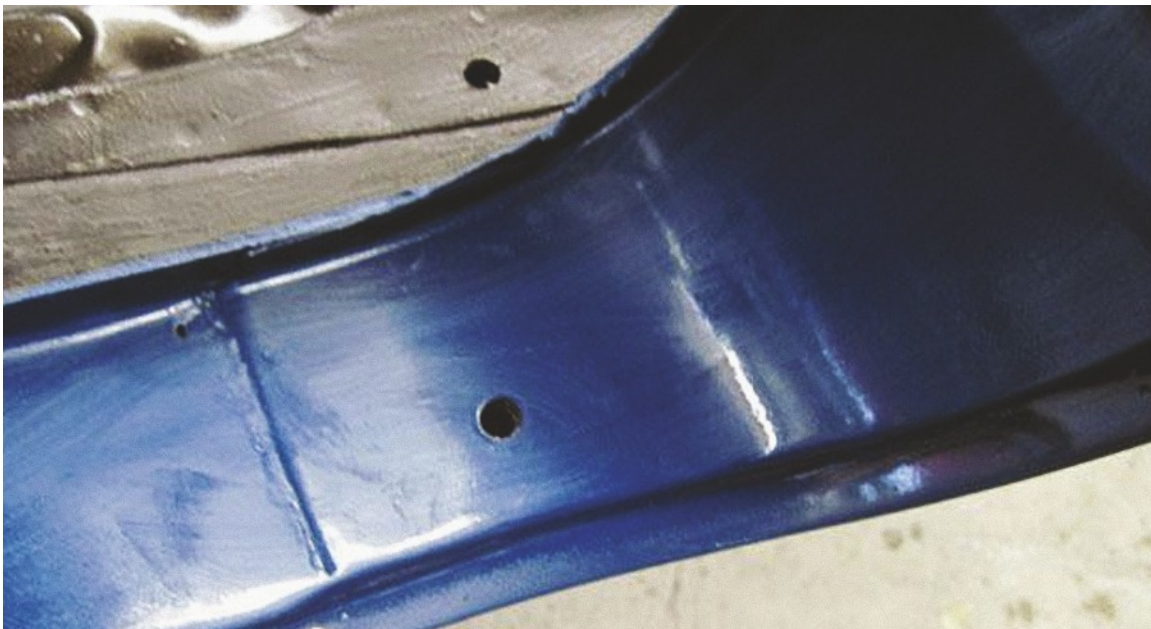
Like any other car, the MGB has its weak spots. You may be familiar with them from long association. If you are new to the model then take a look at the older ones you see running around to get an idea of the problem areas. The main ones are around the headlights (as mentioned above), the back and top of the front wings (that dogleg seam in front of the windscreen), the ledge on the inner wing (mentioned above), and at sill level the area between the rear edge of the door opening to the front edge of the rear wheel arch.

The top of the petrol tank also collects water and mud, and rusts through. You may be too late here but if your tank has not gone too far, you might consider removing the tank, Waxoyling it all over and the areas surrounding it, and the supporting straps, and putting it back again.

If you intend being generous with your application of Waxoyl, as I did, then I suggest you remove some of the interior trim – door panels, carpets and other parts. It says on the can that Waxoyl does no harm to “soft furnishings” and I did not remove a door panel and have found that panel has gone limp and flabby inside – so be warned! In any case, removal of the panels gives much better access for spraying.

Some drilling will be necessary

To be sure of full access to some of the box sections, a certain amount of drilling is required around the door areas. My MGB had been professionally treated when new in 1974 and already has plugs in the holes drilled in the outer sill at the rear end of the aluminium tread plate, just below the striker plate on the door pillar, and on the door itself at the rear edge at the point where the vertical face curves away to the joint on the bottom edge. You will need to carry out the first two drillings, but if you remove the door panels as suggested, you need not do the third drilling.



You will need blanking plugs for these holes because they are exposed to view. There is also a hole at the front of the top of the outer sill close to the door seal. It is a very useful access to the front end of the outer sill.

