



# University Motors Glossary

(Including BRITSPEAK and SHOPTALK)  
by John H Twist



AA	Automobile Association (British)
ACCELERATOR	Throttle or Gas Pedal
ALUMINIUM	Americans and Canadians use 4 syllables, but the rest of the world uses five: A-lu-min-i-um
AMGBA	American MGB Association
AMGCR	American MGC Register
AMGCRA	American MGC Register Association
AMPLIFIER	Switching part of the Electronic Ignition
ANNULUS	Rear overdrive drum into which the planet gear assembly fits.
ANTI ROLL BAR	Anti-sway bar
ANTI-CLOCKWISE	Counter-clockwise
ANTI-DAZZLE	Opposite of dazzle, to confuse by intense headlamp light, at night (hence low beam lights)
ANTI-REVERSION	Type of Inlet or Exhaust valve with good flow characteristics
ARG	Austin Rover Group (subsidiary of British Aerospace)
BA	British Association (small machine screw threads)
BACK LIGHT	Rear hatch as on the MGB/GT
BAKELITE®	A black manmade substance used for any of various synthetic resins and plastics
BALLAST RESISTOR	Resistor in the ignition circuit which drops the voltage to the ignition coil
BANG UP	Great Job!
BANGER	Hot Dog or Sausage
BANJO	A circular mechanical part, as a BANJO fitting on a fuel or brake line, or a BANJO rear axle
BAULK RING	Synchroniser Ring
BDC	Bottom Dead Centre
BED IN	Wear in
BELLEVILLE WASHER	Thin washer bent convex to provide drag between plates or levers
BEZEL	Chrome surround
BFH	Big (expletive withheld) hammer

BHP	Brake horse power
BIG END	Rod bearing end of the connecting rod
BIT	A small auto part
BL	British Leyland (1969 – c1985)
BMC	British Motor Corporation (c1952 – 1968)
BMHC	British Motor Holding Corporation (1968)
BMIHT	British Motor Industry Heritage Trust
BMW	Bavarian Motor Werks (MG owner 2/94 -> spring 2001)
BOBBIN	The electromagnetic windings of a relay, sometimes called a shunt
BOLLIX, BOLLOCKS	To confuse, to screw up, to bungle
BONNET	Hood of vehicle
BOOT	Trunk of vehicle
BOOT LID	Trunk Lid
BOTCH	To ruin, to destroy
BOTTOM GEAR	First gear
BRACE	A grouping of MG “F’s” as in “A brace of F’s”
BRIGHTWORK	Chrome
BRIT	British, English
BSC	British Standard Cycle Thread (very fine thread of the Whitworth form)
BSF	British Standard Fine Thread (Whitworth form)
BSP	British Standard Pipe Thread (Whitworth form)
BULKHEAD	Firewall
BUNG	Rubber Plug that fits into a “Bung Hole”
CALIFORNIA	Production import specifications that are more stringent than FEDERAL specifications. Cars built before 1967 are exempt. Vehicles from 1968-1974 are discouraged for California residents.
CAM FOLLOWER	Lifter
CARBURETTER	Carburetor
CARBURETTOR	Carburetor (alternative spelling)
CASTELLATED	Refers to a castellated nut, used on a shaft through which a split pin is passed
CB	“Contact Breaker” or positive connection at ignition coil, positive earth cars
CBA	“C” Event of Brutal Aggressives – the American MGC Register’s Annual Event

Cd	Coefficient of Drag
CE	Commutator End of the dynamo or starter
CELERON	Manmade plastic wafer board with a high resistance value and inherent strength, used to hold the brushes in a wiper motor
CHEERIO	Quintessential British farewell
CHEESE HEAD	Type of head on a machine screw – in the shape of a tiny wheel of CHEESE that would excite only a very diminutive mouse
CHOCK	Triangular solid, usually of wood, used as a stop for wheels (to keep the car from rolling)
CHRONOMETRIC	Early style of speedometer and revolution counter, not magnetic
CIRCLIP	Snap ring
CIRCUITOUS	A path an Englishman, especially an Irishman, takes to get to the point
CLEVIS PIN	Cotter pin
CLOCK	Any dashboard instrument
COFFIN BOX	Engine valve cover with eight sides, found on some XPAG engines
COLLETS	Keepers at the top of the valve assembly
COMMUTATOR	Segmented copper ring on armature through which the brushes pass current
CONCERTINA	Folding bellows, as a concertina (accordion-like) instrument, used to describe rack bellows
CONTACT BREAKER	Ignition Points
CONTROL BOX	Voltage regulator, incorporating the cut-out and often the current regulator
CORE PLUG	Expansion plug, freeze plug, or Welch plug
COWL	Plastic covers fitted around the steering column
CR	Compression Ratio
CROSSHEAD	Phillips or posi-drive screw head
CROWN	Top of the piston
CROWN WHEEL	Ring gear fitted with the pinion in the differential
CUBBY	Glovebox or glove compartment
DAMPER	Shock Absorber
DASHPOT	The hollow of the carburetter air piston which receives a dash of engine oil
DE	Drive End of a dynamo or starter
DECOKE	Decarbonise; to remove carbon (coke) from the combustion chamber of the cylinder head
DEFROSTER	Wishful thinking

