

## **C-24** A Simpler Hood Opening *By Lee Seats & Bob V.*

Midget Motors provided “luggage space” under the hood, as well as a little door for filling the master cylinder. Neither works very well.

Some Model 3 owners like their hood to open for easy access to that pesky master cylinder and better use of the storage space. John White can make you an opening hood for your Model 3 but suggests it’s easier to make a hinged door that opens from the front. This is one he made for Lee.

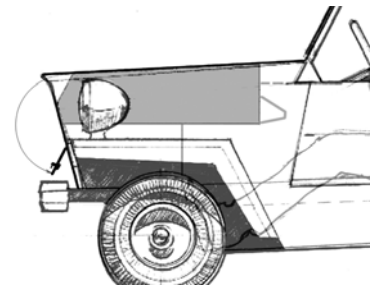
First, Lee cut an opening as shown and trimmed the edges with car door edge trim and a piano hinge across the bottom. In the photo (right) the piano hinge has not been installed and is laying on the bumper supports.



John White made the new door piece to match the standard grille and supplied the edging to trim it. You can order such a piece through Paul Gerhardt, and John will make it a bit oversize. That will allow you to trim it for an exact fit, since not all hoods are necessarily identical. The edging material is the same as used on M3s around the tail light lip. It’s welded in place and has to be heated to make the radius bends. Maybe John could apply the edging, but he’d have to make it undersize to be sure it would fit.



Trim the sides of the new grill piece to fit inside the edge of the hood and put the edging on that piece to finish it out. The steel edging is the same material that John puts on the tail light hoods, and he sends along enough to trim the grill door. Two simple keyed latches secure the door and prevent it from rattling.



The inner panels are up to you. In the sketch at right, the shape of the “trunk” is shown in gray. You’ll have to piece them because of the hood’s taper. Lee extended his well behind the firewall and then added a small shelf accessible from inside for keys, flashlight etc. You’ll probably want to line the storage compartment’s floor with rubber mat or carpet to keep stuff from rattling. ■

