
Healey

MARQUE



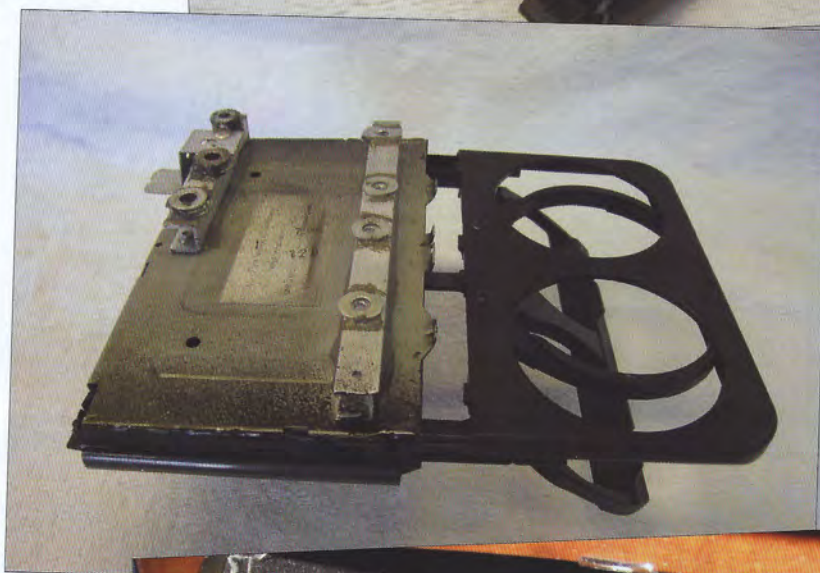
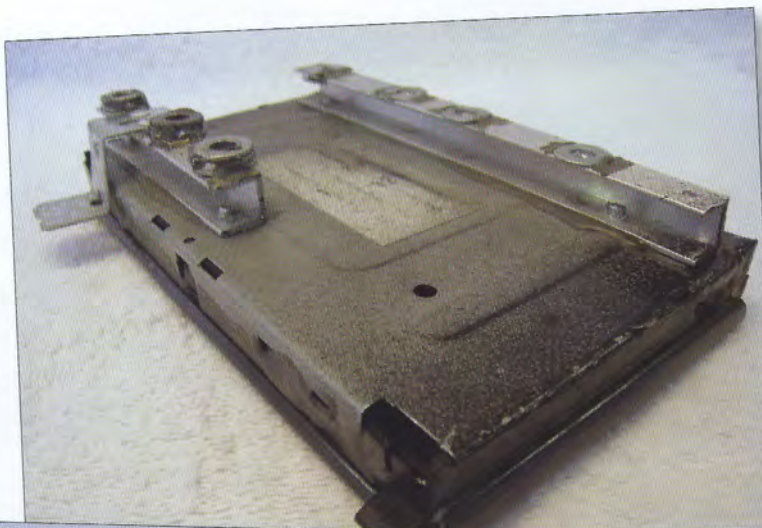
HEALEY HIDDEN CUP-HOLDER HOW-TO

Roger Conte
San Leandro, California
Golden Gate Austin-Healey Club

Today is one of those perfect summer days for a drive. I just finished washing and waxing the Healey and stowing the convertible top. Now is it me, or do we all think our cars just seem to drive better with a fresh coat of wax?

As I'm driving down the road, I decide to pull off into a Dunkin Donuts for a cup of Joe. As ironic as it seems, I park next to a couple cop cars, go figure. Now with my cup of coffee in hand, I'm back behind the wheel. A slight push with my finger releases a hidden cup holder. I place the coffee in the cup holder, start the Healey and shift into first gear. Who says you can't drink and drive in a Healey?

