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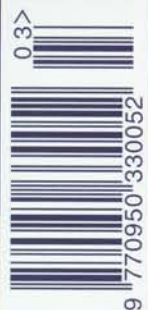
Turning Japanese

Tested – VTEC-engined MGF



American Beauty?

Unique take on 'Woody' MGB



WHAT'S ON WHERE IN 2005 MG SHOW GUIDE

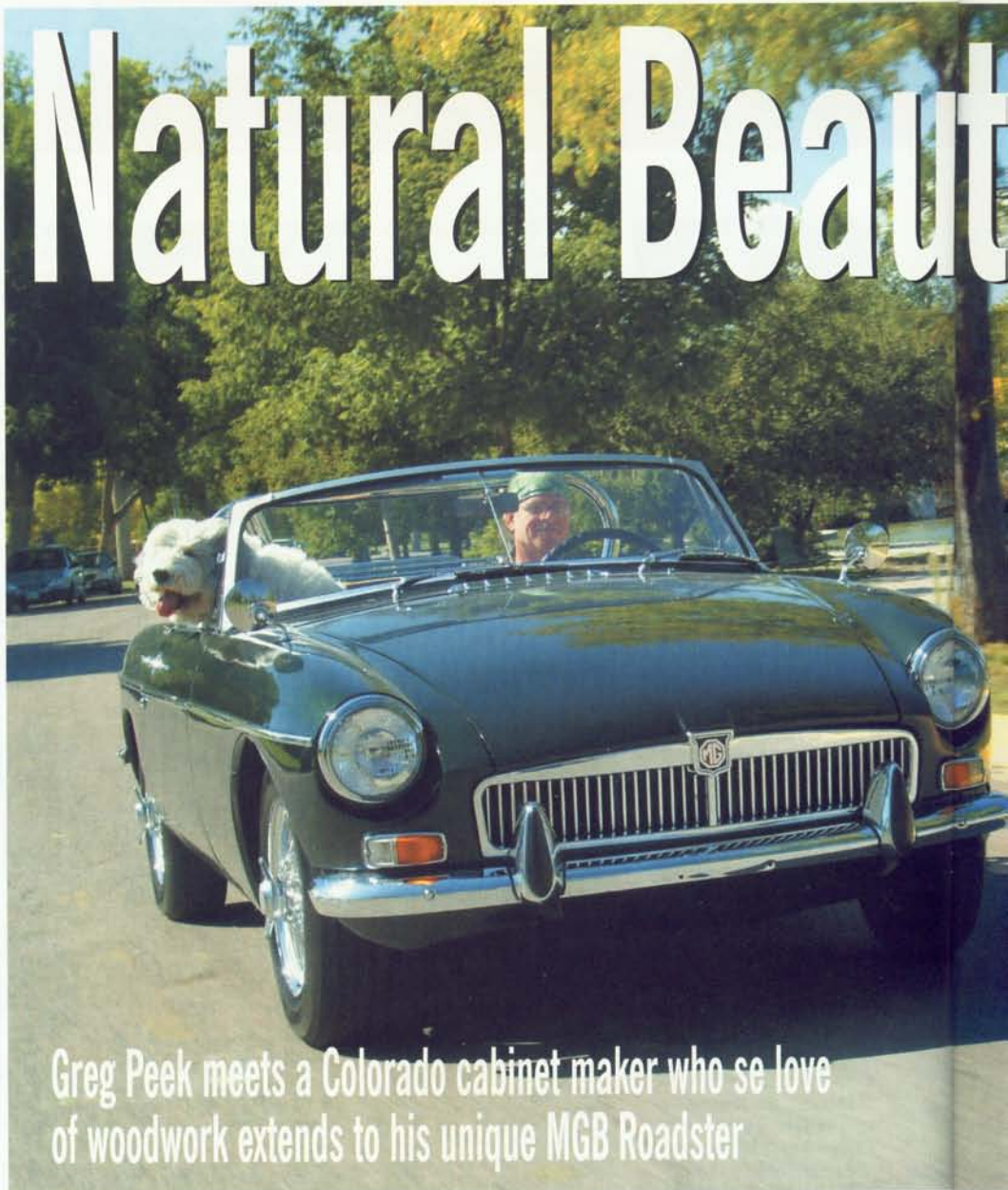
There's a synergy between wood and steel that assures its special place inside an automobile. Fine wood trim has become the hallmark of Britain's best, synonymous with luxury and timeless appeal. Britain's coachbuilders have long appreciated wood's practical properties. Ash frames form the backbone of Britain's enduring automotive heritage, including a long line of MGs.

When woodworking is your profession, you understand both these qualities. Curtiss Allen of Denver, Colorado certainly does. A cabinet maker by trade, and unhappy with aftermarket choices, Curt turned to the materials he knew best when it came time to re-trim his 1967 MGB.

The larger bits are walnut, a mixture of solid wood and veneers. "I found walnut to be a good choice. It allowed me to create some of the complex curves and shapes required for a perfect fit." And perfect it is. Panels flow together beautifully, following the wood's grain. The careful use of birdseye maple accents provides the visual interest you'd expect to find in the work of a craftsman.

