CASE STUDY

Cleaner, ready-to-fit door lock covers for the Austin 7 Ruby

> An Austin 7 Ruby owner wanted a cleaner, more modern look for the door lock covers, without having to cut holes in brittle originals. We designed a new pair from the car's own door lock plates.

On the Austin 7 Ruby, each door lock is mounted on a steel plate inside the door, and a small moulded cover fits over it to tidy up the mechanism. This customer asked us for a version with a cleaner, more modern look. Fitting the originals also takes work: the owner has to cut openings for the door hardware to pass through, and after more than 80 years the old covers are brittle and can crack as they are cut or screwed down.



Original covers. Left: the outside, with a notch cut for the hardware. Centre: an old cover cracked along one corner. Right: the inside, with an opening cut by hand.

The challenge

The new cover had to fit the car exactly as it is, with no cutting needed. It had to:

- fit over the lock mechanism and screw to the existing holes in the door lock plate;
- come with openings for the door hardware already in place, including the internal locking lever on the passenger side;
- be tough enough to screw down firmly without cracking;
- look clean and simple against the trim of a 1930s car.

Our approach

01 **Measure the door.** We measured the door lock plate and the hardware on the car itself: the screw hole positions, the size of the mechanism, and where each lever moves.

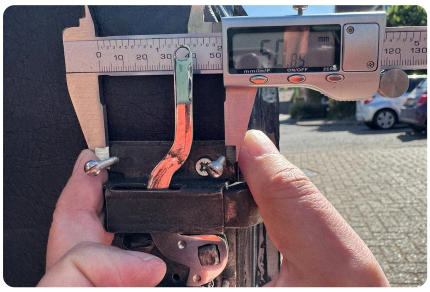
02 **Design it in CAD.** In professional CAD, we designed a clean new cover around those measurements, with the openings for the door hardware built in and a matching cover for each side of the car.

03 **Test the fit.** We printed test covers and checked them against an original lock plate, refining the fit before printing the final pair in black ASA.

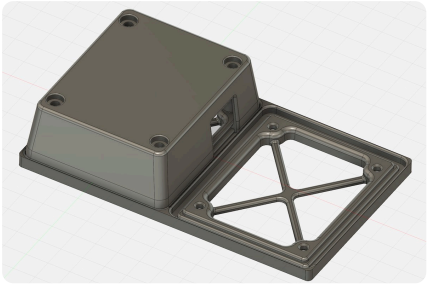
We use AI alongside our own engineering judgement to check the measurements and refine the design. It handles the slow number-crunching, so each round of changes takes minutes, not days and you get your part sooner.

Designed from the door

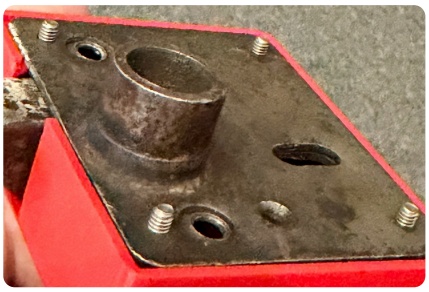
Rather than copying an original cover, we started from the parts it has to fit: the lock plate, the screw holes and the hardware that passes through it. The openings are part of the design, so the covers go straight on with no cutting, filing or drilling, and the passenger-side cover leaves room for the internal locking lever.



Measuring the door lock plate and hardware on the car.



The digital model: a cover on its shipping plate.



A test cover screwed to an original lock plate.

	ORIGINAL COVER	NEW COVER
Material	Moulded plastic, brittle with age	Tough, UV-resistant black ASA
Hardware openings	Cut by the owner	Designed in, no cutting
Fixings	Reuse the old screws	New set of screws included



The new covers fitted to an Austin 7 Ruby's door lock plates.

The result

A pair of door lock covers for the Austin 7 Ruby, printed in tough, UV-resistant black ASA, with a new set of mounting screws. To protect them in the post, they arrive screwed to a printed shipping plate using the supplied screws.

Now available on eBay: ebay.co.uk/itm/198113284775

OBSOLETE ISN'T THE END.

Got a part that can't be replaced?

Broken trim, clips, brackets, knobs and other parts that are no longer made: if you still have the original, even in pieces, we can usually recreate it. We also offer scanning and printing services to garages and restorers.

Tell us about your part

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