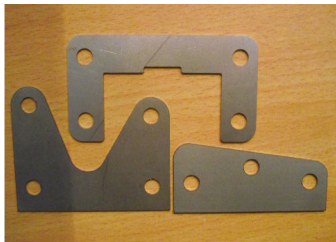


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(as seen in Minor Matters)



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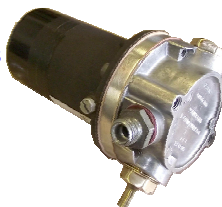
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New Morris Minor Spares

are available through the club. The current list is posted on the website under the 'New Spares' tab. **We can also order other items for you—usually saving the postage cost.**
Brian. 07411 116336

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MORRIS MINOR REGALIA - DORSET BRANCH

Our Branch Regalia stock is managed by **Richard Cyster** and is available at clubnights and our outdoor events. (The illustrated stock list is shown on the website www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk)

Tax Disc Holders	£ 1.00	Caps	£ 12.00
Coasters	£ 1.00	Polo Shirts	£ 15.00
Branch Keyrings	£ 1.99	Sweatshirts	£ 14.00
Pack of 6 Cards	£ 7.00	Fleeces	£ 20.00
Single Cards	£ 1.35	Beanie Hats	£ 8.50
Postcards	£ 0.50	Money Boxes	£ 5.00
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'Zoodies'	£20.00	Morris Minor Hangers (small)	£ 9.00
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MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB

Dorset Branch NEWSLETTER



April 2014
Volume 17
Issue 5

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www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk

The MMOC Dorset Branch

was founded in 1977 by Graham Melly and chaired in the early days by Aubrey Batt. It is a Branch of the National Morris Minor Owners Club but has its own accounts and organisation (see Constitution for further details) **We meet on the first Wednesday of every month (7:30 for 8:00)** at the **Bournemouth Electric Club, Broadway Lane, BH8 0AA**. We have an active calendar of events throughout the year – particularly in the Summer months when we attend many rallies and other shows. The monthly Clubnight is an opportunity to meet the other enthusiasts and enjoy a presentation or other activity organised by the Committee. Please note that the Dorset Branch MMOC will accept no liability in respect of goods or services provided by advertisers. No recommendation is implied.

Membership currently costs £10 per year, £12.50 for joint membership.

Please ask Branch Secretary if you require a copy of the Dorset Branch Constitution. (Also available on website.) For more details contact Laurie Blewer on 01202 522673 or John Jenkinson on 01202 576690

Advertising: Cars or spares for sale or wanted £5 per entry (Free to members).
Traders advertisements: £30 per year.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2013-2014

(01425 476634)

Newsletter / Website Editor: Brian Wood

(01202 573501)

(brian@dorsetmmoc.co.uk)

President: Graham Jarvis (07914 637429)

Chairman: John Jenkinson (01202 576690)

Secretary: Laurie Blewer (01202 522673,

07947 525884)

Non Committee posts:

Raffle Coordinators: Chris Tilly and Margaret

Pateman

Treasurer: Jacky Wood (01202 573501).

Spares Manager: Brian Wood

(07411 116336)

Membership Secretary – Des Waller (01202

573403)

Regalia Manager: Richard Cyster

(01202 526660)

Events Organiser/H&S Supervisor – Neville

Gerry (01202 747687)

Product Development Mgr: Brian Ford

Catering Executives: -Sue Blewer, Lyn Gerry

Welfare/Technical Adviser: Eddie Pateman

FRONT COVER

A great display of Morris and Austins at this year's Brooklands in March. (See Dave Holton's report on Page 10)

***Dorset Branch of the Morris Minor Owners Club
Helping to preserve the post war Morris Minor in the Dorset
area and beyond***

Forthcoming Events (see also www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk)

