

More Morgan storage, under the rear deck...

Vern Dale-Johnson

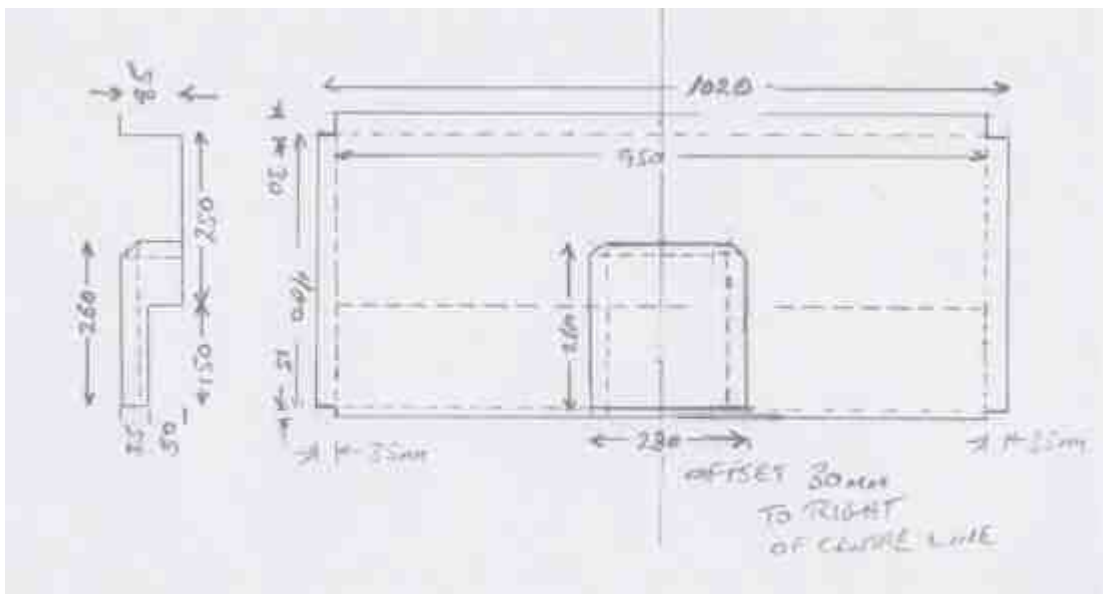
When we purchased our 2010 Roadster, the Sage Lady (named by Amanda after the colour – Aston Martin California Sage Metallic – and her chrome wire wheels, definitely looks female) there were several aspects of the car that I felt could be improved by the MMC. One of these was the storage tray under the cover behind the seats. Another of my articles talks about using some of this open space around the rear axle and differential for a storage box, this article discusses the replacement of the flimsy and poorly thought out GRP (graphite reinforced plastic) tray.



