SHOP NOTES King Midget Maintenance and Restoration

A-19 As Built '64 Model 3 By Bob V.

KING MIDGETS ARE EASY TO RESTORE AND MODIFY. Even the most diligent among us can hardly resist making a few improvements during restoration. These cars were built a long time ago, on a very tight budget, so they're easily improved at modest cost. So easy that it's difficult to find a King Midget still in authentic factory-built condition.

Museums and many collectors prize "correct" restorations. Our Club (thankfully) sponsors no beauty contests, encouraging each of us to do our own thing. We love 'em all. But originals grow scarce.

As time goes by, it will be increasingly difficult to determine just how these historic vehicles were built in the Athens factory. Thanks to the

efforts of John White, we have the details of the Model 1 King Midget. We'd like to document the other King Midgets as well.

Here's a start, based on detailed photos of Carl Barker's 1964 Model 3. If you'd like to see them in color, this *Shop Notes* article is available for free download at www.kingmidgetcarclub.org in full color.





Engine & muffler arrangement.

Exhaust pipe & drive Line.





Serial number is on top of frame rail or engine cradle bracket.

> Brake lines & horn. Grease zerk behind steering box at right.





Gas filter. Starter/generator drive.

Steering box & steering arm.
King pin & suspension strut.
Speedometer cable.



A. Identification

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This car has its original hood and dash. Note the smooth curve of the top of the grille, with the crown behind it smoothed back to the center ridge. Hard to replicate. This is also an original dash, made of brown leather-textured hardboard, which deteriorated easily.



Tabs and spot welds secure the grille panel.

Detail of dashboard texture.





Red rubber handle on E-brake. Rubber floor mat.

Beige canvas top should tuck in better at front corner.





Original tops did not have center strip.

Correct seat colors and door pull. ■



A. Identification