

## Middlebridge Heater update.

After 30'sh years of use/ misuse MB50 heater is shot (was it ever any good?). Also, the dash panels might be described by purists as having characterful 'patina'. My view is they were ..... tatty!

The MB heater system is hardly a masterpiece of design and as replacement matrix are no longer available anyway\* I decided to bin the lot and start again. At the same time tart up the cockpit and reassemble with dash panels 'dipped' with burred walnut effect finish.

My brief:-

1. A single blower close to the matrix (who thought it a good idea to have two blowers each 2m from the matrix?).
2. Larger heater matrix.
3. Matrix and blower to be plentiful (to ensure spare parts supply).
4. Matrix and blower to be easily accessible for maintenance (a huge undertaking to get at those parts in the original build).

Spec'n:-

1. Double headed 3 speed blower, Spal 008-A45-02 (£85)
2. Matrix, Ford Transit Mk3/4 (£20)\*
3. Relay x 3 (£21)\*\*
4. Diverter valve x 2 (£40)\*\*\*
5. Aluminium sheet to make heater box (£?).
6. Bulkhead flanges, 60mm x 4 (£24)
7. Heater ducting, 60mm flexible (£?)

\* MB heater matrix is smaller than SE6 and not interchangeable. One main Trader has no stock and no intention of obtaining, t'other says trying to source but cost will be at least £170 if indeed he obtains any at all.

Transit matrix is good size and hose connections conveniently positioned.

\*\* Couldn't find 3 speed blower switch to take 15A reliably, hence relays used.

\*\*\* Diverts air flow from feet to screen.

Notes:-

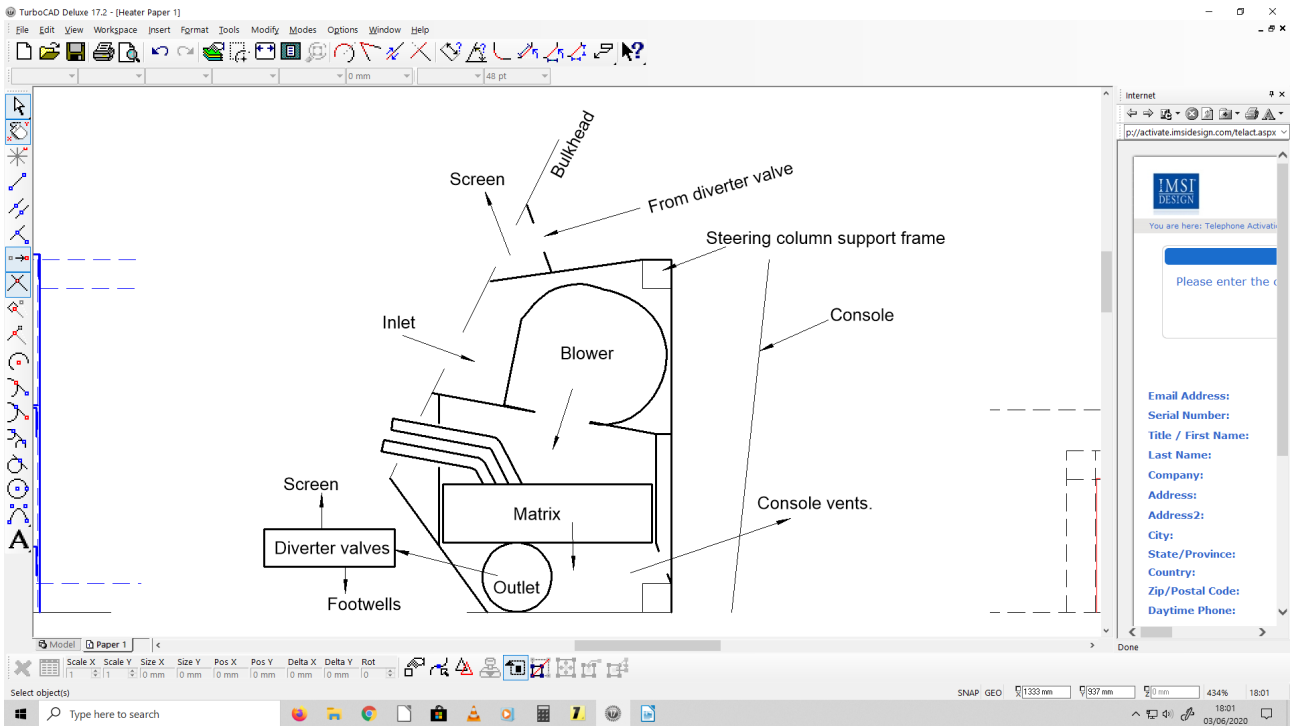
To meet the accessibility brief the new heater box is made of several panels all held together with self tapping screws thus enabling quick in-situ dismantling. Also, the centre console mounting panels were originally retained by screws into the centre console backing plate, which meant the console must first be removed in order then to remove the mounting panels. I simply trimmed away the flanges on the panels through which retaining screws passed and secured the panels to the new heater box with a single self tapper at the centre.

Each mounting panel now simply overlaps the backing plate to locate at it's forward edge and can be removed in an instant to access the heater box.

How effective is the new heater? ..... **VERY!**

And (as you asked) what of the burr effect dash panels? Not over the top and in my view and shows typical trim finish for a quality car of the period. Chuffed!

Side elevation drawing of arrangement:-



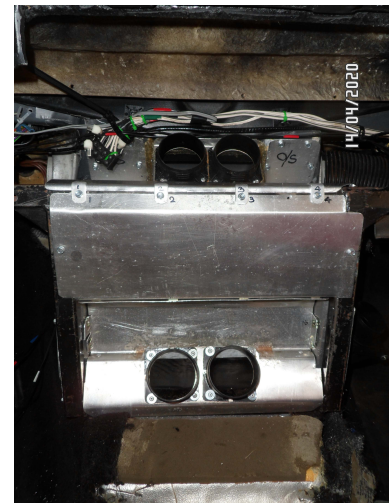
Piccies:-



MB matrix v Transit  
(MB is the smaller)



Heater box showing matrix



Heater box showing  
screen and console vents



Heater ducting can be seen here (just) either side the centre console.



Better view here of ducting to diverter valve.