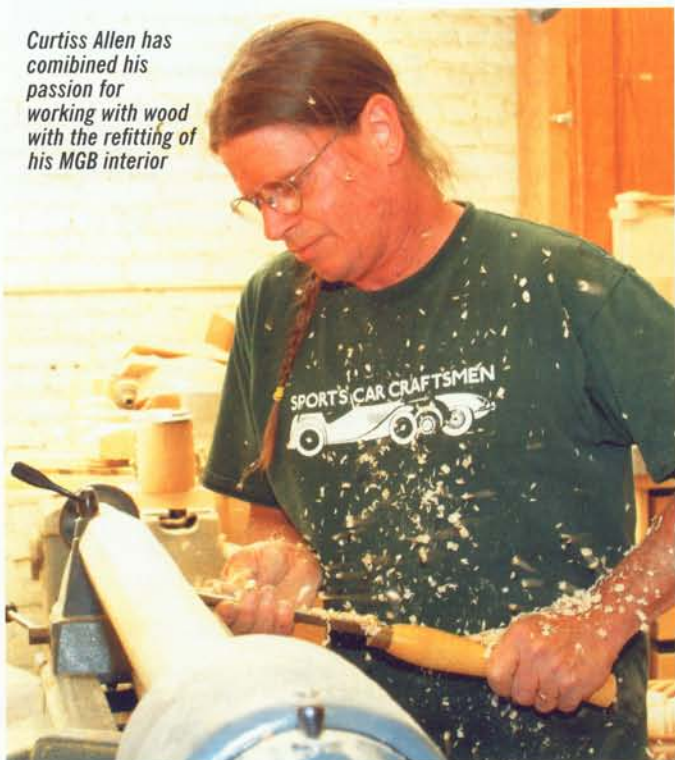
While the results are beautiful, the process was painful, mostly due to a run of bad luck. "This is actually my third restoration on this car. When I first bought the car, it was a rotten shell, lying in tall weeds. Five years later, I got to work on a ground-up restoration, and did my first walnut re-trim. Eighteen months later, it was done. One week later, we hit a ditch at 70mph. Nine months later, I had it back the way I

Natural Beaut

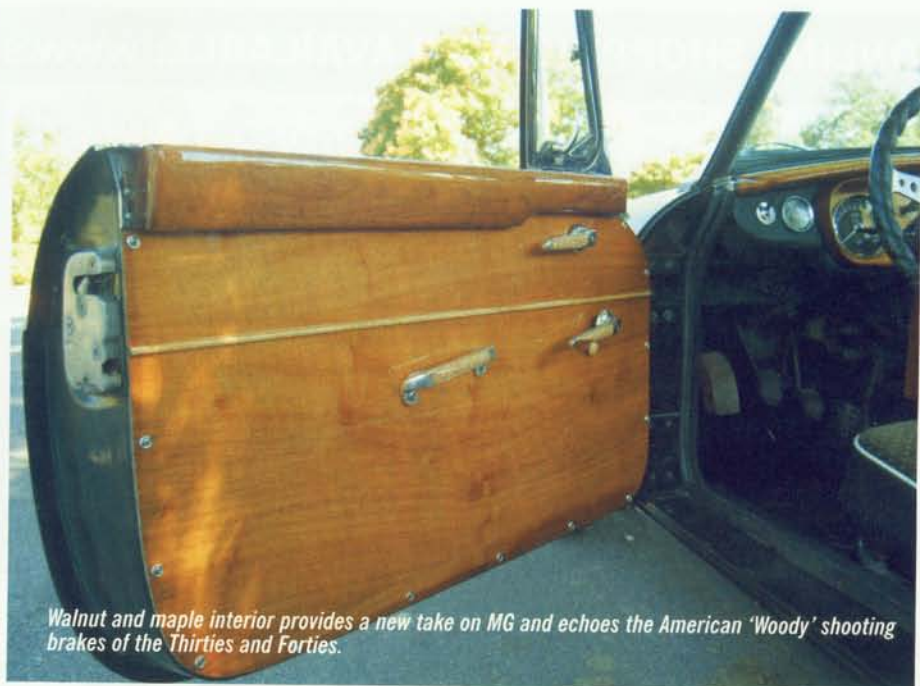


Greg Peek meets a Colorado cabinet maker whose love of woodwork extends to his unique MGB Roadster

Curtiss Allen has combined his passion for working with wood with the refitting of his MGB interior



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Walnut and maple interior provides a new take on MG and echoes the American 'Woody' shooting brakes of the Thirties and Forties.

wanted it. Two years later, a lorry backed over it in the parking lot. Three years later, the car was back on the road. So I've gotten to know my way 'round these cars."

Curt relied on inspiration from his childhood, when he spent much of his time sailing. "I really enjoy the brightwork on fine sailboats," he told me. But one look and another type of boat readily comes to mind - the Chris

Craft cruisers of the 1950's - materials and design combined to create timeless beauty. "Some would say that this kind of beauty is inappropriate to the practical nature of the MGB. I like to think that it's an extension of the whole form and function thing that makes an MG what it is." It's no secret that one of the most popular Chris Craft models ever built was named 'The Utility.' Great minds think alike.



Interior makeover may not be to everyone's taste but there's no denying the quality of the work undertaken.