

Burton Front Bumper

I am proud to be (still?) the only UK member of the Burton Owners Club! Kees has asked me to write a few words about a specific issue I have had, peculiar to the UK, but maybe of interest to other members.

In order for the car to be registered and allowed to drive in the UK, kit cars have to go through a very thorough test – the Individual Vehicle Approval. The test covers all elements of construction and is intended to ensure that the car meets current legislation. The IVA manual is large and contains requirements for, among others, engine immobiliser, headrests, modern exhaust emissions, and a requirement that areas around the car cannot easily damage pedestrians.

The test for this last one, is with the use of a 30 degree cone, which when placed against the car does not come up against obstructions. The front of the Burton exposes the forward end of the chassis and fails the test. My solution after a lot of thought was to fit a bumper, ideally the 2CV6. Burton supplied me with the bumper and brackets and I tried to work out a method of fixing.

My first thought was to drill a new hole in the brackets to locate with the chassis as with the 2CV but further forward to allow for the Burton front. I proposed to use the forwardmost holes onto which the body bolts.



However, this proved to not work – the washers raising the body (to accommodate the alternator) got in the way and it was not possible to secure the bumper effectively.

The next thought was to drill two new holes in the bumper and use those to locate the bumper under the body.

Two problems were immediately obvious – it looked ugly, and access to the bonnet release lever was too restricted.



3:00am solution. Invert the bumper so that the wider bit sits under the body, the narrow bit wrapping around above. Putting it into practice proved impossible as the bumper would not sit back far enough to be bolted to the chassis.

I raided my meccano set to use as a template, intending to ask my local machine shop to fabricate something suitable. Having proved that something might work, I went to our local B and Q store (similar to Praxis I think) and bought two brackets and two angle pieces. (160x40; 50x50x40) With some measurements I drilled out holes to suit M7 and M8 bolts and assembled the brackets and fixed them to the chassis. The angle pieces were secured to the bumper through the existing holes,



Problem solved – I think. IVA test is June 6th and I still have more things to do!!

But the result I think is very good. It does not have the benefit of the substantial 2CV brackets that would take more of an impact, but should be sufficient to get a pass. I will now paint the bumper and fit the rubber ends to minimise further the gap between the end of the bumper and the wing (to avoid a fail with the testers 100mm sphere – don't ask!!)



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May 2019