

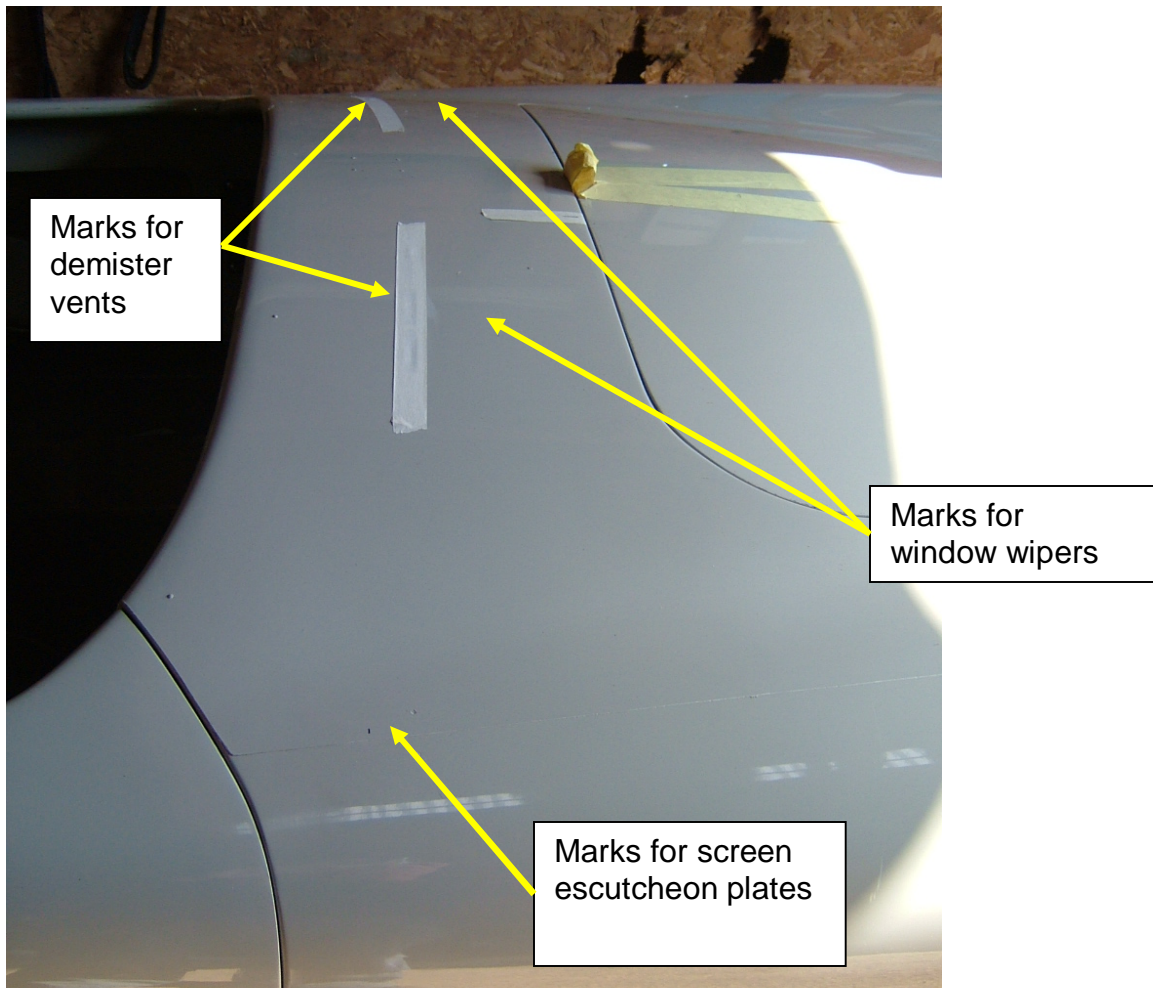
My Hawk build part 16 by Stuart Clarke

Fitting the Windscreen.

It was time to start cutting some more holes in the body.

For this episode I'd be concentrating on fitting the windscreen, demister vents and windscreen wipers.

