

Tiger/Alpine Fuel Shut-off Valve

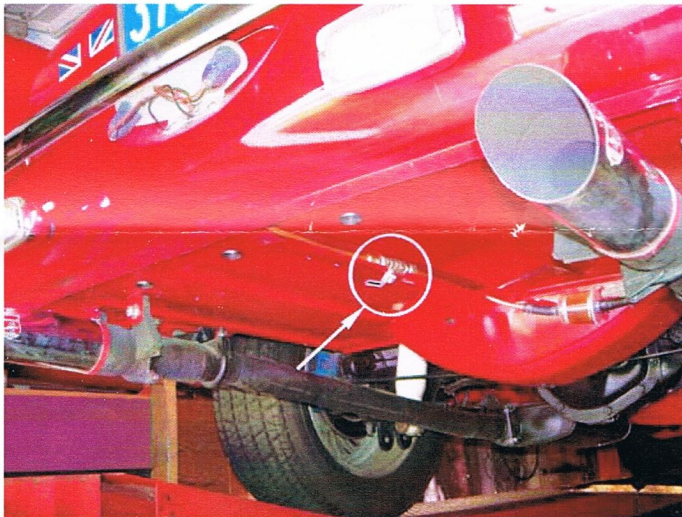
By John Logan

Why install a fuel shut-off valve on a Sunbeam Tiger/Alpine?

With a valve, you can shut off the fuel to:

- **store** the car for extended periods of time to protect against leakage.
- **replace** the fuel filter, old and brittle rubber lines and the fuel pump without draining the tank. This is very handy when you have a problem on the road! I have pinched the rubber line at the pump with vice grips, but that can be a disaster if it cracks.
- use as an **antitheft device**, since the car won't travel far with the fuel shut off!

Locating the Valve

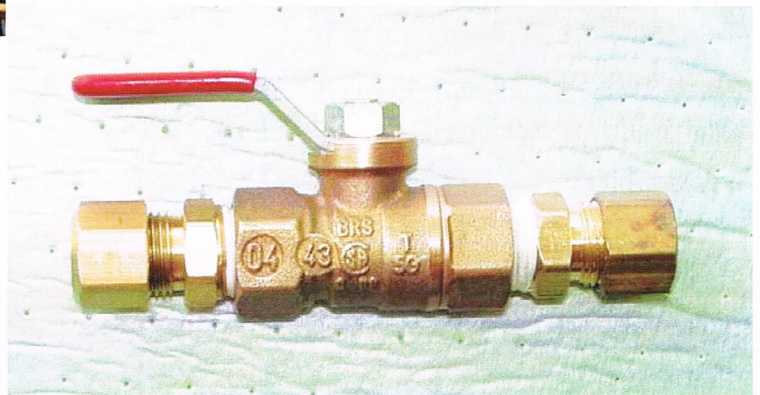


If you look under the trunk floor of your Sunbeam, you will see two metal guards welded to the floor to protect the fuel line. These guards are separated by a notch in the middle of the floor. It's an ideal place for a valve and is within easy reach from the rear of the vehicle.

It is my unsubstantiated belief that a Rootes engineer who was responsible for designing the fuel system designed in a notch between the sheet metal guards for a shutoff valve, and some bean counter deleted the valve during a cost-cutting exercise. Maybe someone has another reason for the notch.

The Valve

I used a 5/16" ball valve that would accommodate compression fittings for 5/16" copper lines at a hardware store. If you want to use 3/8" lines you must use a 3/8" valve. I didn't use a valve with soldered ends to avoid damaging the valve ball or seal.



Testing the Valve

Before I used the valve, I wanted to make sure it would hold up under continued exposure to gasoline, so I soaked it in a bottle of gasoline for six months. I found no leakage or degradation to the plastic ball or seals. The valve has been installed on my Sunbeam for four years now and shows no signs of leakage. However, many of these valves are made in China or Italy with questionable quality control, so I recommend you also test the valve you are going to use before installing it on your car.

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