

Things for a Boy (or Girl) to do with his (Rover SD1) Blanket.



It was a forgone conclusion to buy a new under-bonnet blanket for my TP Vitesse (even if a little pricey) from Rimmer's ex-India stock. Problems with the old one were legion. For a start-off it had shrunk (they all do) and had long since failed to tuck into the folded edges of the bonnet. Then the corners started to hang down (they all do). Then the flapping edges/corners were stuck in place with evostick (nearly everybody had to). Then it started to disintegrate (hands up who's did not?). Then some retaining devices were devised to keep the damn thing tidy (not many owners did this).

Several splendid reasons to capitalise on the availability of new stock so a good one was selected at the September 2006 Spares Day (some were a bit ropey). After removing the old one, a few layers and types of sticky stuff and backing paper, amalgamated to the surface, were revealed. What a mess? Never mind, it would not be seen at all with a new blanket fitted, so most of the lumps, bumps and loose crud were washed and scraped away and the rest generally smoothed off with a stiff brush. Waxoyl was then applied to the area due to be covered by the new item, and let dry.



Offered up, the replacement would clearly fit exactly as Rover intended and is well supported by its six retaining clips with the sides neatly tucked into the bonnet edges. Yet, in our increasingly humid climate, for how long one wonders? Hence, to combat future shrinkage the former retaining gadgets are duly tidied up and re-fitted. The images show these fixings and their location.



Two central stepped brackets are fixed with self tapping screws and spring retaining nuts behind the stiffener panel, using existing holes. Two penny washers are retained by self tapping screws in small holes drilled at the locations. Four corner retaining bands are fabricated from substantial plastic-covered garden wire with a rolled end to push into the edge and a hook at the other end tensioned into existing holes in the panels. They are a bit of a fiddle to make but are effective when fitted. Mine just need a bit more black paint to tidy them up.

Finally the engine bay was treated to a new set of under-bonnet lamp-holders and wiring (which have been kicking around the workshop for yonks), a new pair of buffers screwed into the holes seen top-right in the second image, a new air intake grill and a new bonnet retaining bracket/clasp at the centre of the air intake area to replace the one that looked quite battered after years of inaccurate bonnet closing.

Nice birthday presents (to the month – October 86) for a 20 year old beauty! I should be so lucky?

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