Pictured below is an original Healey Thermostat. When the thermostat is closed, water is pumped towards the thermostat and recirculates through a passageway just below the lip of the T-Stat back into the engine. When operating temperature is reached the t-stat opens sending the hot coolant to the radiator. In the original design, as the T-stat opens the metal sleeve rises to block the recirculation passageway sending all the hot coolant to the radiator. Without this feature, a portion of the hot coolant will always recirculate in the engine.

The original style T-stat is now available from Norm Nock.