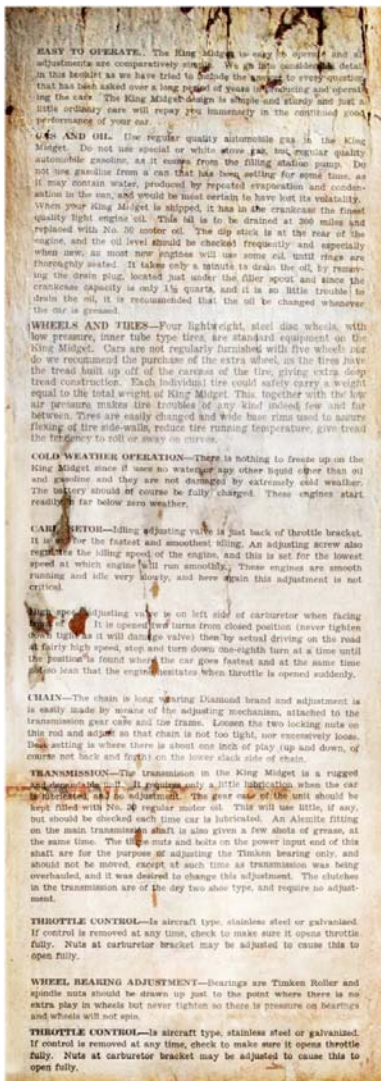


## SHOP NOTES King Midget Maintenance and Restoration

### A-14 Model 2 Owner's Manual *By Bob V.*

Most King Midgets came with an owner's manual, but most King Midget owner's manuals did not come with a King Midget. Most were shipped to prospective buyers in exchange for a dollar, which also got you a little flyer or two. Spotty records suggest Midget Motors made more money selling such publications than they did selling cars—at least during slow years in the car business.

That booklet was more sales tool than service manual. It was probably Claud's project, and it attracted a lot of dollars in envelopes. Maybe Dale realized most buyers would not be relying too much on that manual when it came to actually maintaining their King Midget. My copies of the M2 manual don't even include the lube instructions. For whatever reason, on early Model 2s, they assured the operating instructions would not get lost by gluing them to the back of the seat!



Thanks to George Hallstein who sent in photographs of those instructions, beat up, but still stuck on his car's seat back. George asked if I could do anything to reproduce them, but leave them looking "original"—a dose of patina.

There are two sheets of instructions on odd-size sheets and apparently they were glued to the seat back. Got a maintenance problem on the road? Whip out the seat and see if you can find a solution! Personally, I've never seen an M2 seatback with these instructions; have you? No idea when they started or finished providing these, but ya gotta admit, it was a clever solution to the lack of a glove box.

If you'd like a copy I can email it to you, patina and all. Probably best to

print it in sections and glue it to your seatback with something like a mixture of white glue and wallpaper paste. □

[That will flush] out any foreign matter and [more] than one application may be necessary to thoroughly

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clean. [Do not] oil unless needed. After cleaning the clutches will slip excessively for a few starts but this will soon remedy itself.

If I'm reading that properly, it seems a bad idea. Newer manuals caution to avoid lubricating those clutches, and for good reason. It's very difficult to lube them effectively without getting oil on the linings. Any oil beyond a tiny amount could cause difficulty that would not remedy itself "soon" or maybe not at all.

The copy in the Winter 2015 issue appears to be the newest version of all, is most complete and notes the clutches are designed to run dry.

So now there are three versions of these instructions available. The one shown in the last issue, the one from Doty in black and white (most readable) or the "doctored" version shown here.

Let me know if you'd like a copy, and which one.

### **A. Identification**