

from the Morgan Oasis Garage

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This month's epistle to the Mognoscenti is about Super Sports seats. In Fred Sisson's books he gives dimensions taken off Don Simpkin's real Super Sports. The lovely Flowerbelle was asked recently to make a pair of these seats. I dipped my oar in to make the seat frames. Sisson's plans are invaluable to this task. When one gets deep in it, however, there are problems he doesn't answer. The following is a commentary on how one of Sisson's readers made three of these seats. One prototype to develop upon, and two for Gerry and Tanya Seligman's 4/4 roadster.

Six years ago I made a stab at making one of these seats. The aluminum I used for the back was numbered 6061 T 6. This number means it is a type of aluminum NOT meant for bending. When fastened to the wood bottom piece the aluminum flared open above the fasteners to an inelegant shape. Even when I used a softer aluminum it still flared enough to not please me. "Aha," I said, "I'll take it to a sheet metal shop and have it rolled to fit the back curve of the seat bottom." Sheet metal shops do mostly dishwasher dull stuff making ducts that no one ever sees. I've found these shops pleasant places to visit and v. reasonable in price, if you don't drive up in the Rolls. They're happy to do an interesting job. I figure they charged me twenty five scoots to roll three backs. This was a very spendy shop cuz the real reason I was there was to punch louvers in Gerry's bonnet.

Another concern was if the two seats are alongside each other in the cockpit the back angle wants to be the same. After all it's a British car, old boy, let's not let the side down. Having the backs rolled greatly eased the task of fastening the backs to the bottoms. When one seat was made the other was compared to it's angle.

The fasteners used were SHEETROCK screws, not sheet metal. The screws were neatly spaced every two inches, pilot drilled and countersunk. Once the backs were on the protruding half inch was hammered over the bottom. The Vee cuts needed were not made right up to the dotted half inch line. Staying below the line a nice fat 1/8 inch will roll the edge sweetly over and be a bit stronger. I riveted aluminum doublers to tie the front lip to the back. This may not be necessary but what can it hurt? I like to rivet. Soft aluminum rivets here, dear.

This completes part one, the finished wood and frame. Part two is simply "find a good upholsterer." I married one, but it doesn't need to be that complicated.

