

M.G. Magazine Collector Guide

1958 ZB Midgette



The tradition of nice M.G. saloons virtually goes back to the very beginnings of the company. Before the war, the SA, VA, and WA examples were probably the epitome of the M.G. sedan .. Grace, Pace, Space. The cars were known for sumptuous leather and rich walnut interior trim. The elegance was combined with the Safety Fast tradition, and the final result was what Cecil Kimber called a sporting saloon.

After the war, that sporting and elegant tradition

Specifications

Engine

No. of cylinders	4	Bore/stroke/displacement	73.025 X 89 mm = 1489 cc		
Valve train	Pushrod OHV				
Carburetors	2 1.5" SU	Fuel system	electric		
Horsepower	68 bhp @ 5000 rpm	Compression ratio	8.3:1		
Electrical	12 volt, coil ignition				

Chassis

Transmission	4 speed manual, part synchro				
Rear axle ratio	4.3:1				
Suspension, front	IFS, coil springs	Suspension, rear	half elliptic springs		
Wheels	Disc	Tires	5.50 X 15"		
Brakes	9" drum				

Body

Unibody Construction

Dimensions

Wheelbase	100"	Track, front	51"	Track, rear	51"
Height	5J	Width	63"	Length	169"
Curb Weight	21.75CWT				

Production

ZA	18,076	ZB	18,574
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Price

\$2,700.00

Exterior Colors

Black, Island Green, Steel Blue, Red, Birch Grey, Twilight Grey

Interior Colors

Maroon, Green, Black, Biscuit, Grey

was carried on by the YA and YB models and then the Z Type. Both of these models gave the family an opportunity to enjoy sporting motoring while driving a sedan. The handling and braking on both of these models was outstanding; indeed, both the Y Type and the Z Type were both raced in production car racing at the time. Drivers like Phillips, Jacobs, and Sprintzel all drove these cars with considerable success. The ZA and the ZB are M.G.s with a very enthusiastic following.





ZA Magnette

To: Dick Knudson
 From: Phil Del Campo

The 1958 M.G. Magnette was introduced at New York's International Auto Show, April 5, 1958. Available through more than 500 U. S. Dealers, the 1958 Magnette was priced in the \$2,700.00 range at P.O.E. It followed the ZA Magnette which used 1-1/4" carburetors compared to the ZB's 1-1/2" carburetors. Also, the ZA had the "hockey stick" chrome which curved over the front fender well. This feature was changed in the ZB with a straight piece of trim.

Leather seats over foam rubber were standard, with a drop down center armrest for the rear seat passengers. The instrument panel and window sills were of highly polished walnut.

Mr. Harold Care purchased the ZB that I now own, on December 24, 1958. I assume that because of the date, it was a Christmas gift for his wife, Phyllis. She owned the vehicle until her death in 1985.

Atlantic City, New Jersey hosts car shows during November and December. Mr. Care offered the vehicle for sale during the November show, at the Atlantic City Convention Center, in 1985. I became the proud owner of this vehicle for the purchase price of \$4,000.00. This vehicle has never been fully restored; nevertheless, I have taken first place with it at the prestigious New Hope Auto Show in Pennsylvania. The only restorative work I have performed on it was to replace the carpeting, install new brakes and repaint the engine.

The Collector Guide photograph was taken at the Riverton Country Club in New Jersey. I have also enclosed a copy of the original press release for the 1958 Magnette courtesy of Mr. Jack Kurkowski, 612 Meadows Drive, Moorsville, Indiana, 46158.

Production figures for the ZA and ZB Magnette follow:

January	1954	Serial Number 501 (first ZA)
September	1956	Serial Number 18576 (Last ZA)
		Serial Number 18577 (First ZB)
		Serial Number 37100 (Last ZB)

December 1958 The total production for the M.G. Magnette was 36,600.

The Press Release Follows:

For: Hambro Automotive Corporation
27 West 57th Street
New York, N.Y.