The holes you need to drill are:

- Remove the shaped aluminium strip which secures the edge of the rubber carpet and the draught excluder to the projecting vertical seam between the two sills. Drill three 5/16 inch diameter holes through the rubber carpet and the inner sill (one in the middle and one at each end) in such a way that the aluminium strip will completely cover them when you replace it. I was interested to see this section had been overlooked when the car was professionally treated – fortunately it is still in good condition.
- Behind the seats the inner sill widens out to link up with the vertical panel across the front of the battery compartment. Carefully lift and turn back the rubber carpet to expose this area and now there is a double row of spot weld marks visible, you will need to drill one hole on each side of these welds because there appears to be a vertical web dividing the box section into two parts.

Injection and spraying

Now having done the preparation, let us get on with the messy bit – but really it is not that bad! Waxoyl is relatively clean, harmless stuff to use and if you are reasonably careful, you should not put it anywhere except where you want it. There are two basic operations – injection and spraying. I did the injection first.

Injection

Fit the long plastic tube with the “nail” in the end to the Waxoyl gun. The “nail” is a diffuser or spreader and should not be adjusted for best effect before starting. This is the one time when you are likely to get in a mess! At the front of the car, there are two main box section chassis members supporting the engine and gearbox unit. You should find two small plastic plugs or rubber bungs, one at each side of the base of the radiator, giving access to these box sections. Extract these bungs and put them in a safe place for refitting later. With the Waxoyl gun set up for injection, carefully push the long plastic tube through one of the holes in the direction of the rear of the car, working it back as far as it will go – almost its full length.

With the suction pipe well immersed in the Waxoyl can and gun and delivery pipe fully primed, give the trigger a fast powerful squeeze about once every second (giving it time to suck up another full charge from the can) and withdraw the probe about ½ inch after each squeeze of the trigger until the end of the tube appears at the hole again. But be warned: the probe can get stuck! You will need to be patient as you may have to feed the tube back in again a little and apply a twisting action until you can free it. Do not be tempted to pull hard on the tube or you will probably rip the “nail” out of the end of the tubing and that will be the end of your nice spray pattern inside the section intended to coat all the internal surfaces. Having successfully done the rear part of the front chassis, turn the probe around and feed it forwards as far as the bumper, repeating the injection sequence as before. When complete, do the other side in the same way and then replace the bungs.

Moving back to the drillings around the door, insert the probe into each of the holes in turn and push it in every possible direction. It is worth mentioning here that during this stage of the work my trigger finger seized solid and had to be prised off the gun before it could be revived!

I should have had a glass of Heineken handy to revive the parts that... As you are working on this stage of the work, try and visualise the internal structure of the bodywork and aim to coat every inner surface of the bodywork with Waxoyl. Some Waxoyl will inevitably run out of the drain holes under the sills, so make sure they are clear first. You may feel it is worthwhile to use the drain holes as additional access points for the probe and another jet of Waxoyl. It is particularly important to ensure that all the seams between the various sheets of metal and panels are well dosed with Waxoyl as they are a favourite moisture trap.

Turning now to the forward door pillar, you will see a cavity ahead of the hinges at the top and a small gap between the pillar and the wing at the bottom. The cavity is easily dealt with – just push the probe in as far as it will go in every direction and squirt another blast of Waxoyl. Pay particular attention to that dogleg seam in that area just ahead of the windscreen on the top of the wing.

At the bottom of the door pillar you should have just enough room to poke the probe through the gap between the pillar and the wing. Push it forward as far as it will go until it comes up to the back of the splashguard behind the front road wheel. You can then either go berserk with Waxoyl injection from this position, turning and moving the probe around to cover every possible corner or, if you prefer, you can be more technical by removing the splashguard altogether and then blasting the Waxoyl in from the wheel arch. It is important to realise that water can get into that void past the splashguard and when it does it runs into the sills and out of the drain holes – provided they are clear! If you do not believe me, try it with a hosepipe.

