

from the Morgan Oasis Garage

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In this month's epistle we make a new rear apron. I've just made my second one. It was so much fun and dead simple to make, I have to tell you how it's done. I made two pattern pieces out of wood by copying my Mog's rear apron on to a paper pattern. This was transferred to the wood and then sawn out. On one of these wood patterns the curved ends and the bottom edges are slightly rounded to perhaps $3/16$ " of an inch.

The aluminum is cut to a line made from laying the wood pattern on the metal and scribing a line all around it. An inch is added to the top edge and $5/16$ " of an inch to all other edges. Taking the aluminum in hand, I waddled off to my local sheet metal shop. There they charged me five scoots to bend the top inch over to 90 degrees. This makes a sweet smooth line and adds boocoo strength to the blank.

Now I sandwich the metal piece between the wood patterns. The 90 degree edge goes over the wood piece that's had the edges rounded, marked "X" on the drawing. The other piece goes in front and six or eight healthy "C" clamps keep it all lined up while the $5/16$ " edge is slowly and carefully hammered back to a smooth fit over the pattern.

A word or two on dimensions. The wood used was shelving 1x6's, 38" inches long. I would warn you, however, to measure the particular apron before believing Cuthbert, and before cutting any precious lumber or aluminum. The aluminum I used was .050 "half hard". If I could have found .062 I'd have used that. Sixty two thou is the choice of the panel beaters I know.

Another caution is if your car is a four seater the rear apron is not dead straight. It curves to follow the rear deck's lower line. In that case a few judicial darts cut out of the top edge will allow the apron to follow those curves.

I've tried to explain this clearly; if I have confused you, get on the blower so I can make a complet job of it.

