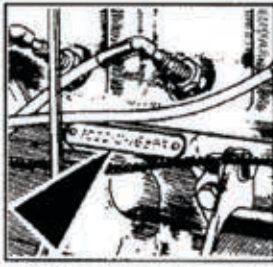


# Decoding the MGB Engine & VIN Numbers



The **Engine Number** is stamped on a plate secured to the right hand side of the cylinder block.



The **Body Number** for early chrome-bumpered cars is stamped on a plate on the left front valance behind the radiator diaphragm as illustrated, or in some cases, in front of the radiator diaphragm.

A club member gave me a phone call, saying that he was looking at an old engine for him to do up in his own time. But was it a 1972 MGB engine? I said to him have you got the engine number, there is a lot you can find out about an engine by its number. So this how you can find about your engine in your MG. [www.mgexp.com/article/mgb-vin.html](http://www.mgexp.com/article/mgb-vin.html)

e.g. 18G/581F/L101

<b>Group 1</b>	<b>18</b>	1798cc
	<b>G</b>	MG
	<b>V</b>	Vertical (in-line)
<b>Group 2 (18G)</b>	<b>U</b>	Centre gear change
	<b>R</b>	Overdrive
	<b>RC</b>	Automatic
	<b>RWC</b>	Centre gear change w/overdrive
<b>Group 2 (18V)</b>	<b>581F</b>	Bf+Pf+We
	<b>581Y</b>	Bf+Pf+We
	<b>582F</b>	Bf+Pf+We+R
	<b>582Y</b>	Bf+Pf+We+R
	<b>583Y</b>	Bf+Pf+Rc
	<b>584Z</b>	Re+Bf+Pf+We
	<b>585Z</b>	Re+Bf+Pf+We+R
	<b>672Z</b>	Re+Bf+Pf+Ck+We
	<b>673Z</b>	Re+Bf+Pf+Ck+We+R
	<b>797AE</b>	Re+Bf+Pf+Ck+Hi+We
	<b>798AE</b>	Re+Bf+Pf+Ck+Hi+We+R
	<b>801AE</b>	Re+Bf+Pf+Ck+Ji+We
	<b>802AE</b>	Re+Bf+Pf+Ck+Ji+We+R
	<b>846F</b>	Bf+Pf+Ti+We
	<b>847F</b>	Bf+Pf+Ti+We+R
<b>Z</b>	Carburettor crankcase ventilation, evaporative loss control and twin carburettors.	
<b>AE</b>	Carburettor crankcase ventilation, air temperature control and evaporative loss control.	

<b>Group 2 (18V) Coding Symbols</b>	<b>BF</b>	Lucas 16ACR or 17 ACR alternator with negative earth.
	<b>Ck</b>	Anti-run on valve
	<b>Pf</b>	Pre-engaged starter motor (when not normally fitted)
	<b>R</b>	Laycock overdrive
	<b>Re</b>	Exhaust emission control USA
	<b>We</b>	Centre gear change
	<b>HI</b>	1975 Federal regulation
	<b>Ji</b>	1975 California regulation
	<b>Ti</b>	1975 requirements
	<b>Group 3</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>L</b>		Low compression
<b>L (2nd)</b>		Left hand drive
<b>123</b>		Engine number

## VIN number meaning?

<b>1. Make</b>	<b>G</b>	MG
<b>2. Engine Type</b>	<b>H</b>	BMC B-Series engine, 1.8L (MGB)
	<b>A</b>	BMC A-Series engine, (Midget)
<b>3. Body Type</b>	<b>N</b>	2 seater Roadster
	<b>D</b>	GT or Coupe
<b>4. Series</b>	<b>3</b>	Mk1 (1962 - 1967)
	<b>4</b>	Mk2 (1968 - 1969)
	<b>5</b>	Mk3 (1970 - 1980)
<b>5. Market</b>	<b>U</b>	USA (left-hand drive)
	<b>L</b>	Left-hand drive
	<b>R</b>	Right-hand drive

		<b>6. Model Year</b>					
<b>none</b>	1968 - 1969	<b>C</b>	1972	<b>F</b>	1975	<b>J</b>	1978
<b>A</b>	1969 - 1970	<b>D</b>	1973	<b>G</b>	1976	<b>L</b>	1979
<b>B</b>	1971	<b>E</b>	1974	<b>H</b>	1977		