2014

2nd April—Clubnight— Quiz
13th April—CCOTP New Season Starts at Bournemouth Seafront
17th April— Dorset Historic Vehicle—Inter Club Quiz, Hamworthy Club
8pm
25-27th April 2014 Sidmouth Weekend
5th May—Beaulieu Motor Museum—World record attempt –Models
7th May—Clubnight— Phil Traves' Antiques Evening
11th May—Aubrey Batt Run (via Breamore Steam Up)
17-18th May—Beaulieu Spring Autojumble
26 May—Bournemouth Wheels Festival. Club Stand
25th May—CCOTP at Highcliffe Castle
4th June—Clubnight—Skittles Match (Details TBA)
15th June—N.Wilts MMOC Rally—Atwell Wilson Motor Museum, Calne
2nd July Clubnight—Road Run (Details TBA)
5-6th July Bath Pageant of Motoring.
11-13th July Dorset Branch Rally
6th August—Clubnight—Gardening Competition
8-10 August—Holiday weekend—Littlecote House.
8-10 August—Purbeck Rally
25th August—Brockenhurst Carnival and Fete, Brockenhurst College.
30th August— Hordle Fete
31st August—IOW Branch Rally
3rd September—Quiz
1st October—Clubnight AGM
5th November—Clubnight—Rev Stewart Timbrell
3rd December—Clubnight 'Noggin and Natter'
10th January 2015—Dinner Dance—Liston Hotel

(Don't forget to check the website for latest updates to events)

BRANCH REBATE SCHEME

You may be aware that the branch receives a financial rebate according to the numbers of national MMOC members who attend the monthly clubnights. We therefore need to update our records so that we can take advantage of this scheme. Please would you advise Des Waller (or any Committee Member) of your MMOC membership number and renewal date and make sure that you sign the attendance sheet at the clubnights. Thanks.

PHIL'S ANTIQUES EVENING

We have arranged for our resident Antiques expert, Phil Traves to present his popular Antiques evening on May Clubnight. So please feel free to bring along any old items of general interest for Phil to ponder over.

INTER CLUB QUIZ on THURSDAY 17th APRIL

at the HAMWORTHY CLUB, Magna Road, Canford Magna starting at 8pm.
One or two teams of 6 people from each club would be ideal and hopefully we can look forward to an enjoyable evening. Please let us know if you would like to come and we can book space for one or two teams.

HOLIDAY WEEKEND—WARNERS, LITTLECOTE HOUSE, BERKS:

John is arranging a weekend break at a Warners Hotel at Littlecote House for the 8,9,10 August. There will be a fifties theme over the weekend and it is proposed to attend a classic rally in Newbury on the Saturday. More details to be announced later.

GARDENING COMPETITION:

We are hoping to put on a Flower & Vegetable competition for the August clubnight later in the year. So if you have 'green fingers' have a look at page 13 of the February newsletter, where there are more details.

ORIGINAL CLASSIC PLATES FOR YOUR MORRIS MINOR

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John Jenkinson, Chairman
Morris Minor Owners Club, Dorset Branch

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Dorset Branch Newsletter



April 2014

MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB

Volume 17 Issue 5

CLUBNIGHT ACTIVITY:
QUIZ

Inside this issue. . . .

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NEXT CLUBNIGHT Wed May 7th Phil Traves' Antiques Evening

The Dorset Branch Newsletter is published on the first Wednesday of the month and sent by post to paid-up members. It is also available for download from the Internet usually about 10 days before the clubnight.

Editorial

Hello, once again from the editorial desk. Hope this finds you all well and looking forward to the forthcoming classic car activity. We have been out to our first show of the year in the 2 door. The Brooklands Austin/Morris day was blessed with glorious weather and we made the 86 mile (each way) trip without incident (except for the dynamo—which died quietly!). Thanks to Dave Holton for his report on the day.

The good news on the tax disc front comes into effect this month. It won't affect Morris Minors since they only went up to 1971, however, the Government have extended the cut-off date from which classic vehicles are exempt from VED by one year. From 1 April 2014 a vehicle manufactured before 1 January 1974 will be exempt from paying VED. (Finance Bill 2014). So, if you have a classic which just missed the exemption when it was frozen, you should be able to reclaim any Road Fund Licence (or VED) paid after 1st April this year.

The work on the convertible is still progressing quite well with the nearside floor now finished, just the drivers side to do now. Our 2 door was sold to a club member, Mike Wade, who will hopefully have some fun with it (don't worry I fitted a reconditioned dynamo when I got home, Mike). Anyway, only a short report this month, since we have a lot to pack in. Cheers for now, Brian.



