

# MG TF Air Inlet Manifold Polishing

## The Problem

Having finished off painting my new brake calipers in bright lime green caliper paint (not to everybody's taste but I like it) I decided for some strange reason to have the bright idea to use the left over paint to paint the alloy injection air intake manifold.

This turned out to be a big mistake, really didn't like the appearance to I then decided to make it worse by then trying to going back to the original look by painting it silver !!!! this did not turn out well !!!

## The Rescue

So I ended up buying a new air manifold off Rimmer Brothers and a custom made MG XPower metal logo off EBay, with the plan of having it chromed, however after watching a number of videos on YouTube on alloy polishing so I decided to give it a go and here is how it went:

## What's Required

Mouse sander with assorted grade paper

Assorted grade wet and dry paper (600,1000,1500,2000)

Dremel with attachments

Alloy Polishing Metal polishing kit

Electric drill

Mother Mag & Aluminium Polish

Microfiber cloths

Duck Tape

Time and patience

## Health and Safety

Gloves

Safety Specs

Mask

## Step 1

To prevent dust getting inside the manifold all openings were sealed off using ducktape and the inlet pipes using heat shrink tubing.

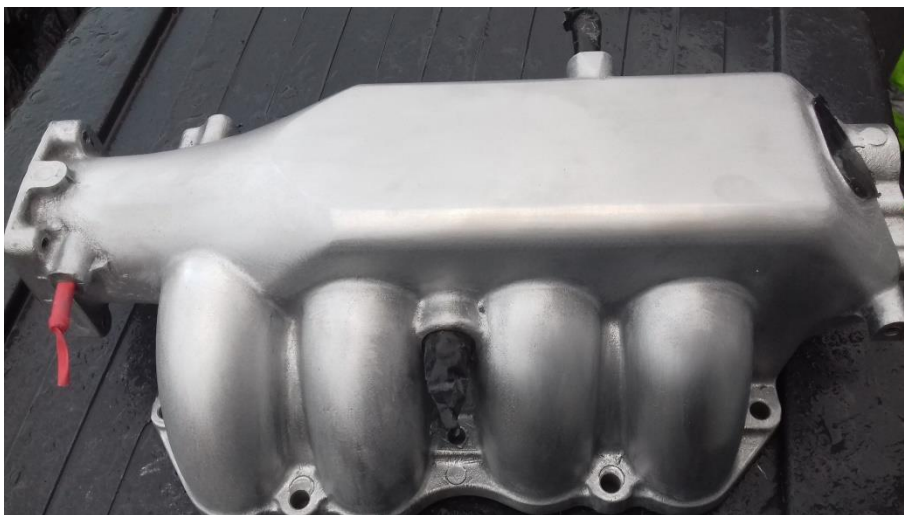
The biggest challenge is to sand down and remove as much of the casting marks as possible, this was done using a mouse sander and a Dremel.

The hard to get to areas were sanded / ground down using the Dremel with relevant attachments and the larger areas using the sander, including the long nose attachment to reach the more difficult areas. Various grades of paper were used P40, P60, P80, P160 and finishing off with P240 ensuring that you always sand in the same direction.

This was very time consuming due to the depth of casting marks, however with perseverance a good finish can be achieved. Being pragmatic I only tackled the areas of the manifold that would be visible from the engine inspection area.



Pic after sanding



## Step 2

Next stage is to use wet and dry paper to smooth down the finish further, try an limit free hand sanding where possible and always use a sanding block to avoid uneven surfaces. I used a large oblong pencil rubber plenty of water with a dash of detergent. Stating off with 600 grade moving through 1000, 1500 and finished off with 2000. One problem I had was keeping the intake stable on

the work bench, this I solved by placing two long bolts through the manifold bolt holes and closing the bench on the threaded ends. – again always sand in the same direction

Pic after the wet and dry paper



### Step 3

I bought commercial aluminium; alloy polishing kit off Amazon cost £16 so no major investment but contained all the materials and equipment necessary.



Start off with the brown compound and the Sisal wheel, avoid applying too much compound to the wheel (use less more often) use moderate pressure when polishing. The kit includes the felt wheels to access restricted areas.

Clean off any polishing residues using the Vienna lime

Then repeat using the Colour Stitch metal polishing mop and blue compound and a new felt wheel – never mix the compounds. Use moderate pressure and again clean afterwards with the lime powder.

Finish off with the loose fold metal polishing mop and the blue compound using light pressure moving in all directions.

The above process was repeated on the metal logo I bought.

Thoroughly clean off all residues with the Vienna Lime

The logo was applied to the manifold top using a metal epoxy and once dry the manifold was given a further polish using the soft mop and blue compound.

### **Pic after final machine polish**



Hit it again with more Vienna Lime and hand polish with Mothers Mag & Aluminium Polish using soft microfibre cloths – remember polish small areas at a time and don't allow it to dry.

### **Post hand polishing**



It was a lot of work, however I`m pleased with the results and feel it was well worth – now just need to wait for the weather to improve so I can get the naff painted one off and put this one on – added bling lol

Will post a pic one fitted

*Martin*