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From Octagon Heaven

Help for F.E. Old, N.E.M.G.T.R.
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WINDSCREEN/ COWL RUST REPAIR

On the earlier M.G.'s there is likely to be rust problems under the windscreen mounting brackets because of a poor rubber gasket often did not seal the space between the bracket and the body and water can get behind the bracket.

The rust starts at the bolt holes and then spread weakening the mount but still hidden by the bracket. You may be unaware of it until damage has been done.

The damage in the early stages can be fixed by a fiberglass patch or by packing the area with body filler. But that fix is usually short lived because of the stress put on by the windscreen brackets.

The best method of repair is to butt-weld a patch plate to the surrounding metal. The second best method is to lap-weld the similar pieces under the old metal and fill the exterior with lead or bondo (fiberglass).

Which ever repair method that you use, you must first make a template showing the proper locations of the bolt holes. This should be done from specific reference points on the body to be able to align the template afterwards.

To keep this from starting all over again it is recommended to seal the area behind with rubber cement gasket compound or plain liquid rubber.