

SHOP NOTES King Midget Maintenance and Restoration

Published by

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Important Note:

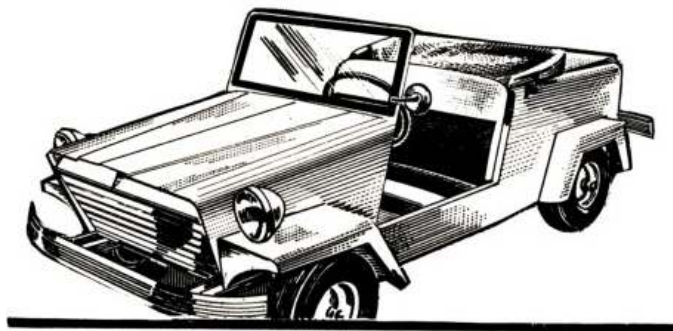
Some of the information in this manual is decades old. Some is controversial. Some is probably wrong. The body of King Midget knowledge is expanding. This book is formatted loose-leaf so you can put your copy in a three-ring binder if you wish, and can add to it—your own notes and articles from future newsletters as they come out. The editors encourage you to submit your thoughts and experience to us and to *King Midget News* for possible publication there and in future additions to this manual.

It is our plan to update the manual from time to time. We expect to make the new material available at a nominal cost to those who already have a copy of the existing edition.

A New Manual for Our Midgets

Midget Motors published maintenance manuals from time to time. Most of them were actually car promotions they sold for a buck—not very informative on the finer points of maintenance. In 1967, as Joe Stehlin set about kicking Midget Motors into the big time, a decision was made to prepare a proper manual. It was a useful 42 page book.

KING MIDGET PARTS AND REPAIR MANUAL



World's Number One Fun Car

Most of you probably have a copy. If not, you can get one from Midget Motors Supply or Jim Craven (see Parts Section or www.kingmidgetcarclub.org) for contact information. No King Midget should be without one, for much of the information is also useful for older models.

Questions arise.

King Midgets are easy to work on—part of their charm—but boy are they different from other cars! They're not your father's Oldsmobile. Every component is unique. Every part can present its own challenge.

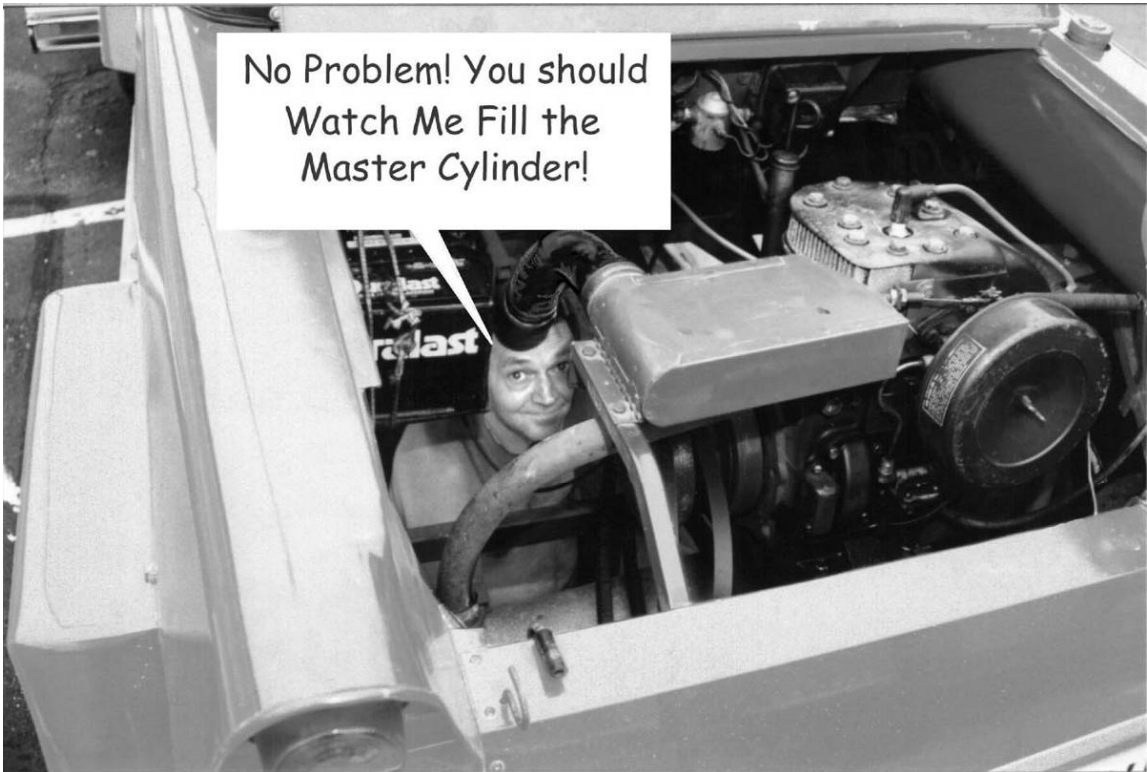
Over the years, answers to those challenges have been put forward, mostly turning into newsletter articles, letters to the editors and comments on the Yahoo King Midget Yahoo Group. Most fans save their newsletters, but some don't, and those who do generally can't find the article they seek. There were lots of articles written before most current fans discovered these nifty little cars.

