

MORRIS 8 SALOON CARS 1934 to 1938

PYCHLEY SLIDING HEAD AND FIXED HEAD PANEL EXTERNAL FINISHES

Recent research on the external finishes of the Pychley Sliding Head and associated Rear Roof Panel on these cars has revealed the following. I was **personally quite surprised at my findings on the Series II cars, I thought everything was finished in black.** I am grateful to David Clitheroe (1937 Maroon 4 Door ECD 532) and Graham Townsend (1938 Blue 2 Door GHK 429) whose original cars have confirmed the specification on the Series II Sliding Head cars. I have assumed that, as Morris Motors appeared to want the Sliding Head cars to be 'colour co-ordinated', the same would have applied to the Fixed Head car roofs.

Pre-Series and Series I Morris 8 Saloons 1934-37

On these cars, whatever the duo-tone colour, the roof and upper parts of the body were always black.

Fixed Head Cars

- Roof panel covered in black material (called 'topping' apparently).
- No drainage covers/louvres in body.

Sliding Head Cars

- Sliding roof panel and rear fixed panel covered in black material ('topping').
- Drainage covers/louvres, rear fixed panel rounded aluminium beading, rear corner/channel units, all black to match body.
- Aluminium angle stop piece, unpainted anodised finish.
- Aluminium runner sections, unpainted anodised finish except for top edge which was painted black.

Series II Morris 8 Saloons 1937-38

On these cars, mono-tone black, blue, maroon or green bodies were produced.

Fixed Head Cars

- Roof panel covered in black, blue, maroon or green material ('topping').
- No drainage covers/louvres in body.

Sliding Head Cars

- Sliding roof panel and rear fixed panel covered in black, blue, maroon or green material ('topping').
- Drainage covers/louvres, rear fixed panel rounded aluminium beading and rear corner/channel units, all black, blue, maroon or green to match body.
- Aluminium angle stop piece, unpainted anodised finish.
- Aluminium runner sections unpainted anodised finish except for top edge which was painted black, blue, maroon or green to match body.

ASSEMBLY OF PYCHLEY SLIDING HEAD COMPONENTS TO BODY IN PRODUCTION

Whilst I do not have written or photographic evidence of the actual procedure in fitting the Pychley Sliding Head in production, this is how I see it from what I have noted on Graham Townsend's car GHK 429, and from experience with my own car DOX 835.

- Four drainage channel holes were cut in body, front drainage tubes fitted and sealed (or possibly lead-loaded) to body, four drainage covers/louvres screwed to body, timber perimeter support framing screwed to body; all prior to final painting of body.
- Pychley Sliding Head 'Kit' (as I describe it) was supplied to the Trim Shop comprising :- 'sliding' and 'fixed' panels with colour co-ordinated 'topping'; colour co-ordinated painted rear rounded aluminium beading; colour co-ordinated painted rear corner/channel units; partially colour co-ordinated painted aluminium runner sections (painted on top edge only). This 'kit' together with the appropriate rexine covered internal plywood perimeter trim and the rexine covered pull handle rail (all coloured to match interior trim) was fitted along with the oval 'Pychley' badge, during installation of the headlining.
- The rear corner/channel units were fitted over the 'topping', were mastic sealed down onto the 'topping' and were also mastic sealed underneath the drainage covers/louvres at the junction of the drain tube and the hole cut in the body.



Original Pytchley Sliding Head and Rear Roof Panel on Graham Townsend's Blue Series II 2-Door Saloon GHK 429

N.B.

I could not tell what colour the roof was when I restored my car DOX 835, because it had deteriorated badly and had been coated with a dark grey waterproofing compound! And to be honest I did not expect it to be anything but black!

So, one of these days I will have to re-finish it all I suppose.

If you have any observations or better evidence I would be pleased to hear from you.

Finally if anyone has a Series II Fixed Head car with its original 'colour co-ordinated' topping please would you make contact with me, as firm evidence would be a great help.

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