

Emma gets a new identity:

In my opinion a lot of people would look at Emma and think “that’s a 1940’s/1950’s car.” Those with a little more knowledge would recognise the ‘**FRB 135L**’ registration as a **1973** car. Car enthusiasts with even more knowledge will know that whilst a registration plate can make a car look older it cannot make it look younger; so Emma is a maximum of 48 years old, but could be younger if it’s a personal plate for 'Frederick **Ronald Bigalow**!' “If that’s your name and you live at **135 Lansdale Place** I’ve got a number plate for sale.”

To me this is one of Emma’s shortcomings and to complete the illusion of old age she needed a dateless registration, preferably with a combination of three letters and three numbers as they look the part and are considerably cheaper than numbers like ‘**A1**’ etc. (owned I think by Lord Montague).

I bought a personal plate some 25 years ago and after being on a number of cars it's now on my latest campervan. It wasn't too expensive but trying to buy something similar nowadays is a bit exorbitant. You can get a personal plate or dateless registration from a number of sources but after checking them out I decided to buy one direct from DVLA as their price includes VAT and the £80 registration transfer fee which is valid for ten years.

Unless you spend a small fortune you are unlikely to get a personalised plate, unless of course you have a very unusual set of initials, I know as I looked. DVLA prices start at £250. As another personal plate was out of the question I decided to just buy a cheap dateless registration that I liked the look of. After around an hour or so of checking what was available I bought ‘**BXZ 644**’ for £250 (step forward 'Barry **Xavier Zatopek**' it’s yours for £1500). Another £19.95 secured some black and white sculptured (pressed), period number plates.

Buying and assigning a registration number can all be done on-line.** From the time you click ‘Buy -Now’ you have eleven minutes to pay for it otherwise the purchase is cancelled and you have to start again so make sure that you have your debit or credit card ready. The ‘**Certificate of Entitlement V750**’ arrived in the post some three days later. While you’re waiting you can buy your number plates. Once you go on line to change the number you have to fit the new number plates immediately and cannot drive it anymore on the old plates once the transaction is completed. You also need to inform your insurance company of the new number.

Note.

** *As described in a previous post I couldn’t complete my application on line as the DVLA computer doesn’t seem to recognise the MOT status of an Historic vehicle: I had to apply by post.*

Emma’s original rear number plate was mounted on a piece of aluminium checker plate which is bolted onto a tow bracket extension piece.** I took all the number plate mounting components apart for cleaning, painted the rear fog light bracket and also took the opportunity to apply Solvol Autosol to all the rear light bezels followed by a coat of AutoGlym. Two small bushes 7mm long x 16mm diameter with a 6mm diameter hole through the centre were made out of aluminium bar to locate the M6 countersunk fixings centrally in the tow bracket bolt holes. Everything was assembled back together with stainless fittings.

Note.

** *Personally I would have preferred a wider rear number plate to match the front but the rear valance has two round reversing lights fitted that would require removal/relocation if I pursued fitment of my preferred shape plate.*

Personally I think the new dateless registration number transforms the car! Now when most people look at Emma they probably still think that's a 1940's/1950's car. Car enthusiasts with a little more knowledge might now think the same. Unfortunately real aficionados (like what we are), will realise it's a forgery as their vast knowledge of cars of that era does not include the image of a NG. Oh well you can't win them all!

P.S.

When the other half asks what it cost just say "oh it was only £141.67" there's no need to mention the £28.33 of VAT or the £80 transfer fee! All I've got to do now is to persuade Margaret to let me spend another £141.67 on 'BXZ 446' which would look nice on 'Muffin' the chosen name for my NG TA when I eventually find one.

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..... Actually I've never been one to let the truth get in the way of a good story and I've already purchased BXZ 446 (and bought an MGB based TA). "So now's your chance **Barry!** 'BXZ 644' and 'BXZ 446' for £2.5k the pair" now that's a bargain you don't see everyday!

Oh I nearly forgot "the insurance company wanted £30 to reissue the documents with the new number; but there's no need to mention that either".

The total cost of Emma's makeover was a reasonable £299.95.