The body is marked with most of the positions for these items but before you drill it's best to check the measurements



Screen first. I laid the screen flat over the front scuttle so the pillars were over the point where they'd enter the body and found that the marks were fairly accurate. Any small "inaccuracies" here will be covered by the escutcheon plates so it's not that critical. I checked the $31 \frac{5}{8}$ " \pm $\frac{1}{8}$ " measurement in the build manual from the back of the doors and it all matched up.

I drew the curve of the screen (without the pillars fitted) on the scuttle to enable me to check the position of the demister vents and the window wiper cut outs and they all seemed to line up.

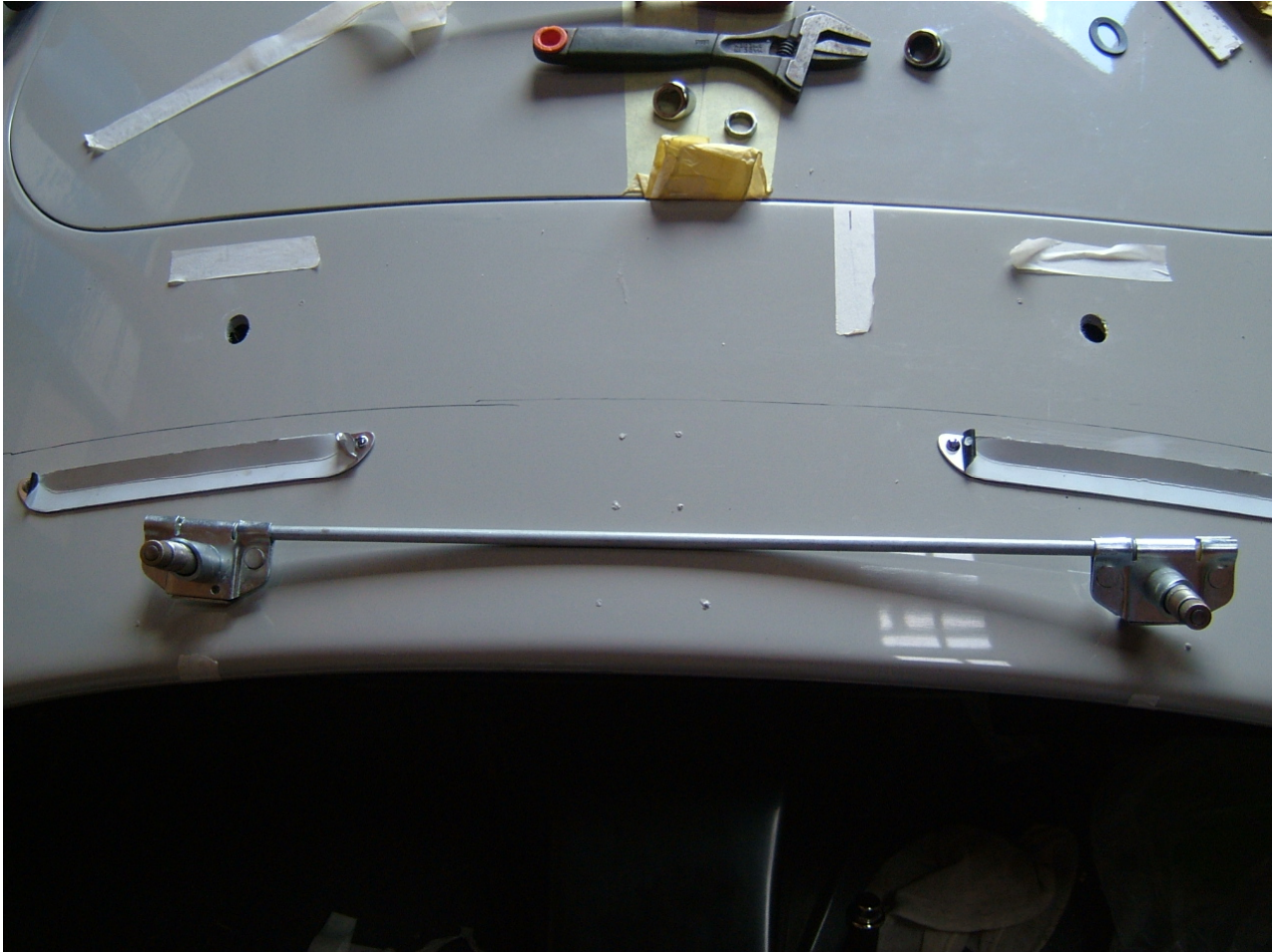
So to fitting the screen, all that is needed is to cut the slots for the pillars. I'd recommend leaving the fixing holes for the escutcheon plates until the screen is in place. Don't be concerned about trying to drill past the pillars and scratching them, the screen will be in and out a few times and there will be more than a couple of chances to drill these holes, trust me!