DEMISTER	A cruel joke on cold mornings
DIAPHRAGM	Diaphragm
DIPPER SWITCH	High/low beam headlight switch
DISTRIBUTOR	Pronounce “DIS – tri – bu – tor “
DOG NUT	The starting dog nut on the engine which accepts the starting handle
DOVETAIL	The male half of the door striker, →TF
DRAUGHT	Draft (as in air or beer)
DRESS	To smooth with a file
DRIVE RESISTOR	Fitted to the ignition circuit to lower voltage to the early Lucas ignition amplifier.
DYNAMO	Generator
EARTH	Ground (in electrical circuits)
EC	European Community
ECCENTRIC	Out of round; not concentric; description of most MG owners
EGR	Exhaust Gas Recirculation
ELC	Evaporative Loss Control
ELECTRIC FIRE	Space heater
ELECTRIC TORCH	Flashlight
ELONGATE	To stretch or open; not “elongulate!”
ENRICH	To adjust the mixture of the carburettors to enrichen the mixture
ESCUTCHEON	Surround
FAIRING PANEL	Front Apron
FASCIA	Dashboard
FEDERAL	Import specification for USA (CA standards higher)
FOUL	To interfere
FRENCH CHALK	Soft white granular variety of steatite, used as a grease remover or for drawing lines on cloth
FULL BUMP	Compression of the suspension
FULL CHAT	Top speed, flat out
FWD	Front wheel drive
GOF	GATHERING of the FAITHFUL - theNew England MG “T” Register’s semi-annual event
GEAR LEVER	Shift lever, shifter

GEARBOX	Transmission
GET TOGETHER (GT)	North American MGA Register annual event
GLASS PAPER	Sandpaper
GLOVE BOX	Glove compartment
GUDGEON PIN	Wrist pin
H	Horizontal SU carburettor
HACK	British slang: crummy motorcar
HALFSHAFT	Axle shaft (one side)
HANDBRAKE	Emergency Brake
HARMONIC BALANCER	Front engine pulley on later MGs
HARNESS	The wiring loom, encased in fabric or plastic
HD	Horizontal – diaphragm (jet) SU Carburettor
HIF	Horizontal – Integral float SU Carburettor
HILLS & DALES	Uneven wear on a clutch disc
HOME	England, as in HOME market or HOME secretary
HOMOLOGATION	Official confirmation of performance
HONDA	Japanese automotive manufacturer who had a 20% interest in the Rover Group
HOOD	Soft top, canopy over the cockpit
HOOD STICKS	Top bows
HS	Horizontal – short body SU Carburettor
HUNDREDWEIGHT	112 pounds avoirdupois; qv Weights and Measures
HUNTING	Rich idling or tick-over
HYDROLASTIC	Fluid suspension used on the MG 1100/1300, invented by Alec Issigonis
HYPOID	A pair of bevel gears designed so that the axis of the pinion does not intersect the axis of the Gear; the teeth on the pinion are cut spirally and the teeth on the crown wheel are cut non-radially
IN SITU	Latin – in place
INDUCTION MANIFOLD	Intake manifold
JOINT	Gasket
JRT	Jaguar Rover Triumph (USA sales component of British Leyland)
KARMAL ®	Asbestos seal (trade name)
KEENOL®	A zinc-based grease used to lubricate the splines of the first motion shaft

KNOCKING	Spark knock, pinking
LADEN	Weighted, as the MG – fully laden (two people, full tank, luggage) or unladen
LAYGEAR	Counter gear or cluster gear in the gearbox
LICENCE	License
LMA	Low Moisture Activity (as in Castrol Brake Fluid)
LOOM	The wiring harness, encased in fabric or plastic
LORRY	Truck
LUCAS	Auto Parts Supplier
MATE	Friend, buddy, fellow, working partner
METHYLATED SPIRITS	Denatured Alcohol
METRIC	A French conspiracy of tens
MG	Morris Garages
MG (2)	Money gone; my God; mostly geezers; mostly gray
MGCC	MG Car Club (England)
MGOC	MG Owners Club (England)
MICRAM®	The brake adjusters on the TD/TF/MGA and early SPRIDGETS
MIXTURE CONTROL	Choke
MoT	Ministry of Transport safety inspection
MOTOR	Automobile
MOTORWAY	British expressway
MOWOG	Acronym: MOrris WOlseley mG
NACELLE	Housing for a switch
NAMGAR	North American MGA Register
NAMGBR	North American MGB Register
NATTER & NOGGIN	Natter – to talk; Noggin – drink; an informal MG meeting
NAVE PLATE	Hubcap
NEARSIDE	Left side of vehicle, port side, the RHD passenger side
NEMGTR	New England MG T Register
NHTSA	National Highway Transportation Safety Administration
NUMBER PLATE	Licence Plate
OBVIATE	To make unnecessary – see circuitous

