

A lockable storage box.

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Back in 2008 the editor of our Morgan Ear published a series of 4 articles I wrote on enhancements to make touring in a Morgan more enjoyable. I've asked our webmaster to publish those articles on our website those interested can see some of the thought process that goes into my work to make touring in a Morgan more enjoyable.

I wrote those initial articles from the standpoint of an owner of a 66 +4 4-seater and a 78 +8. In 2010 we purchased our current Mog... a Roadster – christened the “Sage Lady”. Over the last 3 years I've done a few mods to make touring in this Morgan more enjoyable. These mods are primarily related to storage.

Shortly after purchase we were introduced to the “Hills Alive” storage bags for the rear package shelf. These are available from Chris van Wyk of Morgan Cars Australia and although some might consider them expensive we have found them to be valuable additions to the Sage Lady. “Amanda's” usually carries our picnic supplies on local runs but is used for those items Amanda needs access to when we are touring. “Vern's” usually carries a few tools (engine fault analyzer and small air compressor are the most

valuable) along with those items Vern needs access to when we are touring. Both bags are secured in place by a thin strap shown here folded out of the way. It passes through a lower SS bracket (sourced from a boat chandler's store) below and above the bag. This photo shows the area behind the driver's seat.



As with all Mogs, interior storage is at a premium for small bits.

We did have a covered glove box included when we ordered the Sage Lady but this is rather useless for anything more than a pair of gloves and a warm beanie! To increase storage I sourced a couple of kayak bungee storage panels (available from Hobie) and mounted these on the GRP panel under the dash. This did require moving the cigar lighter over closer to the



steering wheel but... it was in the way of the passenger's knees anyway! You will also note a wooden box I found at a local homewares store (this one is bamboo) that fit very nicely on the top of the transmission. I used a couple of rubber blind nut fasteners to attach it to the unused “radio” plate in the heater box. You can see where the second Hobie panel is located in this photo as well. Amanda uses the one under the glove box, I use the one on top of the transmission tunnel.



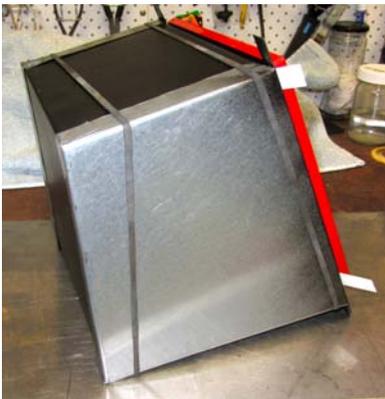
Now, as I titled this article “a lockable storage box” it is appropriate to discuss this addition. As space is always a premium in a Morgan this job was to utilize the space behind the driver's seat behind the “vertical” panel separating the axle area from the cabin. In the Roadster the space behind the passenger's seat is used for the battery

while the space behind the driver's seat is just empty. In our +8 I'd fitted a small wooden box into this area accessible from the panel over the axle using it for tools and spares. In the Roadster, with a tray under the top panel it was really not practical or



convenient to duplicate this option but what was of interest was access through the vertical panel. As I already had a shallow lockable "box" that could be used (red top is visible in the photos) I mocked up a larger cardboard template using the "red" lockable box as the access port. Once happy with the fit I translated the cardboard box into a steel structure (mild 1mm steel sheet from an old dishwasher), cut

the bottom out of the "red" steel box, and now have a hidden, lockable, "storage box". This works in the Sage Lady as our seats have adjustable backrests allowing easy access. The carpet was left intact thus completely hides the box -- just undoing a couple of push fasteners allows the carpet to be lifted from the bottom exposing the box door (see photo above of Hills Alive storage bag). As this box is not hermetically sealed, I will be using a dry storage bag to keep items placed in it both dry and clean.



Steel box before riveting

Finished box under carpet