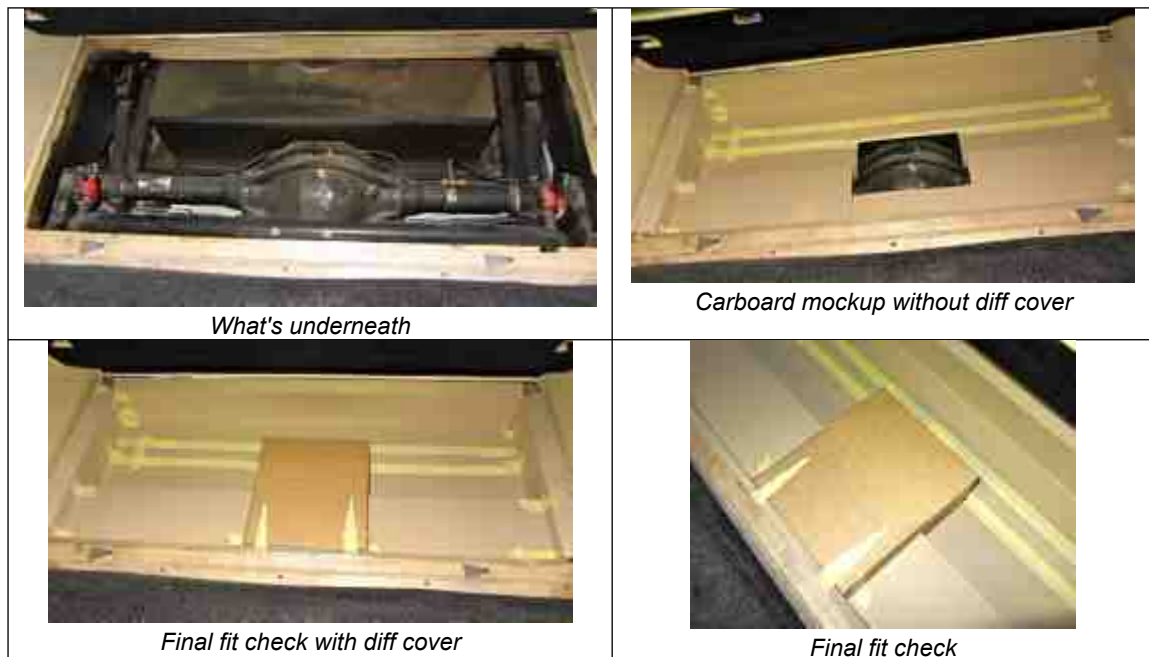
Our tray is now about 3.5 years old and is rapidly falling apart. A recent article in Miscellany by Dave Wellings who replaced his GRP tray with one made from aluminium spurred me to doing something about ours. The original tray (the aluminium reinforcement was done a year or so ago to try and extend the tray's life) had space for the jack, jack handle, hammer, and wheel nut wrench with some other odd shaped depressions that could store relatively little.

The jack location was so badly chosen it interfered with the differential on full compression (badly chosen to be on the left side of the tray even though the dif is offset to the left, if it was on the right this might not have been an issue!) Dave's tray, and the one I've devised give large open areas to store the tyre changing implements as well as room for other tools, etc.

First step was to measure up the area for the tray working around the shock support hoop, shock absorbers, differential, and fuel tank.

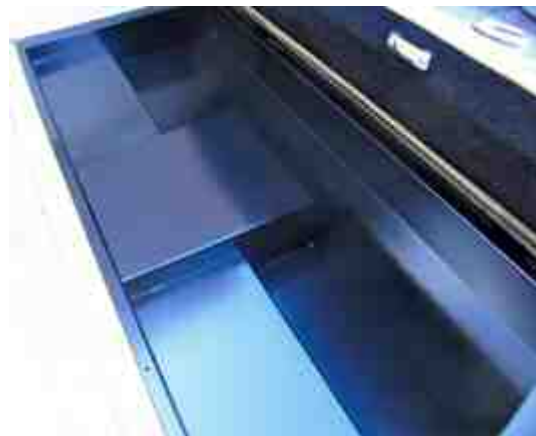


From this I created a cardboard mockup without the dif cover (image 5) of what the tray would be then attached the dif cover for a final fit check (image 6 and image 6a).



Next step was to see my local welder. This is a fellow I've worked with before. He made the custom luggage rack for our +8, 'The Beast', and has one other work in stainless for me. As he also works in aluminium, the tray would be in ali. Image 7 shows the tray with images 8 & 8a the tray installed. I elected to have the tray powder coated but in retrospect should have left it in raw ali as it is just going to get scratched. Last step is to put some non-slip plastic mats in the tray to reduce any noise and resist movement of items. Your factory plywood cover acts as a lid for the tray.

My welder charged me \$425 plus GST for the bare tray, powder coating an additional \$60 plus GST. If you are interested in him making one for you contact me at vern.dalej@bigpond.com or leave me a text on 0416 397 124 and I'll get you the details. The one critical dimension is the depth of the bottom as you must leave enough room to clear the fuel tank. I've glued some rubber on the top of the tank to ensure if there is any contact there is no damage and no noise.



This tray should fit newer Roadster and Plus 4 's (from 2004 onwards). Other Mogs may need adjustments to measurements however similar trays can be made to store your tools.

Hope this helps,

Vern Dale-Johnson
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