From: Mike Neep E-Mail: michael.neep@btinternet.com
 Message: I am contacting you on behalf of Mid-Hants Railway, The Watercress Line. On Saturday 10th May 2014 we will commemorate 50 years since the withdrawal of freight facilities at Alresford and Medstead stations. We are organising a mini-event including a demonstration freight train. <http://www.watercressline.co.uk/product.php?xProd=39> We would like to display some commercial vehicles in the station forecourts at Alresford and Medstead on that day. We would like some Morris Minor vans, as they would be typical for the period c1964. Can you help please? Regards, Mike

Hi. I wonder if you can help me. I have a Morris Minor 1000 saloon. I have spent the last 5 years restoring her to her former glory. Sadly though, last year I had an accident and now cannot drive a manual car any longer. I would be heart broken if I had to sell her. I know when we came to your Morris Minor weekend at Avon Heath country park we spoke to a guy who has changed his Morris Minor (to automatic) so he can drive his. Just wondered if anybody in your club would be able to help me out and direct me into how I could change her. Regards, Dawn Smith (reply through editor please)

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I have been contacted by David Bourne that I met on last years M.O.T. about the sale of the car that he took on that run.

It's a 1984 Morris Ital 1.7 Estate with a manual gearbox, I think that it is the SX model. It was bought from a neighbour who bought it from the Morris dealer but it was first registered by them prior to sale. So technically it has two previous owners. David bought it last year and if it was for sale at that time I would have probably bought it and converted it to an automatic. It's bright red and has a very nice interior. The mileage is about 98,000 and it is M.O.T'd. David is asking £2,000 for it and he is based in Bedford. Please contact him on 01234 708249 if you feel like moving up to a bigger Minor. I'm not interested as I now have the Cortina automatic Estate. (Dave Walker)



Hello, The trailer started making a strange rumbling noise. On checking I found that the wheel was leaning and the brake drum was rubbing the suspension arm.

Two replacement suspension units courtesy of Bruce solved the problem, for which many thanks. It's amazing what people have in the back of their garage! Regards, Dave Walker

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For Sale & Wanted & Club Notices

Please mention where you saw the ad when you respond, thanks

FOR SALE: Box of assorted Minor spares following clearout. Includes approx. 4 HS2 Carburettors, hubcaps, door and window handles, switches, rear light bases, chrome bezels, chrome air filter, keinzell clock, bonnet emblem, horn button etc etc. £20 the lot. Contact Malcolm (Southampton) 07900 152483.

FOR SALE: 2 Dr Nearside door £35, Bootlid, good condition £65. Other Minor body parts available, please ask. Richard 01794 301049 (*sorry number incorrect last month! Ed*)

FOR SALE: Set of 1275 pistons +0.020" - only done 35 miles, replaced due to sizing error, £50 ono. Eddie Pateman 01425 476634

Please let me know if you no longer wish your ad to be included in the newsletter/website. *Editor.*

DORSET BRANCH SPARES NEWS

For the benefit of newer members who may not be aware of it, the Branch operates a Morris Minor New Spares service. All profits go back to the Branch to help keep subscriptions low. We usually have a spares table at the monthly branch clubnights and we have a presence at some shows (particularly the Branch Rally and the Beaulieu Autojumbles). Spares are available most other times using the contact details given below. The spares are mostly sourced from ESM (East Sussex Minors—who support our branch rally also) and the prices charged generally reflect their prices. The advantages are availability of parts and *usually* no postage charges. Some locally reconditioned items are also available, such as fuel pumps, carburettors and radiators. . .

IF YOU ARE PLANNING A LARGE PURCHASE, WE CAN USUALLY OFFER AN ATTRACTIVE DISCOUNT.

The Branch Website has a '**Spares Shop**' which advertises (mostly second hand) spares. Why not browse the bargains or send me an ad or two with a picture.

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Secretary's Report

Good evening and welcome to the April clubnight. I hope you all found last month's clubnight interesting. Tonight's meeting will be a quiz. Don't forget that Phil will be coming along next month for another of his Antiques Roadshow evenings so please bring along anything you would like him to have a look at.

We are planning to enter 1 or 2 teams into the Inter Club Quiz on 17th April at The Hamworthy Club. Please let me know tonight whether you wish to take part so that I can let the organisers know how many teams we are entering.

