

Seat belt extenders:

Emma has Securon seat belts and with the seat suitably positioned (I'm 5' 10" tall), I struggled to fasten the seat belt.

Investigating eBay etc. revealed that seat belt extenders could be had for around £6 a pair with free postage; unfortunately after checking the spec. I discovered they don't fit Securon belts. The Securon belt extenders are circa £14.50 and upwards for each extension belt plus post and package.

I was about to bite the bullet and invest just under £40 when I realised that I would end up with buckles where buckles didn't really need to be, plus the act of fitting them would turn the diagonal strap into more of a vertical strap. What is really needed is an extension to the other end of the belt, rather than the buckle. Securon actually sell a short strap which could be used but they are £20 and upwards plus postage and they only seem to come in red.

A related problem was rusting of the originally chrome plated seatbelt support brackets that are fastened to the upper rear of the seats. Ideally these should have been re-plated but I wanted a quicker solution so they were removed and the rust thoroughly eliminated with an abrasive pad. To finish off I painted them with a combined primer/top coat green aerosol paint, which doesn't match the paint but does match the green piping on the seats.

An hour in the workshop produced a couple of brackets made from 25mm x 4mm steel strip 9" long (sorry if I flip between metric and Imperial). Margaret (HWMBO), made me some sleeves out of black leather cloth and after some paint and final assembly I can now buckle up my seat belt without breathing in.

So I saved circa £40 and provisionally cured a related problem (the rusting brackets), relatively cheaply. The belt is still diagonal and the buckle remains at the side where it doesn't dig into my stomach.

The loose switch hanging from the dashboard in the last photo is another story!