OFFSIDE	Right side, starboard side
OHV	Overhead valve (engine)
OIL DIPPER ROD	Engine oil dipstick
ON A TEST DRIVE	Not available for telephone calls
OVERRIDER	Bumperette
OVSC	Office of Vehicle Safety and Compliance
PARCEL TRAY	Shelf under the dashboard
PARRAFIN	Kerosene
PCV	Positive crankcase ventilation
PED	Post event depression
PERISH	To fail, as with rubber parts
PERSPEX	Type of British transparent plastic, Plexiglass
PETROL	Gasoline
PIG	Differential unit (of a banjo differential)
PINCH BOLT	Tightens small end of the connection rod about the gudgeon pin
PINKING	Knocking (from low octane, high compression, or advanced timing)
PLINTH	Base, like for a lamp assembly
PNO	Price no object
PRE-LOAD	Resistance to turn, measured in inch-pounds
PRISE	Pry
PROPELLER SHAFT	Drive shaft
PROPRIETARY	A component not manufactured by MG
PUMPKIN	Differential unit
PURCHASE	A mechanical hold or advantage; grip
QUARTER	Unit of weight – 28 pounds avoirdupois; qv: Weights and Measures
QUARTER BUMPER	Half of the rear bumper
RAC	Royal Automobile Club
RAC RATING	The taxable horsepower of a motorcar, based as if the engine were powered by steam
RCH	Non-metric measurement of about 0.002”
REBOUND	Full expansion of the suspension -- opposite compression or full bump
RELEASE BEARING	Throw-out bearing

REV COUNTER	Dashboard instrument measuring engine rpm, not electrically but mechanically driven
RING SPANNER	Box end wrench
ROCKER BOX	Valve cover
ROCKERS	Rocker arms in the valve train
ROLL PIN	Tension pin
ROTATING ARM	Rotor Arm
ROUNDAABOUT	Traffic circle
RUN	Worn out, ruined, no longer suitable for service, as in RUN BEARINGS
SALOON	Sedan (hard top automobile)
SCREENWASHEER	Windshield washer or squirter
SCUTTLE	The portion of the car body between the bonnet and windscreen
SERRATED	Notched or toothed on the edge
SERVO BRAKES	Power Brakes
SILENCER	Muffler
SILL	Rocker panel
SKIRT	Bottom of the piston (below the coil control rings)
SPALL	Chipping or scaling of a metal part
SPANNER	Wrench
SPARKING PLUG	Spark plug
SPIGOT BUSH	Pilot bushing, rear of crankshaft
SPLASHY	Lean idle mixture
SPLIT PIN	Cotter pin
SPLUTTER	An engine cough from running too lean
SPRIDGET	A contraction of Austin Healey SPRITE and MG Midget
SQUAB	Seat back
STONE	Unit of weight – 14 pounds avoirdupois; qv: weights and measures
STRIKING DOG	Sliding hub, within the gearbox, which is moved with the selector or gear shifter
SU	Skinner's Union (the family name of the Carburettor company)
SUMP	Pan
SW	“Switch” or negative ignition coil connexion



SWAMP RESISTOR	Located within the CONTROL BOX
SWITCH 'OFF'	Switch position is UP
SWITCH"ON"	Switch position is DOWN
SYSTEM	Word that increases the price of an item by a factor of ten
TACHOMETER	Electrical dashboard instrument which indicates the engine
TAPPET	Lifter
TCSA	Transmission Controlled Spark Advance
TDC	Top Dead Centre – topmost position of #1 piston travel
TENSION PIN	Roll pin
TICK OVER	Engine idle speed
TIMBER	A piece of wood for the coachwork
TOEBOARD	Front of the floor of the cockpit
TOMMY BAR	Small bar used to turn a tubular box socket
TONNEAU	Cover for the cockpit; two are tonneaux; not “tonto”
TOP GEAR	High gear
TOP UP	Fill Up
TORSION BAR	Replaces coil or leaf springs – uses resistance to twist to effect spring action
TRAMMEL	Something that confines or restrains
TRICK	Racing, but usually worthless parts and/or accessories
TRUNNION	A barrel style of cable stop
TUNK	Freeplay or end-float of about 0.002”
TWEAK	Racetrack speech for the last little attention to tune
TYRE	Tire
UML	University Motors Limited
UNDER A CAR	Not available for phone calls
UNIFIED	Unified National Coarse threads are interchangeable with USS coarse threads Unified National Fine threads are interchangeable with SAE fine threads
UNIPART	Factory parts supplier, one quarter of the original British Leyland
USDOT	United States Department of Transportation
VOLUTE	A spiral or scroll shaped form
WAIST RAIL	Padded rail at the top of the door – at waist height
WHITWORTH	British Standard COARSE threads

WICK	A felt block or column, oiled, to provide lubrication
WINDSCREEN	Windshield
WING	Fender
WITH A CUSTOMER	Not available for phone calls
WL	Warning Light
WOODRUFF KEY	Circular section key used between a shaft and pulley, as the camshaft to cam sprocket
WORKS	Workshop
ZENITH	Highest point, but also triumph copied “CD” (constant depression) carburettor