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FARINA
REGISTER

Newsletter

*For the enthusiast of the
BMC Farina Riley 4/68, 4/72;
MG Magnette Mk 3 and Mk 4*

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VIKING INVADER!



*Ilya Meyer of Gothenburg, Sweden proudly flying the Swedish flag
from his 1959 Mk3 Magnette at Holker Hall, Cumbria in 2002.*

**A very Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year to All our Readers**



MG & RILEY FARINA REGISTER



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Compliments of the Season to all our members and readers. As another year draws rapidly to a close, some of our cars are now about to become 45 years old! This seems amazing but it's true, I am still using my Farinas on a daily basis with them giving great service to me. I wonder how many of you also use them everyday? My Magnette performed again at another wedding in October, performed being the operative word as it was a 600 miles round trip down to Guildford in Surrey via Heathrow Airport! All went well apart from losing the exhaust back box on the M25 on the way home! All part of the fun I suppose, I had to leave it in the long grass beside the motorway, surprisingly the engine noise is hardly any louder but we did have to keep the speed up to avoid exhaust fumes coming inside!

My appeal for material produced not exactly a flood but some reaction, so if you are bored with all that sitting around eating Christmas pudding then get writing — pictures help too!

Pictures we are not short of this issue and as it is Christmas I thought we would have a colour special issue, the last colour one was four years ago so enjoy it — they are rare!

Car discovery wise, not that much going on but our first car discovered in Iran was great news. Other new USA and Cypriot discoveries became known.

A very Merry Christmas and Prosperous 2004 to all.

Mick

COLOUR SCHEMES

*Paint and Trim Colour Combinations used in the
MG and Riley Farinas*

COLOUR IS A subjective thing, but to me one of the attractions of BMC Farinas was the coachwork and trim colour schemes offered. Nowadays with only a small number of survivors, some of these are no longer to be seen. We can only imagine how distinctive one of our cars in that scheme would have looked so this article is stepping back in time to when the 1.5 litre twin-carb Farinas first came out.

Imagine choosing a Magnette III in Mineral Red and Whitehall Beige with Beige upholstery for instance — Tasty! Yes, but have you ever seen a survivor in these colours? As a young lad in the 'sixties who was mad keen on Farinas, I can't even remember seeing a Magnette III in these colours when they were everyday cars.

The full list of colours for the Magnette III was:

Note: Trim colours include some guesswork from me and may not be 100% accurate. Matters are complicated by the fact that carpets came in red, blue and green!	
COACHWORK	TRIM
Black	Red
Mineral Blue	Grey
Iris Blue	Beige
Vale Green	Beige
Island Green	Beige
Cherry Red	Grey
Yukon Grey / Birch Grey	Red
Mineral Red / Whitehall Beige	Beige

The early cars from 1959 to mid 1960 had the same split of colour as the Austin Cambridge A55 II, ie. roof, boot and part of upper rear door in the darker colour.

In mid 1960, probably at the same time as the windscreen wipers were altered to park on the left, the darker colour was carried all over

the coachwork above the waistline rubbing strip. These changes applied to both MG and Riley Farinas.

However, the colour combinations for the Riley 4/68 were different from the MG Magnette III. As yet I don't have the correct colour names as used by BMC, but a glance through some of the second-hand cars advertised for sale in *Autocar* in the early sixties tells us that there were quite a number of combinations.

The cars featured include:

1960	Riley 4/68	Red and Black Also 1961 car in same with Red trim
1960	Riley 4/68	Crimson and White (also described as Maroon and Cream)
1961	Riley 4/68	Blue and Grey
Nov. 1959	Riley 4/68	Green and White
Dec. 1960	Riley 4/68	Blue and White
Aug. 1960	Riley 4/68	Light Blue (was this Smoke Grey or Iris Blue?) Beige upholstery
July 1959	Riley 4/68	Interestingly in duo tone Grey with Red trim (was this Birch Grey / Yukon Grey?)
March 1960	Riley 4/68	Swiss Grey with Red trim
1961	Riley 4/68	Birch Grey
1961	Riley 4/68	Smoke Grey and White with Blue upholstery
Late 1959	Riley 4/68	Cotswold Green
1961	Riley 4/68	Maroon and Grey

By 1961 when the Magnette IV and Riley 4/72 came on the scene, colours were becoming more standardised across different BMC cars. None-the-less, BMC were clever at making cars look individual by varying the split on duo tone cars. The colour split on duo tone cars continued as per the later 4/68s and Magnette IIIs. It must also be said that not all the variants used a particular colour. For instance, although Almond Green was a very popular choice on the Morris Minor and Oxford VI and on the Riley 4/72 (sometimes in duo tone with the much lighter Porcelain Green) it was not available on the Magnette IV. This car came in the very dark Connaught Green, also available on the Oxford VI and the front wheel drive BMC 1100 cars.

Colour combinations known to me on the later cars were:

RILEY 4/72

Iris Blue: Early cars only—this colour was also popular on early MGBs.
Dove Grey over Old English White with Reef Blue trim.
Black with Reef Blue trim.
Maroon (*over Dove Grey*) with Mushroom trim.
Dove Grey with Green trim.
Arianca Beige over Sandy Beige with Mushroom trim.
Almond Green with Green trim.
Trafalgar Blue over Smoke Grey with Reef Blue trim.
Maroon with Crimson upholstery.
Snowberry White.

MG MAGNETTE IV

Smoke Grey over Old English White.
Connaught Green (*over Old English White*) with Grey trim.
Tartan Red with Grey trim.
Grampian Grey (*over Old English White*) with Red trim.
Old English White with Tan trim (Terracotta?).
Rose Taupe over Old English White.

Colours in brackets were an option only. The darker colour was available in single tone.

I would imagine that some of the other MG colours, such as Mineral Blue would also have been offered for the Magnette IV although I have never seen one in this colour (nor a Mk III for that matter).

Many of the Magnette IVs which I have seen are in two tone, but those in Connaught Green and Tartan Red are often seen without the duo tone.

ANDREW IDLE



1961 Riley 4/68.

(Reproduced from a sales brochure supplied by Eastern Motor Co. Ltd, Edinburgh)