Fitting a 14” electric fan to an Austin Healey 3000 BJ8

Products


The best way I found to approach this is to take the radiator out and lay it on a flat surface, front side up. Place the fan on the front of the radiator core as close to the top as you can get it. As I said on the phone you need to make sure the hub of the fan is above the cruciform bracing you will see in front of the radiator in the car. You have about 8.5" - 9" to play with.

Measure and cut out the mounting strips across the top & bottom of the radiator and bend these so they fit across the width of the radiator and fit over the radiator mounting points. I used 18 or 20 SWG mild steel sheet for my strips. Place the strips on the radiator and place the fan on top of these. Place the mounting lugs on the fan and mark the mounting points onto the strips. Remove the strips and drill the holes, insert a bolt from the underside. Weld the bolts in place to stop them coming loose.

Paint everything black and leave to dry. Refit the fan and bolt it to strips with washers & locking washers.

Now the fun part. It's a bit of a squeeze to get the radiator in with the fan on so I dropped the radiator half in first and then slid the fan with the mounting strips in second. With everything unbolted the radiator will move a bit and allow you to get the fan in place. Be careful not to damage the radiator core on the engine fan. You may have to pull the radiator mounting brackets out a little to slide the fan mounting strips into place.

Once you have the fan in place on the front of the radiator it's a matter of bolting the radiator back in place. The fan mounting strips should fit between the radiator mounting points and the top & bottom brackets on the car and the bolts will pass through both the bracket and the fan mounting strip.

Electrically I connected mine up via a relay and a fuse and a two position switch on the dashboard. I removed the panel light switch which is a one position switch and replaced this with a two position switch which is the same as your headlight switch. It looks the same as the panel light and no one will tell the difference. With the switch in position 1 your panel light with work as normal and in position 2 the fan will come on. My panel lights go off when the switch is in position 2 but I didn't really worry about this. You can also wire the fan up via a temperature switch as listed above if you like but I wanted to switch it on an off when I wanted to.

The fans are universal and can be wired up to either push or pull depending on how you mount them. In this case you want the fan to push the air through the radiator and if you find it's going the wrong way simply reverse the connections on the fan.
Mounting Brackets. Please note all sizes are approximate.

Upper Mounting bracket

Lower Mounting bracket

Mounting bracket profile