For the pillar slots, I found it best to mark the extent of the slot or hole required, then drill holes progressively larger and file the remainder. It gives a better finish and reduces the "Oh bu@\$r!" moments!

It's the same for the demister vent holes. I was using the cobra aluminium vents rather than the MGA ones. They're slightly longer but I kept the cut outs the same just in case I decided to change later.



I bought some chrome 2BA rounded slotted screws and nuts for the vents and the escutcheon plates. I fitted the vents with the fishtails underneath (all supplied by Gerry) and then set about the “window wiper wheel boxes” (try saying that after a couple of beers).



The holes for these need to be angled ... forwards!

I drilled a small 2.5mm hole in the centre of the mark then using the chrome angled boot, to get the right angle, drilled a 16mm hole and filed the remainder. I fitted the wheel boxes from underneath. The bundy tube cleared the heater and I don't think it would have if I hadn't had dropped the heater down using the Nylon spacers I made.

I fitted the screen and to ensure I had the right rake I cut a piece of wood to ensure the screen top edge to body lip at the rear of the passenger compartment was 33 1/4"



I couldn't quite get the screen down to the 3mm "gap" that is stated in the build manual. Luckily the screen is very strong, I'm over 14 stone and I did some pushing! When I'd finished the screen was level and the centre bracket lined up. Although the gap was still about 5mm, the seal at the front had more than sufficient overlap to work so I left it at that.

The next job was to drill the pillars and scuttle frame plates.

The build manual advises fitting aluminium spacers if required, my pillars were flush with the scuttle frame plates so none were needed.

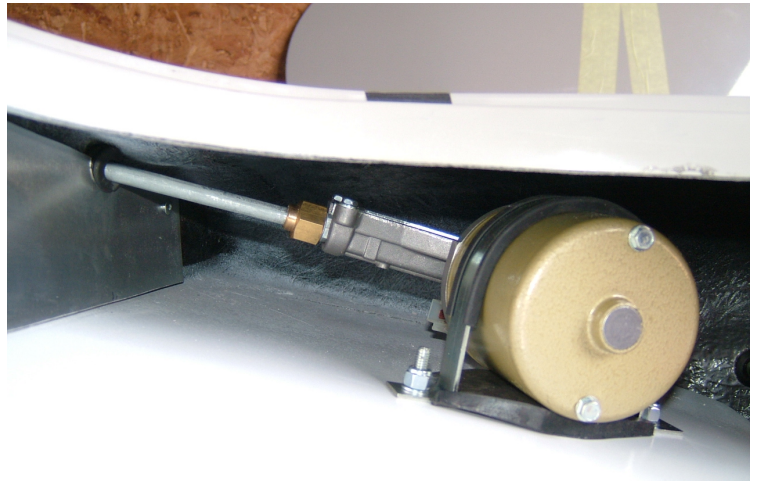
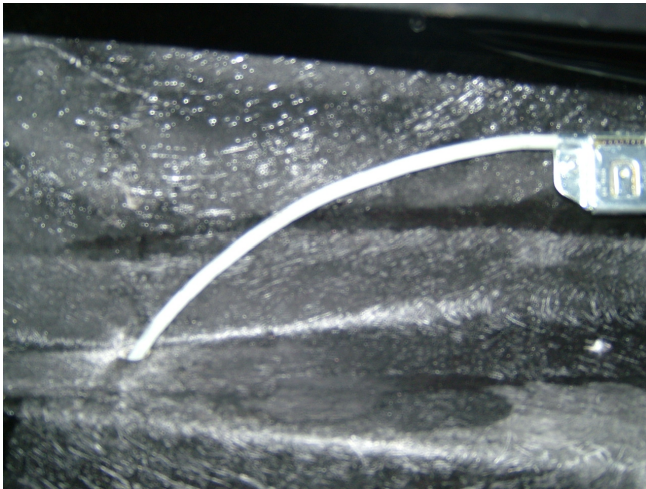
This is to say the least "a pig of a job" The screen pillars are brass which is awful stuff to drill as the drill rips through it and snatches, it's much better to drill the holes in one go without a pilot hole. I drilled 4 holes in each pillar and used 6mm round headed cap screws and nyloc nuts to secure them.



