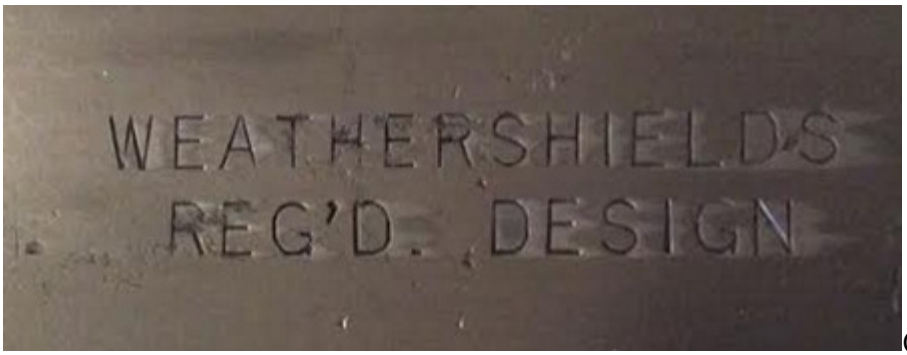
Sidescreen Sideshow or “Brits love their Bits”

By John Kain

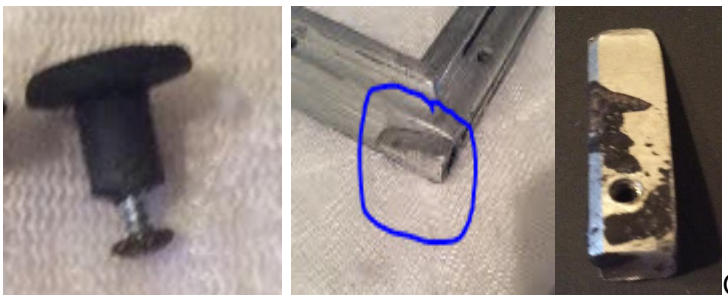
The little bits and pieces necessary to cobble together the” most correct” for our cars is a little like children – how can something that gives us so much pleasure drive us batnuts crazy? If you are interested in how to re-produce a small “unobtanium” piece for your sidescreen, then please enjoy this short article.

I’ll first take you back to mid-September in Pittsburgh PA (For those that are not familiar …this is the month the sun stops shining until about May) and I decide to invest a little love back into my ’58 BN4. It’s an early Abington “crossover” car where all sorts of interesting production changes occurred, including the use of a third type of side screen with a fixed front pane and flat bar hardware to fix to the car. Just like the Longbridge 100-6 cars, the four sided “un-obtanium” wingnuts were used to attach the sidescreen front as well as the single eared wingnut in the rear.



Original sidescreens should bear this stamp on the inside center.

I knew my sidescreens were not correct for the car so I searched and acquired two sets to refinish. Two bits fell into the “un-obtanium” category – A small triangular piece of aluminum fitted to the outside bottom corner of the sidescreen and the rubber 5/8” round buffer that attaches to the front inside top to keep the sidescreen from rubbing on the windshield post. One can imagine the triangle piece rattling off the car, forever lost to the motorways.


Original bits to the sidescreen

I was able to find a friend to machine the small aluminum triangular piece. Because of the screw off set, there is a right and a left and we used a #4-40 truss head machine screw (as the original is some strange british thread)

You can re-produce the rubber bumper at home with some simple tools: Metal file, drill, dremel tool. First, I cut a screw so the point was able to chucked into the drill. I was able to find a rubber stopper at Lowes with a 5/8” diameter. Carefully center and screw the rubber stopper onto the threads. Fire up the drill and verify its centered. With a metal file you can round off the top edge and create a line 1/8” from the face. At this point, the dremel comes into play to remove enough material to recreate the part.

While not perfect, it appears correct and will get your sidescreens protected from the windshield post. Here they are next to the original. Not bad for an office guy, eh?