Plans are coming on well for this year's display at the Beaulieu Spring Autojumble. Roger is busy designing and painting the backdrops for us but we do still require some "props". We are looking for any period garage equipment you would be willing to lend to us for the weekend.

I am starting to receive entry forms for lots of events now and most of these should be available at clubnights. One new event we are planning to take part in this year is the Bournemouth Wheels Festival. This looks like it's going to be a fantastic weekend of motoring events set across Bournemouth Town Centre, gardens and seafront. The Classic Car Club stands will be on the seafront. We are hoping to have a stand on Bank Holiday Monday 26th May so if you would like to take part please let me know. Have a look at www.bournemouthwheels.co.uk for more details.

Entries have started to come in for this year's Dorset Branch Rally. Your entry form should hopefully have been with this newsletter tonight so please let me have it back as soon as you can.

I hope all of you who are going on the Devon weekend this month are looking forward to another good time. Hopefully we will have good weather like we did last year which will allow for some "top down" motoring. Before we go down to Devon I must get out into the garage and give the Convertible a quick service and grease. She is running well so hopefully we won't have any problems.

I think that's about all from me for this month so until next time – Happy Minor-ing, Laurie.



Hello to all members of the Morris Minor Owner's Club, I honestly can't thank you enough for your generous donation towards my World Scout Jamboree 2015 Japan fund. It was such a surprise to walk in from school and see a giant cheque for sixty pounds. Thank you again. It will help me definitely and if you would like anymore information about my trip, just ask. Thank you!
Megan Wetherick



Chairman's Report

Good evening and welcome to April's clubnight. I hope all of the members enjoyed the talk on the fashions of the Thirties and Forties at the last clubnight by Patricia. Tonight is a quiz so put on your thinking caps. Thanks to Brian for showing my knees on the magazine front cover last month. Some of the members thought that they were quite nice for my age. The branch is still looking for bits and pieces for the Beaulieu weekend in May, for the BMC garage display in the marquee. So if you have any old garage regalia please let the committee know. The Branch rally in July is taking shape so if you would like to take a stall or know anyone else who would like one please let us know. I hope the cash from the whip-round we had on the Mistletoe Run helps Megan get to the Scouts Jamboree in Japan and we wish her all the luck from the Branch.



Now the weather seems to be getting warmer it is time to get your seeds in for the Branch Gardening Competition for August Clubnight. This is the first time we have tried a gardening competition so let it be a good night. Also thanks to Eddie Pateman for arranging and organising it.

I still have a couple of rooms left for the Warner's Hotel Break at Littlecote House, Berkshire on the weekend of the 8-10th August.. (leaving on 11th after breakfast). So please let me know if you would like to go. Also those members that have already booked, I would like your deposit. (£100 per couple please). I popped in to Cherry Tree Nurseries last week and spoke to Jess, the Manageress and they still would like the club to collect old carrier bags. So if you would please keep them and bring them along to clubnight. I might try to arrange a half day run one weekend in the summer.

That's all for now, happy motoring, John.

Hello everyone - so sorry that I have been absent from the past few club meetings; I have been trying to resolve a few health problems and hopefully these are all behind me now. To all recent new Members, let me explain the Book Club. I have acquired, over several years, quite a lot of books relating to classic, vintage and veteran cars. Many of these came to me via my Father, who was in the motor trade until the start of the second World War. Add to these, books on all aspects of transport and engineering; including commercial vehicles motor cycles, steam and petrol transport, aeroplanes, biographies and autobiographies of well known motor manufacturers and engineers etc. Also some fictional works, which relate to the above. Such a shame to let these gather dust on bookshelves when other people may like to borrow them to read. I try to attend, on a regular basis, our meetings on the first Wednesday in every month and bring with me a selection of these books for other members to browse through and to borrow. Please come and talk to me and I will tell you what books I have to loan out. I can also try to track down anything which is not currently available to me. I do not have any workshop manuals to lend out but last year we were lucky enough to receive a donation of Haynes Workshop Manuals which cover many classic cars. I will try to catalogue these before the next meeting and they will be made available for sale at the various events the Club attends during 2014. Proceeds will go to the Charity we are supporting for this year.

