

## **Rufus Wheels and Tyres Part 2:**

Since writing the article on Rufus's wheels and tyres I have had the wheels professionally restored so time for an update.

The overhaul of steel wheels can be done at home using wire brush wheels and abrasive mops in an angle grinder or electric drill, but it's a lot of hard work. Alternatives are blasting and powder coating or blasting and painting. Personally I'm not a lover of powder coating and would normally choose a painted option for chassis parts but I think that it's a good option for steel wheels.

Although in good enough condition to respond favourably to a home refurbishment the MGA wheels were taken to 'Alloy Tech' (in Peterborough) for professional refurbishment which included tyre removal and replacement, blasting, removal of any bad dings and powder coating in RAL 9001 Cream, then finally fitted with new valves and balanced. The initial estimated cost was £62.50 each.

When I collected the refurbished wheels they looked excellent\*\* and I would thoroughly recommend Alloy Tech. They refurbish steel and alloy wheels but unfortunately not spoked wheels.

### **Note:**

*\*\* I hate the old cliché 'Restored to as good as new'. In my experience very few items can be restored to as good as new. There used to be a famous Jaguar restorers in Peterborough who made such claims and quite honestly their restorations were a joke, albeit a very expensive one. How can something like eighty year old rust pitted wheels be restored to as new condition? Quite simply they can't, but 'Alloy Tech' can transform them so that they look very very good!*

The cost = £100 for five MGA wheels, - £250 for sale of the original wire wheels plus £312.50 for refurbishment - £32.50 for an unexpected discount. Total cost = £130. (Without taking into account my sale of the original wire wheels the total cost of refurbishment per wheel was £56 each as opposed to the £62.50 initial estimate.)



**The finished wheels.**