Next the doors

The doors are next on the list for treatment. If you have removed the trims then you can use the spray nozzle. If not, then you will still need the probe to inject through the drilling in the rear face. Concentrate on the seams and the top edge of the outer skin. Remove the two plastic bungs on the top face of the door just above the hinges. A judicious squirt of Waxoyl through their two holes will help preserve the bolt heads and other bits and pieces visible inside. Replace the bungs. If you are satisfied that you have done the best job ever on the injection, put all the bungs back in their respective holes and replace the rubber carpet behind the seats and refit the aluminium door sill cappings. Wash the gun through with white spirit to clean the plastic probe tube, remove it and fit the short spray nozzle.

Spraying

Jack the car up enough to give you room to work underneath and chock it and insert axle stands for safety. No point being crushed underneath a beautifully Waxoyled MG that fell off its jack – you will not enjoy driving it then! Again, start from the front with the wheels removed and the brake discs well protected by bin liners, and spray all over the inside of the wheel arch, paying particular attention to the rear of the headlights – flood the stuff in there. Get it into the ledge on the inner wings, the seam along behind the chrome trim along the side of the car (another narrow ledge), round the edges (or lip) of the wheel arch and particularly around the splashguard by the door pillar. Continue spraying down onto the sill underneath and into every crevice right through to the back of the car. Pay particular attention to the extreme bottom edge of the sill. Treat the rear wheel arch and the areas in front of that odd little recess at the back of the sill – and behind it as well!



At the front again, there is a shallow box section cross member just below the radiator in which there are three large holes in the bottom surface. Give this box a good dose inside and out, and while you are down there get as much Waxoyl into the main front suspension cross member as you can by spraying from all possible angles into the visible openings. Spray the outside of the box sections which support the engine and check to see that the injection job you did earlier was good enough and that some Waxoyl has found its way through the drain holes and seams. Working backwards again, give the whole of the rest of the underside of the car, especially the outriggers and floor pans, a good soaking. You can vary the density of the spray by the proximity of the gun to the work, or by using a heavy-duty nozzle. You might find it helpful to use two hands in order to keep the gun steady and at an even distance from the work.

In this underbody area you will find a number of lap jointed seams in all sorts of vulnerable places – around the inside of the rear wheel arch for example, right where the tyre throws up all the road water and muck. Make sure that these areas are very well soaked in Waxoyl and if necessary, give them a couple of coats just to be sure. Use the brush and some Waxoyl in a jam jar to paint the suspension linkages and brake pipes and all the little odd bits and pieces you might have missed with the spray nozzle.

Remove the batteries and spray all around the battery boxes, inside and out, to guard against corrosion but take care to keep the tops of the shock absorbers free of Waxoyl to avoid possible contamination when topping up at some future date. Inside the boot area, remove all trim, carpets, spare wheel cover, spare wheel, tools and other kit. Also if you feel up into the void by the roof pillars at each side of the rear hatch, you will find a large foam block stuffed in there for sound deadening purposes. Remove this too. Now give a light spray inside that void, particularly upwards to get at the back of the top seam on the rear wing. The meeting point of that top seam with the rear of the side window is a rust spot and source of water leakage. This treatment is to guard against the effects of condensation, but you may find in wet weather that water drips off the tailgate and into the car when the tailgate is open. On our MGB 1800 the water gets into the window rubber from the outside and percolates through inside and runs out by the heated rear window connections when you lift the tailgate. The tailgate itself will benefit from a quick spray around the inside through openings already available.

Two more areas to treat

Finally there are two small areas you might want to consider treating – inside the bumper and overriders and the studs at the back of the chrome trim down each side of the car. You may need to do some dismantling – certainly you would have to remove the chrome trims by prising them off carefully with a screwdriver – if you want to go that far! Well, if you are now completely satisfied that you have done a thorough job, put it all back together again, vacuum out the swarf from the drillings, clean your kit down, stow it away for next the time, and take a hot bath.

When you are dressed and reflecting on your good work with a glass of Speckled Hen and admiring your MG, you might feel it would never win a concours event – who wants to polish under the floor pans in any case – but at least you will feel that your car will be around for as long, maybe even longer, than there are spares available!

Where can I get Waxoyl?

Suppliers include Halfords, Moss and most high street car accessory shops.

Wax Treatment High Pressure Sprayer/Applicator

This spray pump is for easy application and comes with 2.5 litres can of Waxoyl