Derek Shearman

New Morris Minor Spares
are available through the club. The current list is posted on the website under the 'New Spares' tab. **We can also order other items for you—usually saving the postage cost.**
Brian. 07411 116336



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Brooklands (Austin/Morris Day) Sunday March 9th 2014

(by David Holton)

Hi Everyone, Well let's hope that by the time you are reading this month's newsletter Spring will be well established. But after all the wretched weather we have had this winter someone was certainly looking after us at Brooklands this year. Blue skies, unbroken sunshine and 18c was the order of the day, apparently the warmest day since the 27th October 2013.

Every year I take my trusty Minor van (Rupert) to Brooklands to meet up with other members of the LCV mob. With the journey being 95 miles each way it gives Rupert a good blow out after his winter's rest. The week prior I gave him a good check over and tinkering session and he ran like a sewing machine and was totally reliable all day. Thank you Rupert.

Anyway, the sunshine certainly brought the BMC tinwear out of hibernation. Plenty of Minis, Minors, 1100s, Cambridges, Maestros, Montegos and Metros. Also plenty of historic varieties – Austin 7s, Rubys and Morris variants. I call these The 'Narrow Tyre' lot. They must be brave driving these vehicles in amongst modern day traffic especially if they venture out onto the M25 which is only 3 miles from Brooklands.

I noticed some of the museum exhibits this year were up on axle stands and blocks of wood. Apparently some parts of the museum suffered with flooding in December but thankfully volunteers rallied together to prevent too much damage.

The one big surprise of the day for me was whilst sat by Rupert having a coffee Brian and Jacky appeared. They had decided at the last minute to make the most of the weather and had ventured up from Bournemouth in their 2 door saloon. We were glad to be out in our Minors after the winter and spent the rest of the day catching up with each other's news.

There is one thing I find each year at Brooklands Austin/Morris day is that all these vehicles are incredibly delightful. They are so wonderfully British and, to me represent the good times when music was music, ECUs and Diesel Particulate Filters had not been invented and 3 or 4 gears were enough for anybody! To think back 40+ years all these vehicles were everyday transport and little was considered classic then. And you can't beat the sound and smell of these vehicles. Last October I had the opportunity to purchase branch member, Tony Ware's van so now we have 2 vans (Rupert and Ernie – named after my late Dad) and a Traveller (Molly). I think I suffer from 'Morris Minoritis'! Over the winter I have carried out a few modifications to Ernie. They include fitting an Accuspark Electronic Ignition, cartridge oil filter, oil pressure gauge and a water temperature gauge. If the sun is shining, Ernie's first outing will be on Drive it Day (Sunday 27th April) to go to the Heritage Centre at Gaydon. This will be my next Minor day but in the meantime I will definitely be going to the Practical Classics Restoration Show at the NEC on the 12-13 April. Then of course I will be at the Beaulieu Spring Auto Jumble to meet up with fellow branch members and to buy some spares from Brian. Ernie will be appearing at Dorset events through the summer as well as the National Rally at Kelmarsh in June.

Cheers for now, Dave Holton Dorset Member 272.

(And from Pam who supports all my ventures from the sidelines.)

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A Brighter Spark

The subject of this article is a comparatively high-tech piece of equipment, only available since miniature solid state electronic components became commonplace. During the lengthy period of Minor production such devices were in their infancy and only to be found on 'guinea pig' cars, which formed the test bed for the development of many features of modern vehicles. Nowadays we don't give a second



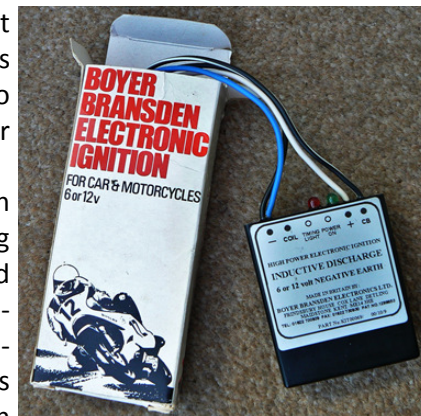
thought to disc brakes, fuel injection or electronic ignition all of which were tested extensively on the road and racetrack before being released for public consumption.

The original ignition system fitted to the Minor is fired by "contact breaker points" which have an arduous life switching the primary ignition current on and off several thousand times a minute. It is hardly surprising that these contacts suffer from the erosive effects of sparking and require regular attention for optimum performance.