When that was all bolted and tightened up I fixed down the escutcheon plates and the centre bracket (which is also a bit fiddly to fit).

Next up is the Windscreen wipers. I'd already drilled and fitted the wheel boxes but I had to fit the motor. This all came as a kit so everything was there apart from the bolts to mount the motor. I used the same 6mm round headed cap screws that I did to fit the windscreen. I did loads of measuring and even made a cardboard jig to ensure that the bend in the Bundy tube was sufficient and to find the measurements to locate the exact place where I needed to drill the hole in the bulkhead.

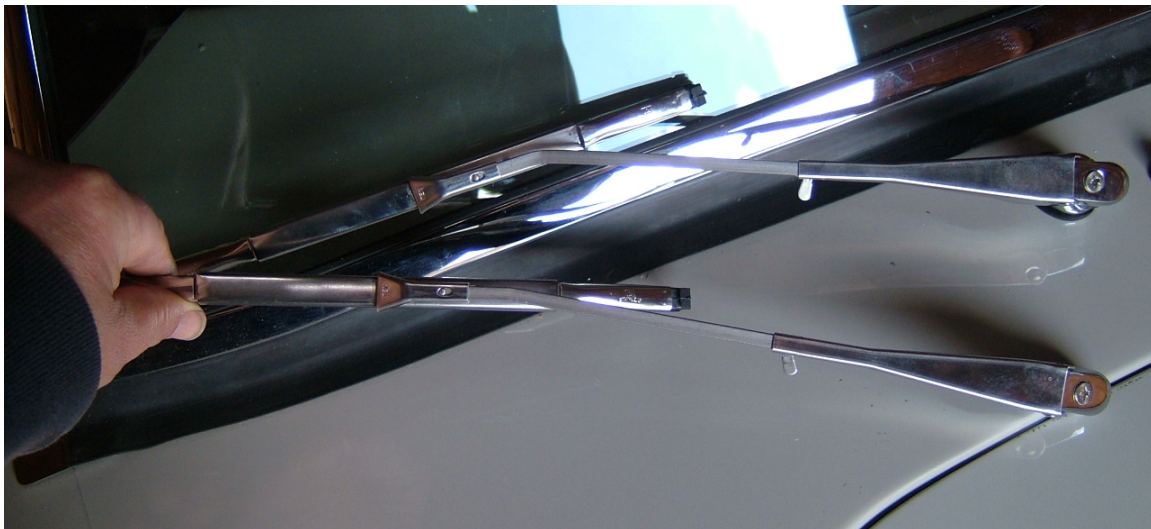
All of this prep work paid off and it all worked out fine.



I connected it all up before I marked and drilled the motor mounting holes in the top of the passenger footwell. It's virtually impossible to measure everything accurately enough to pre drill them.

It is important to ensure that the window wiper rack is well greased before it is all assembled.

Once this was completed I could fit the wipers and wiper blades. These came from Gerry and look the part. They need to be bent to fit.



The fitted one has been bent. The one I'm holding, is as they come. I think it's a bit more than a tweak. They are simple to fit and really look the part.

I also fitted some IVA complaint plastic washer jets. For some reason with the exterior projections, the window wipers are exempt but the washer jets aren't!