So we've gathered as much of that material as we could and put it in one place. This book. We've tried to organize it and that proved a challenge. We've put in 14 sections organized by topic, but there are interesting tidbits scattered throughout that are hard to pin down. The Table of Contents attempts to summarize what's in each article as opposed to simply listing title, with cross references in many places. Most fans will probably find the whole book interesting and fun to read.

King Midget Maintenance and Restoration

You and all fans are encouraged to read these articles with a critical eye, noting the contradictions between one author's solutions and another's. We are constantly building a body of knowledge to preserve and grow the King Midget heritage.

Let's build it together! Get your King Midget on the road, and keep it running. Keep the dream alive!



All I say is Kings is Kings, and You got to Make Allowances

Mark Twain

Photo Courtesy Wilma Daniel

Note: This cartoon and all the others are from the files—most were printed in a King Midget publication at one time or another, though in several cases, the captions have been altered to suit the section they introduce. That's Jim Daniel above, and he's standing in a grease pit.

The Ten **K**Mandments

1. **Thou Shalt Not Crash**
Keep thy brakes adjusted, master cylinder filled, cables in good shape and thine emergency brake in good repair.
2. **Thou Shalt Oil Thine Engine**
Thine Wisconsin or Kohler lusteth for oil. Feed it well and it will take care of thee.
3. **Honor Thy Gas and Keep it Fresh**
Good gas is holy, and Sta-Bil is a small price thou must pay for sweetness of running.
4. **Clash not Thy Gears**
Thine reverse is sacred. Preserve it by shifting only at slow idle or startup. Leave thy transmission in forward, except when thou needest to actually back up.
5. **Lube Thy Shocks**
They ask little of thee but the opportunity to leave their mark on thy garage floor. Lube them well and they will serve thee long.
6. **Preserve Thy Steering Box**
'Tis a simple thing, but forget not thy zerks, including behind yon steering box.
7. **Maintain Thine Camber and Toe**
Reverse camber killeth thy handling, so thou must keep thy adjustment straps adjusted and thine toes pointed inward.
8. **Pressure Thy Tires Well**
Preserve and balance thy speed-rated low pressure tires with tubes, that they delight thy driving and comfort thy butt.
9. **Trickle Thy Battery**
Charge it gently when your KM sleepeth, and it will pleasure you by springing to life upon command.
10. **Keep Thy Car Original**
Original KMs are holy, dedicated to the name of Claud and Dale. If thou desirest a powerful KM, start with a parts car, or buy one already modified by a sinner, for sinners are always with us. Tinker tuning is so much fun, 'tis the Devil's playground.

Each section of this book is separately numbered to facilitate future additions and updates. Following are the sections of the book, and each is also identified in the outside right corner of each page with its section letter. You may find it convenient to add alphabetical tab sheets to your manual for easy reference.

INTRODUCTION

- A. Identification**
- B. Restoration**
- C. Body & Frame**
- D. Brakes**
- E. Clutches**
- F. Comet**
- G. Driveline**
- H. Electrical**
- I. Steering**
- J. Tuning**
- K. Wisconsin**
- L. Kohler**
- M. Modifications**
- N. Parts & Accessories**