

To hinge or not to hinge

A note from the Antipodean shed

Well progress on the Hopper Replika or perhaps I should call it the big Hopper is all happening slowly, The engine is in ,and running, what a great noise....

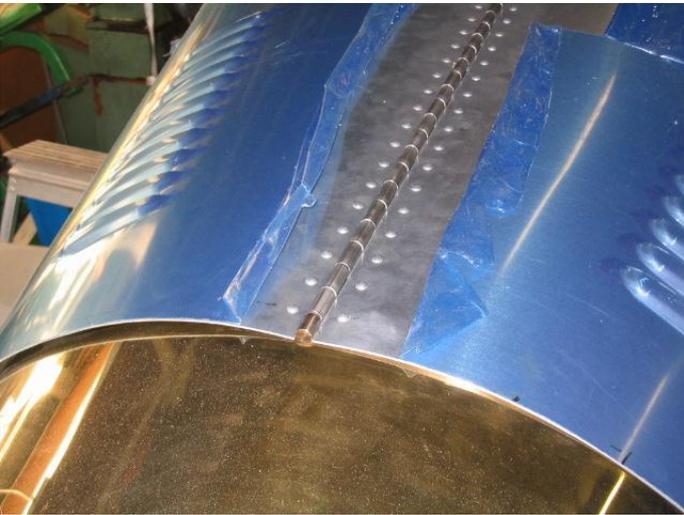
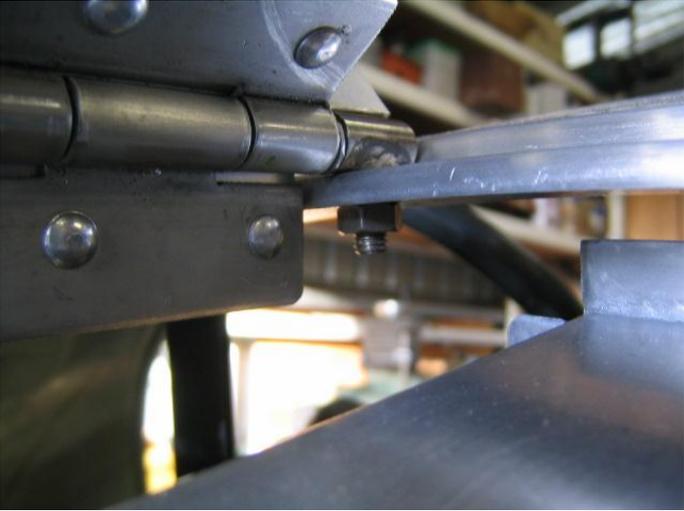
Currently the lights are going on along with the billet mudguard stays, I have been bluing the radius of the guards to the brackets , (what just a bit anal you say) and I find that the guards are not very well rolled , there are lots of stress lines along the radius which is going to take some getting out as they wont make perfect contact with top of the brackets.

The new wheels are on and mounted to the splined hubs and I am pleased with the result, except now I need to lower it somewhat. There was some talk recently on the merits of hinging the bonnet. For me there is no question it make oil checking a breeze, you don't have to find somewhere to put it when you take it off.

In my view for what it is worth the split needs re-enforcing, the hinge its' self is not enough, in particular if it is an alloy hinge, I think a SS hinge is the ticket and you can buy them undrilled, this way you can match all your rivet spacing.

It is simple to re enforce the hinge IF you have enough length you could put a fold of say 25mm along the cut line.... In my case there wasn't sufficient material so I reverted to riveting an alloy angle of say 25 X 3mm onto the bonnet then, rivet the hinge to the angle . The 6mm pin is the held at each end by a SS rod turned and drilled so as it matches the hinge profile then domed at one end to finish it off, with a 6mm threaded rod say 20mm long silver soldered at right angles which can be bolted into the front and rear hoop like so, and you end up with two rows of rivets running down the centre of the bonnet

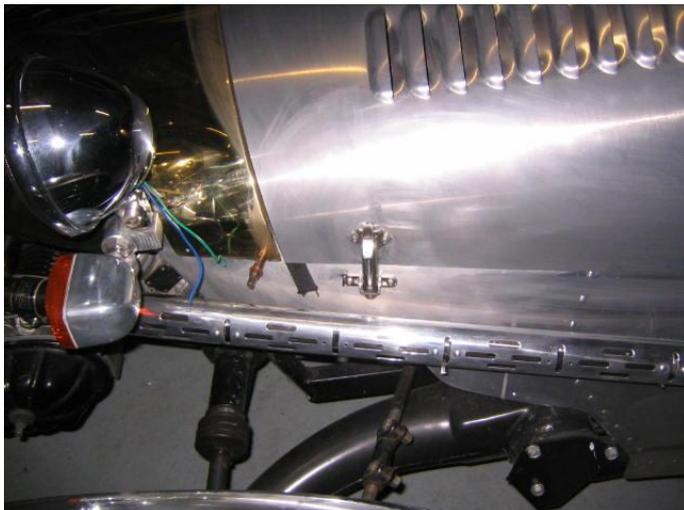
CAUTION..... MAKE SURE YOU CHECK THAT THE ANGLE OR THE TURNED DOWN HINGE DOESNT INTERFERE WITH ANY GUAGES. Don't ask me how I know.....



If however you decide to make the bonnet from scratch you can add the fold for the re-enforcing which is more elegant, but you don't get the two rows of rivet down the centre of the bonnet, to my minds is a pity ..like so



I love bonnet straps but also believe that some spring catches are a good idea to stop any rattles.



Well the sun is just coming up now 0445 hrs so its time to get out and do something. Yesterday 39 deg today should be a little cooler 33 deg, it could be worse its 46 deg out West of here cheers Peter