

Muffins Wheel Spinners:

Like many other of Muffin's components the wheel spinners were pretty dire! They were bruised to death and the majority of the chrome was flaking off.

One old car that I like is a Ford Model T and although I have never owned one I have driven a few. They have brass hub nuts which in my view look quite nice in a dull tarnished state ("I know it takes all sorts!"). Thinking that dull tarnished wheel spinners would look equally good with Muffin's proposed colour scheme I sent off three emails asking for quotes to have the chrome removed from four spinners (surprisingly the one that held the spare wheel in position was already plain brass).

Now came the shock! The cheapest quote was £112 plus postage. Thinking that they had misunderstood my instructions I sent them another email stating that I only wanted the chrome removing and I didn't want them polished and re-chromed afterwards. The reply was "yes we know that sir the quote is just for removing the chrome!" Considering that four new spinners already polished and chromed only cost around two thirds of that price I was not impressed. Mind you under £80 for four new spinners seems cheap and I cannot vouch for the quality.

I still fancied some brass spinners so went on the internet to try and buy some before they got to the chroming stage, but alas no joy. Oh well, needs must, I'll do it myself so out with the trusty angle grinder.

Note.

I appreciate that there are home made potions for removing chrome but they didn't appeal.

Now the use of an angle grinder might sound a bit drastic but all I was wasting was my time; I certainly couldn't use the spinners in their current state and if my plan wasn't successful I would have to buy new ones. At the very least they can become a winter fitment while any posh new shiny ones are stored away somewhere warm and dry.

First up was to put a 1mm thick Inox cutting disc in the angle grinder** and gently grind away all the remains of the chrome and most of the bruise marks. Next in the grinder was an abrasive disc followed by a 120 grit flap wheel before finishing off with a Poly-Strip pad; finally when Margaret's back was turned I put them in the dishwasher.##

Notes.

** *Cutting discs are really not designed for grinding but chrome is hard and a cutting disc is much more controllable than a grinding disc. For safety wear all the protective gear and to prevent thinning of the disc do not let the angle between disc and work go below 30 degrees.*

This was an experiment; previously I have only cleaned aluminium parts in the dishwasher. The next morning they were nice and clean and weathered slightly with the brass already beginning to tarnish. The photo shows them the morning after they had their wash.

They have been weathering for a couple of days now and I like them. I haven't tried to polish them yet I'll wait a bit and see how they develop. They still have a few bruise marks and small areas where there are traces of chrome in nicks etc. below the surface. Depending on how they look after full weathering they might get a bit more fettling and then some final attention on a polisher but so far I'm quite pleased with them.

