Fitting Polyurethane Bushes in the Rear Springs:

I had decided to replace the original rubber bushes in the front eyes of the rear springs with Polyurethane bushes so the springs were dismantled and the old bushes hammered out. Next I renovated the top leaf by removing all the rust with an abrasive pad in an angle grinder and then applied two coats of red oxide and two coats of black topcoat. The spring eyes were then cleaned out ready for the bushes.

The polyurethane bush and stainless steel sleeve kit.

Note.
A visit to the MGB Hive resulted in the purchase of polyurethane bushes for the front and rear suspension. Included with each set of bushes was a small sachet of white grease (probably silicon based). I was reluctant to use this on the securing bolts as I like to assemble most bolts with Lanoguard grease as it is very corrosion resistant.

Contacting Lanoguard confirmed that Lanoguard is eminently suitable for use anywhere with polyurethane bushes. In the event I used Lanoguard where the bush went in the spring eye and where the bolt went in the steel sleeve. Between the stainless steel sleeve and the bore of the bush I used the original white grease, mainly because it was more fluid than Lanoguard in the cold weather conditions at the time I fitted the sleeves and the sleeve doesn't turn in the bush in normal use. The grease is mainly to aid fitting.

The last time I fitted Polyurethane bushes was around thirty years ago in the wishbones of my Reliant Scimitar GTC. The bushes were pretty solid and it was a pig of a job, eventually I ended up making a set of steel cones to shrink the bushes down as I pressed them in. That worked very well and I even made and sold a few more sets of cones to club members.

The new bushes didn't seem half as solid and un-yielding as the Scimitar ones so I decided to try the easy option. The first job was to smear plenty of Lanoguard grease in the eye and around the bush itself. Not sure if it would work I cut off a couple of bits of wood to make packers and attempted to press the bush in using

just the force of a ‘G’ clamp, alas no joy as I couldn’t keep the ‘G’ clamp square to the work. Next I tried pressing it in with my 10-Ton press and it went in fairly easily.

The next job was to renovate the individual leaves and then build the spring back together. The spring was now ready to fit the stainless steel sleeve in the polyurethane bush, the problem here is that the outside diameter of the steel sleeve is greater than the diameter (bore) of the hole in the bush; what is needed is something to enlarge the hole in the bush as the steel sleeve is pressed in, the answer is an ‘Acorn’.**

Note.
*** ‘Acorns’ are in fairly common use in the aviation industry and are often used on the end of shouldered bolts to enable them to be inserted more easily and without damage.*

A suitable Acorn was quickly made on the lathe out of some aluminium bar.

The modified ‘Acorn’ next to the stainless sleeve.

The stainless steel sleeve with the Acorn inserted.

After smearing the Acorn, polyurethane bush and sleeve liberally with some of the original grease I pressed the sleeve in with a ‘G’ clamp.

The sleeve (plus Acorn) being pressed into the bush.

When the end of the Acorn came up against the end of the ‘G’ clamp the clamp was removed. The bush was then tapped in the rest of the way with a rubber mallet and the Acorn removed. The spring was now ready for fitting.