A while back I asked a question on the British Car Forum: Has anyone installed a cup holder in their Healey? What are you thinking man, a cup holder in a sports car? Point taken, but hey, am I alone here? There were the recommendations of the kind you clip on the door window ledge, and the small square one that screws onto the door panel or console and unfolds to accommodate a single container. Then there's the mother of all holders, the large plastic combination cup, pen, tissue box, cell, iPod, Big Gulp-, Mega Gulp-, and OMG Gulp-size cup holder slash combination trash container type that straddles the



center console. One guy even suggested the kiss approach... just use a Camelbak. I like the way this guy thinks. "I'd like the Starbucks house coffee please, venti size. Save your cup,

I've brought my own container. Just give me a minute to un-clasp these clips, swing this off my back and there you go."

It seems like every new automobile has at least one cup holder. Some salesmen even use them as selling points. "Check this out, nine cup holders and there are more in the back seat area too!" Car companies seem to have some creative engineers devoted to coming up with the best Swiss jack-

knife approach. Push a button and up pops a single cup holder that then transforms into two cup holders. How wicked is that? It's hidden and it holds two cups. What could be cooler, right? It could be in a Healey!

I spent several months looking at how new automobiles

Continued on Page 24



ANNOUNCING



AS THE NORTH AMERICAN
DISTRIBUTOR FOR



...one of the world's largest Austin Healey parts
suppliers located right in
Warwickshire England
home of the Austin Healey.



Huge inventory of quality parts
ready to ship from our
North American warehouse.
Watch for the new quick and easy to use
online catalogue.
Competitive pricing.

**FREE STANDARD SHIPPING ON ORDERS
OVER \$500 TO CANADA & USA**

Autofarm Ltd

6521 Line 66, RR#2
Monkton, ON Canada N0K 1P0
519-356-2427

www.autofarm.net

bob@autofarm.net

incorporated their stealth cup holders. I'd imagine how I could modify that device to be installed out-of-sight in my BJ8. (Oh, if I could just see what those guys at NASA came up with for the Space Shuttle... Their holders are most likely made out of titanium or unobtainium stuff found from the Roswell crash. Come to think of it, I bet that saucer didn't even have cup holders; maybe they just levitated their drinks. That's what I'm talking about.) Focus man, tangent, tangent, OK, I'm back.

The cup holder I choose was from VW. The first part of this article will be how I installed it in my BJ8 under the glove box. The second part is by Linwood Rose.

I contacted Linwood about co-writing this article with me. He ran with what I did for the BJ8 and designed it to work for his BT7. With his input, this how-to article will now cover all Healeys. Thanks goes out to Linwood for his creative engineering and co-writing this how-to article with me. He's a swell guy.



of aluminum under the screw heads inside the glove box to distribute the load. Have I covered all the disclaimers? Depending on your glove box, use common sense, good judgment and feel free to over-engineer for safety. Maybe now I've covered it?

List of items you'll need:

- VW cup holder, 1J0 858 601D from your local VW parts department or Internet.
- Aluminum tubing, 1/2 inch square or C-shaped from your local hardware store.
- Washers, wood or aluminum strips (for spacing if leveling is needed).
- Aluminum sheet if the glove box is sagging or in need of additional support.
- New glove box?
- Flat head screws (sheet metal or machine), preferably black.
- JB Weld.
- Double sided tape.

I removed the front flip panel from the cup holder case. Without the panel, I was able to move the case back and out of sight a little more under the glove box. This may or may not work with the parcel shelf design.

Ready, set, go.

Cut one tube about 3 1/2 inches and another about 6 inches. Stick a couple small pieces of double-sided tape to what will be the top of the tubing and some larger pieces to the

Installation in a BJ8

The VW dual cup holder I used was their first design. That model was discontinued and replaced with the dual cup holder that Linwood used, VW part number 1J0 858 601D. This cup holder will work in all Healeys.