Further Information: Josephson, Cuffari & Company
420 Lexington Avenue
New York 17, N.Y.
(Contact: Bill Haworth-ORegon 9-6255)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The 1958 M.G. ZB Magnette

The 1958 M.G. Magnette, England's fastest small (1500 cc. engine) four-door sedan, features traditional M.G. Magnette body styling dignity, combined with luxury internal appointments and 25 miles -per-gallon! The car will be shown at New York's International Automobile Show, April 5-13th.

Available through more than 500 U.S.A. dealers, the new imported car is offered in the \$2,700 price range at ports-of-entry. The M.G. Magnette is manufactured in England by the British Motor Corporation, the world's fourth largest auto maker.

The Magnette, like its more sporting stablemates, the MGA roadsters and coupes, features along with sleek low slung- lines, a four-forward speed gearbox operated by a short gear shift lever directly above the transmission.

The Magnette's 1489 cc MG "A" type BMC engine has overhead valves and SU semi-down-draught carburetors providing 68 brake horsepower with a top speed in excess of 90 m.p.h.

The elegantly compact 1958 Magnette models offer comfortable seating for four or five passengers as well as ample luggage space for shopping or travel. Models are available in many single as well as two-tone body color combinations. The optional, two-tone color exterior body styling features a wraparound rear window and distinctive bright metal dividing lines along its sides from front grille to tail lights.

Bodies of the new Magnette are of *monocoque* construction, an advanced manufacturing design combining both body and chassis in a single unit to provide greater passenger safety and car-life-long freedom from squeaks and rattles.

Primarily designed for road-worthiness and passenger comfort, the M.G. Magnette features two individual bucket-type front seats with body hugging formed-back-rests. Rear passenger seats have side arm rests and a drop-down center arm rest. Front seats can be adjusted to accommodate passenger leg-length and varying tastes in driving positions.

Complementing numerous exterior color combinations, the 1958 M.G. Magnette features contrasting leather upholstery over foam rubber seats and door panel trim. Highly polished wood, hand crafted, encases instrument panel and window sills,

The small, 8 ft. 6 inch, Wheelbase of the M.G. Magnette provides easy parking. Overall length is a diminutive 14 ft. 1 inch, and its height is 4 ft. 10 in. with plenty of headroom inside for passenger comfort.

The Magnette's compact dimensions combined with a power packed engine and an eager gear box, plus such mechanical components as rack-and-pinion steering, supply a high standard of comfort and performance according to the British Motor Corporation.

Super Saloon: The Z Type Magnette



The sales brochure for the ZA (above) was an elegant piece of literature befitting the car. The photo on the top of the facing page was taken by Ron Cover and shows his ZA with one of his favorite backdrops, an English steam train. Below is the lovely ZB of Philip Del Campo.



See the new 1½ LITRE  MAGNETTE SALOON

at the Motor Show!



Safety fast in airmoothed style

This sensational new M.G. Saloon combines the best features of contemporary design with really brilliant sports car performance. Powered by a 1½ litre o.h.v. push-rod engine fitted with twin S.U. carburetters, it develops nearly 60 b.h.p. and will carry you safely and smoothly at 80 m.p.h. and more. If you want quite remarkable performance, the beauty of airmoothed styling, and spacious luxury for the whole family, you will find that there is no car like the M.G. Magnette. Come and see it at the Motor Show, Earl's Court.



SEE ALSO THE *new*
T.F. SERIES  MIDGET
— the zippiest model ever!

A new sloping bonnet, headlamps enclosed in the wings, and a smart new bow-fronted radiator, give the M.G. T.F. an even sportier look than before. Don't miss this chance of seeing this latest Midget



THE MOTOR SHOW
EARL'S COURT
OCTOBER 21-31, 1953

THE M.G. CAR CO. LIMITED, SALES DIVISION, COWLEY, OXFORD
London Showrooms: Stratton House, 80 Piccadilly, London, W.1
Overseas Business: Nuffield Exports Limited, Cowley, Oxford, and 41 Piccadilly, London, W.1