

Member Car Keith & Bonnie Hankey's 1973 MG Midget

By Keith Hankey as interviewed by Ron Parks

I purchased my 1973 MG Midget on Ebay in the spring of 2006. Since it was located just down the road in Cincinnati, I went to look at the car before purchasing it. I didn't really know much about it except that I knew I liked the chrome bumper models better than the rubber bumpered ones. As it turned out, I paid top dollar for what it was actually worth.



It looked good. The body was in good shape and the engine was good as was the transmission, but I have encountered lots of other problems. I have replaced the brakes, springs front and rear, seat cushions and covers, kingpins in the front end, radiator (the whole cooling system actually). Basically, when something goes bad on it, I replace the whole system. I have a pile of receipts for parts and repair. I don't really trust it for long trips. The longest one we've taken in it was last July when we attended Cincinnati British Car Day and the hood latch kept coming loose on that trip. It seems like every time we take it out something else goes wrong. For example, I heard a whining noise that led me to believe the transmission was going bad. However, after noticing that the noise changed as I turned the steering wheel, I determined that the problem was actually a wheel bearing going bad. So, I replaced the driver side wheel bearing and when you do that, you replace the other one too. Well, then I heard a grinding noise which led me to replace the kingpin. And, it goes on and on! The car has a single Weber carburetor that needs adjusting. I do most of my own work, but I'm going to get professional help for this task.

When I get into a hobby, I jump in with both feet, so I bought a spare engine, just to tear it apart and become familiar with it, although, I haven't taken the time to do that yet. This winter I'm swapping the rear springs in an attempt to level up the car and I'm installing a sway bar in front in preparation for auto crossing in 2008. I had hoped to auto cross in 2007, but it just didn't work out.

The car started its life as a British Racing Green Midget and was repainted red prior to my purchasing it. We're having fun with our little red Midget and hope to be confident enough to drive the Ohio Tail of the Dragon in Southeastern Ohio and participate in MG Car Club tours and rallies in the future.