There are alternatives, such as the 'electronic' modules which rely on optical or 'Hall-effect' triggers to switch the current, thus doing away with the points and their associated condenser. A better spark and more consistent ignition timing should result, so theoretically it is a worthwhile improvement which could lead to smoother running and maybe an extra mile or two to the gallon.

With these benefits in mind I bought an 'Accuspark' distributor with electronic switching but it worked for a little less than four hundred miles, before failing completely at a busy roundabout on the Salisbury ring road; the embarrassment nearly killed me. I was half-expecting this problem and had the original distributor on standby in the boot of the car; within a few minutes it was installed and I finished my journey without further hindrance.

After this unhappy experience I decided to retain the Lucas distributor and contact-



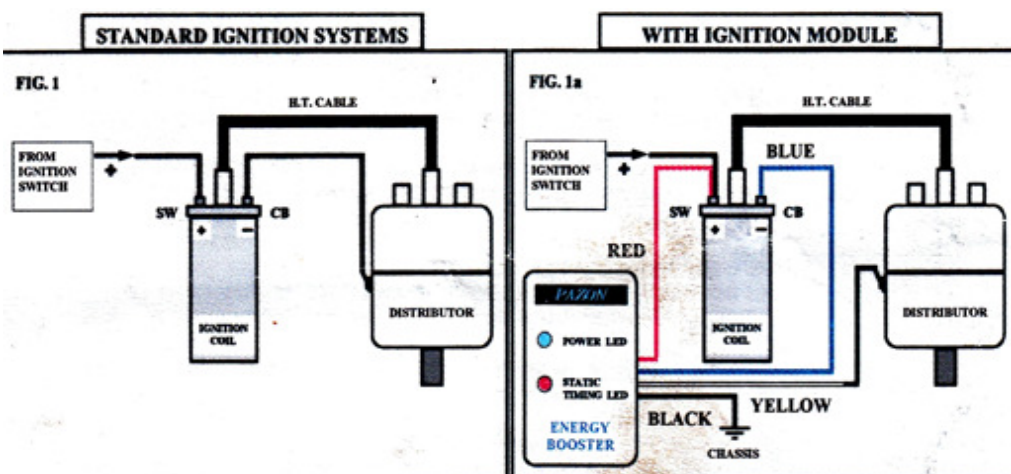
(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

breaker points, and fit an external electronic switching unit, which in effect is a relay controlled by the points. The advantages are that the current and voltage across the points are considerably reduced, the condenser is not needed, removing another potential problem and electronic switching should improve the spark marginally.

The unit I fitted is a Pazon 'Energy Booster' which had already done several years reliable service on two motorcycles, during which time it survived an acid attack from a leaky battery. The current price for an 'Energy Booster' is around £58 and includes a 7 1/2 year warranty. A virtually identical product is sold by Boyer-Brandsden Ltd. and both are easily available via the internet. The Pazon came with leads of about a yard in length, the Boyer-Brandsden device illustrated has much shorter leads which would require extending in order to effect a neat installation.

These devices are very simple to fit having only four wires; the existing conden-



ser in the distributor may be left in place or removed, it makes no difference. Any connectors or extensions to the wiring must be soldered to avoid any problems which could lead to misfiring or a complete breakdown. There is no need to make up any fixing brackets as the 'box' can be wrapped in something to keep it from rattling - I used a piece of innertube - and placed anywhere convenient, as long as it is safe; the one on my car being trapped behind the tie plate

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

of the inner wing.

When the ignition is on, two lamps glow; the green one shows that power is on whilst the red one goes out when the points open, enabling the static ignition timing to be set without removing the distributor cap.

After five years and around three thousand miles with this device fitted, the points on my



AJS motorcycle showed no sign of burning or pitting and starting was always 'first-kick'. The Morris has done about 2500 miles so far, in a similar fashion, except I have with difficulty resisted the temptation to kick it! Any

vehicle, 6 or 12 volt, positive or negative earth (specify when ordering) with normal coil ignition can be fitted with one of these 'black boxes' in less than an hour and with no significant modification.

Most owners of older vehicles have a distrust of electronic 'gadgets' - that is why I had that spare distributor with me, so it is an added comfort to know that in the unlikely event of one of these modules breaking down it is possible to return the ignition wiring to standard and be back on the road again in less than ten minutes!