First, make sure your glove box is new or in like-new condition so that it can support the VW part when holding two drink containers. If your glove box is old or sagging, try installing a thin aluminum sheet to the bottom of the box and the wood fascia for support. If needed, use large washers, an aluminum strip or sheet



bottom of the tubing. With the cup holder in the out position, center and align the cup holder case where you want it under the dash. In order for the cup holder to be as close to the center console as possible and away from the bonnet latch, I cut the angle off the console mounting tab. This allowed the case to move closer to the console. Confirm that the cup holder will slide in and out in the location you choose. Lower the VW case and attach the two tubes to the bottom of the glove box where they will come in contact with the top of the case. Once both tubes are tacked in place on the bottom of the glove box, draw a perimeter around the two tubes for reference later.

Now with the cup holder in the out position, again center and align the cup holder case so that it's exactly where you want it. Push the case up and make contact with the double-sided tape on the bottom of the two aluminum tubes. The tubes should adhere to the case top when you pull the case back down, therefore being in the correct position for gluing.

Draw a perimeter around the tubes on top of the VW case then remove all the tape. Mix the JB Weld and glue them in place. In my photo, you'll see I used two rivets per tube before gluing. I don't think that is needed, now that I know how well the glue holds. But if you're inclined to take the case apart to rivet yours, I can't confirm that the inside design is the same as the old style I used. I also coated the left, right and back side

edges of the cup holder case with JB Weld to ensure the case would not come apart. I then painted those areas black.



Since you pre-marked the bottom of the glove box, you're now ready to drill the holes through it. Depending on the size of screws you will be using (sheet metal or machine), drill the appropriate size holes through the bottom of glove box or aluminum sheet/glove box.

Now that the tubes are glued to the case, with the cup holder in the out position, place it exactly where you want it. Make sure the cup holder will slide in and out in that location. Press the case up against the bottom of the glove box, then insert a small drill bit through the holes in the glove box to scribe the top of the aluminum tubes. Drill the appropriate holes for the sheet metal screws or tap the holes if using machine screws.

Now it's time to screw the cup holder case in. The case may need to be leveled. Washers, wood or aluminum strips could be used. If using washers, place them through the mounting screws to level it. I used JB Weld to keep them in place. (I seem to R&R the cup holder a lot when trying out other things under the dash, like speakers and lights).

The screws I used had black heads, which blended in with the inside box material. It's all in the details, I say. Speaking of details, you may have noticed in one of the photos that I made a small bracket and riveted it to the back small tube on the bottom of the case. That bracket holds one of the LED courtesy lights. Good luck and happy motoring, and look for my next how-to article, The Donut Holder.



Installation in a BT7

Linwood Rose
Harrisonburg, Virginia
Capital Area Austin-Healey Club

Roger often inspires me with his modifications. You can always count on him to be creative, but also with taste, style and respect for our Healey's original design. After I read about the cup holder for his BJ8, I thought something similar might work for my 1960 BT7, "The Bloody Beast." I checked out eBay and found a Volkswagen Jetta cup holder. As Roger mentioned, the model I used is slightly different from the earlier version he used in his application. While it doesn't work quite as well as on the BJ8 in that you cannot hide it, I mounted the holder below the parcel tray



I removed the parcel shelf from the car and lined up the cup holder so that its face was parallel with the front edge of the parcel shelf. I used some 3/4 inch aluminum bracket (C-shaped) mounted to the tray with #10 nuts and, as my mentor Roger did, I glued the aluminum brackets to the cup holder with JB Weld. I did not take the cup holder casing apart and only used the JB Weld to bond the aluminum brackets (tubes) to the case. I think you will find the JB Weld to be sufficiently strong. Once the brackets (tubes) are secured to the cup holder, I used 1/2 inch 10-24 screws to tighten the assembly to the bottom of the shelf. It is then as easy as reinstalling the parcel shelf in the car and replacing the carpet on the shelf that nicely hides your mounting screws.

After the initial install, I decided the looks would be improved by covering the little plastic cup holder door with the same vinyl as on the dash fascia. It works well with 12-ounce cans and small bottles for those long, hot road trips. One light touch on the door and the entire mechanism pops right out. I am indebted to Roger for this great tip. **HM**

