

Training Seminars

Eclectic Motorworks offers a variety of training seminars in automotive sheet metal fabrication and restoration. Limited size (8 participants) for personal attention, each session includes in-depth discussion of materials, tools, welding and methods. Demonstrations and hands-on activities are interspersed throughout the day. Participants are encouraged to bring a project to work on during the seminar. Seminars run from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with lunch and breaks provided.



One- and two-day seminars are offered. One-day seminars include general information about automotive patch panel fabrication and installation. These are limited to six participants.

Two-day seminars specific to MGA restoration are also limited to six participants and include the "tricks of the trade" for the MGA. These tips apply to other cars, and past class participants have owned Austin Healeys, MGBs, MG-T Types, even Porsches and Volkswagens.

Daily Seminar Schedule

All sheet metal seminars start with a lecture that describes:

- Shop Safety
- Tools
- Material and patch panel selection
- Paint stripping and rust removal
- Cutting and sectioning
- In depth welding discussion, including welder types and selection
- Hammer and dolly technique
- Forming panels with simple tools
- Forming panels with specialized tools

Once the lecture establishes the foundation for the day, the first hands-on part of the seminars covers the MIG welding process. Participants will:

- Make plug (rosette) welds
- Make tack welds
- Make continuous and stitch welds
- Properly grind and finish the welds
(Note: TIG welding is an option for those interested)

As you gain confidence in your welding ability, project work will begin. Carl will help you shape, cut and fit patch panels into the project. By the end of the day, you'll be ready to go to your home or shop and install more patch panels.

MGA classes spend the second day working on a car to learn about the specific methods for fitting doors, sills and other panels. A body is removed and reinstalled on the frame during the session.

The end of the seminars include some "free time" for demonstration and trial of Eclectic Motorworks' more specialized tools, such as the English wheel, bead roller and planishing hammer.

Background

Carl Heideman has been involved with automotive restoration for more than twenty years. He has owned over one hundred classic and historic vehicles and has worked as a mechanic and auto restorer. At his shop, Eclectic Motorworks, he specializes in sheet metal restoration for British cars, hot rods, vintage racecars and other classics. He has taken sheet metal classes from Fay Butler, Ron Covell, and Ron Fournier and has participated in teaching restoration and metalworking seminars for over ten years. Carl is a State of Michigan certified Master Mechanic and is certified for Unitized Body Structural Repair. He also writes technical articles for automotive magazines, including *British Car*, *Classic MG*, *Grassroots Motorsports*, and *VW Trends*.



Eclectic Motorworks is equipped with:

- TIG, MIG, resistance (spot), and oxy/acetylene welders
- English wheel
- planishing hammer
- brake
- shears and other cutting tools
- bead rollers
- forming heads
- shot bags
- scores of hammers and dollies
- and toolboxes full of mechanic's tools

