

One in a Thousand – Security

Picture1. Standard and Security Version of a Floor Mounted Handbrake



A find?

To purchase a set of mudguards it was necessary to buy a job lot of very tired leftover ZA spares.

At home a hand brake turned out to be basically standard except for the grip and its end. This hand brake is unlike anything I have come across before, and am totally unaware of such a security device being in existence.

Some knowledge??

No responses were received but a book called 'AA Book of the Car' printed in 1970's has the answer. See Page 297

This is an aftermarket security device that could be fitted to the typical British floor mounted handbrake.

Its length may suit the MG Midget ZA but possibly not a ZB with the larger oval gear lever tower.

Other MG's: TD, TF or MGA?



Picture 2. The Grip End

A closer look at the shape and assembly

- Handle has grip {pin} bulges down one side
- Grip is of cast alloy
- Numbered security {code} rings
- Depressible release button on top
- Bakelite finisher between grip & lever

Installation

After removing the original grip the aftermarket unit would have been slide on without depressing the release button and temporarily tightened with a bolt fed through one of the grip's bumps. Then rechecked for correct operation. Once satisfied all is well, the bolt would be tightened to the condition where it would break off and make the unit a permanent fixture.

A closer look at Picture 2 will show where the fixing bolt was snapped off.

Summary.

Although found with ZA parts that are associated with a long gone wrecked ZA does not necessarily mean it came from the ZA and may have never been intended for use in a MG ZA or ZB Magnette.

Standard MG Z type handbrake is the right type to accept this security device.

It now seems more likely that is security device could be fitted to any British vehicle that had this type of floor-mounted hand brake! I have since seen an updated version of this device fitted to an MGB in the Victorian MG Car club – complete with code dials. Although not talking very long with the owner, he did indicate:

- Don't forget the code its embarrassing
- At night a torch may sometimes be need

See Picture 3 below for more visual detail



Picture 3. Close up of Reference, Dial [Code] Rings and Labeling

END

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