

from the Morgan Oasis Garage

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Friends

This month's epistle is a modification of an idea stolen from Fred Sisson's "Notes From A Morgan Garage". I came by the theft honestly as I've bought both of his books. His newer book is titled "A Bedside Reader".

This wrinkle has to do with the little brass piece that locates the bonnet's aft end where it fastens to the scuttle, and how it is fastened. The people at Malvern in their infinite wisdom attach this brass piece with wood screws about an inch long. Not the strongest fastening in dear old Blighty and perhaps not the worst either. Problem is when the bonnet is opened it lays over the other side and puts a darling great strain on the hinge (the chrome strip in the center is the hinge) which then tries to pull the wood screws that hold the brass piece out of the wooden scuttle frame.

Sisson recommends a piece of steel shaped somewhat like the letter "Z". This is to be screwed under the center of the scuttle frame so it can go up and then out to accept two machine screws and nuts to hold the brass bit much more securely. I completely agree with Fred on the need for a better method, and I did use his method on my car. However when I got to this point on the car I'm now doing I wanted to avoid standing on my head under the dash, trying to put screws in under the scuttle frame right up against the bulkhead.

In an earlier epistle I recommended refastening the bulkhead with 10X32 machine screws, and this has been done to this car. So there is a willing screw on the backside of the scuttle frame to fasten a homemade bracket upon. The bracket is simply a piece of one inch angle steel about two inches long with three holes drilled in it and two comers sawn off as in the drawing.

If the wood screws are removed one at a time a drill bit can be used to open the screw hole right down through the scuttle frame. If this hole is made plumb or even slightly angled back the hole will come out near the middle of the frame, this allows the 6X32 or 8X32 by two and a half stainless machine screw to go through the bracket and is then held with a nut (Nylock) and washer. Trying to explain all this on a typewriter gets complicated. The drawing gives the best view of this method.

