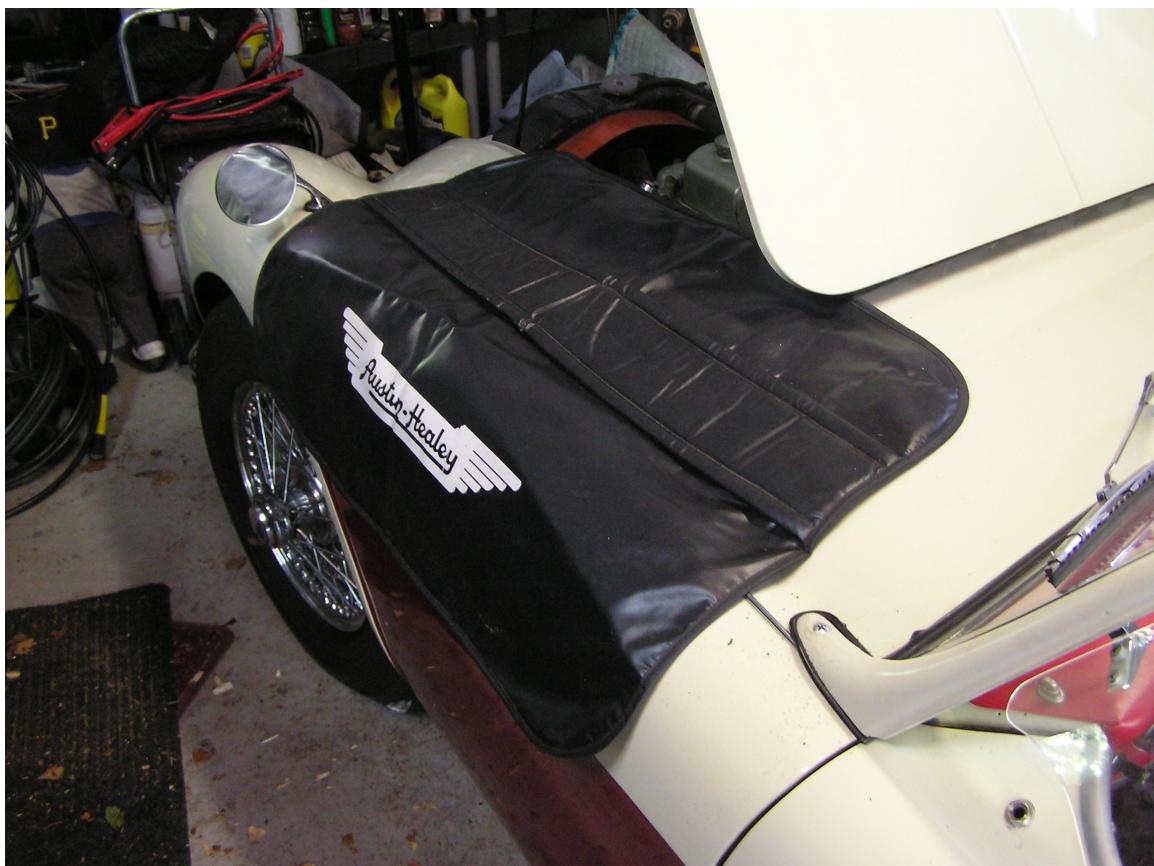


## **Protective Cover**

**Over the years there have been several postings to the Healey e-Mail List (the list) giving thoughts on how best to protect the finish of our cars from tool nicks and scratches when performing maintenance work. These mishaps usually appear on the painted surfaces surrounding the engine bay and therefore are easily seen. The standard protective Fender Covers are just not sufficient to provide protection to damage caused by slipping and falling tools or parts and these covers do not stay on the car as intended because of several factors.**



**There is no way to anchor them to the car to prevent them from sliding considering the weight of tools and parts and the placement of mirrors**

tends to force them into positions on the fender that do not provide full protection. The standard "blankets" obtained from mail order tool supply houses are similarly too small and they do not stay on as intended. Winter is approaching and for many Healey owners that means that it is time to catch up on maintenance.



To alleviate the problem of inadequate protection, some listers (as contributors to the Healey List are called) have suggested that a larger blanket can be used to provide better protection for the front shroud. I have made one and use it regularly. It is simply a mover's protective blanket (commonly called a Furniture Pad) cut to fit over the engine compartment and mirrors. Due to the many moves that I have had over the

years, I have been able to collect several that “fell off of the truck” and have done the following with one of them:

1. With the bonnet down, I placed the blanket over the front shroud of the car and, using a Magic Marker, marked the blanket following the indentation between the bonnet and the wings. A Sharpie can also be used. This created a pattern that I used to cut the opening in the blanket. Similarly, I marked the blanket where it covers the fender mirrors.
2. Then the blanket was removed from the car and carefully cut along the marker lines to create an opening. The blanket was then placed back on the car to assure that the cuts were correct and then slit cuts were made for the mirrors.
3. There is an option of creating a flap for the engine compartment or that portion can be cut off completely. I chose to keep the flap so that I have protection for the bonnet when performing work outside of the engine bay such as replacing a windshield or working on the windshield wipers.







4. You can sew binding tape on the cuts to make sure that the material does not fray or, as I did, take it to your local dry cleaners and have them do it.

The advantages of this cover are that:

1. It will not fall off as it is held on the car by the mirrors and the bonnet hinges.

2. You will have much more room to place tools and equipment in a handy location and be assured that the finish of the car will not be marred.
3. Your car will be protected by a much softer material that will not scratch the finish but is also very durable.

The total cost to make this protective blanket is the cost of the blanket itself which can be obtained at a self-service moving store such as U-Haul, their part number FP. This pad is 80" by 72" and is large enough to completely cover the shroud and the upper portion of the wings as seen in Photos Four and Five. It can be ordered on their web site or from one of their retail stores. These are obtainable at a cost of approximately \$10.00. To have the local dry cleaners sew basting tape on the cover costs approximately \$25.00 for a total cost that is substantially less than the cost for two Fender Covers.

With the approach of winter, now may be a good time to invest some time in making one of these so that when performing the normal off season work, you can be assured that accidents will not end up giving you more work to do down the line.