

"Another Achilles" heel is the main electrical supply which runs to the starter and alternator, this cable runs along the chassis rail and gets cooked by the exhaust manifold, which can lead to shorting the chassis and a dead earth. This could boil up the battery or cause other loom damage. The heat from the exhaust also dries out the starter solenoid and this "piggy back" solenoid then has to be replaced. A couple of final problems that occur commonly are, the throttle pedal comes loose from its mooring in the footwell, the rear hatch piston sometimes fails and engine mounts do wear so they sometimes need replacement.

Now it is worth remembering that the youngest cars are at least ten years old so if you are buying a car and it is worth re-building most of the mechanical components, just due to their age apart from anything else.

Re-building is also becoming more difficult due to parts supplies starting to dry up and this will only get worst with the passage of time.

Re-manufacturing of components is another option, if enough owners get together this can be done cheaply.

Now I hope I have not put you off buying one of these immensely enjoyable cars, most have been cared for over the years and I am painting a picture of the worst scenario. It is true that there are still some "sheds" out there still and I would advise you to get the best possible professional support when going to look at a car. Not just a mechanic but someone

who knows there way around the car. If you buy a cheap car it will cost you dearly in the end, unless you are intending a full nut and bolt rebuild.

