

MotorKlassik

Ausgabe 11/2011

DIE ULTIMATIVE ANLEITUNG

Dieses Buch, so wagen wir zu behaupten, wird kein Bestseller auf der Spiegel-Liste. Wer aber schon einmal an einem Wilson-Vorwahlgetriebe gearbeitet hat, etwa im Riley, der wird dieses 176-seitige Werk zu schätzen wissen: Es enthält alles Wissen, das man zur Restaurierung und Optimierung des genialen Getriebes benötigt.

Octane

CLASSIC & PERFORMANCE CARS

July 2011

Its weight and complexity meant that the preselector gearbox was adopted by only a handful of pre-war car marques - most notably Riley - but anyone who has driven behind a well set-up "preselect" will confirm how useful it is for fast driving on the road or in heavy traffic. And anyone who owns a car fitted with one of these gearboxes should buy this softback, which explains how to completely rebuild and fine-tune the unit. It's beautifully clear, illustrated with hundreds of colour pictures, and comes with a DVD that, among other things, has 3D animation to show how the various elements work. There's even a biography of Walter Gordon Wilson himself. A lovely piece of work.



June 2011

My congratulations to Peter Meyer for publishing a first class Maintenance Manual for the Wilson Pre Select Gear Box and his colleague Holger Lübcke for producing the accompanying DVD which includes animation of the gearbox operation and an Excel file for calculating gearbox ratios. I have been in engineering (as a toolmaker) for over 40 years and have never read a manual that is so well written. It is concise yet easy to follow regardless of your engineering experience or expertise. By meticulously recording the detailed procedures, enhancing that by providing excellent photographs of the components, compiling this information (aided by the advice and assistance of Holger), and subsequently publishing this manual has taken two years of Peter's life. I understand why. His attention to details and straightforward, informative writing style, leads me to recommend this manual as a must buy for any Wilson Pre Select Gear Box Owner. Whatever your individual level of engineering knowledge, this manual will enable you to undertake the task personally and achieve a successful result.

I now look forward to stripping and rebuilding my gear box. I feel secure in the knowledge that if I follow this manual, I will not encounter any unexpected problems. Well done to Peter and Holger, and thank you.

Eddie Edwards

Southern Sphinx

Armstrong Siddeley Car Club / Australia

NEW BOOK – A „MUST BUY“

The Wilson Preselector Gearbox – Armstrong Siddeley Type

I am grateful to Terry Lloyd, our Gold Coast member, for alerting me to the above wonderful publication. It is published by Rothenburg & Partners of Hamburg, Germany, and is an English translation of the German text. The book is some 170 pages, A4 size, soft covered with a CD.

I have read the book which is quite full of exposed and semi-exposed coloured pictures, all appearing to be new photography. The particular gearbox is the same as those used in the 16/18 HP A/S vehicles, but clearly was the version supplied to Riley cars by Armstrong Siddeley Motors; the marginal differences are irrelevant, as the workings are absolutely identical. It also includes the ASM produced spare parts illustrations which most of us would have seen. The print quality is outstanding

and all the very many new colour pictures are reproduced in extreme detail and quality. What I have found interesting is that the various gearing mathematics and methodology in the gearbox's operation are included, and the book on the whole explains so much I have never seen in any other publication. It will be of immense use to anyone servicing a preselector box. Whilst the example used pre-dates the 346 Sapphire gearbox, it still does a fantastic job for anyone overhauling one for a 346.

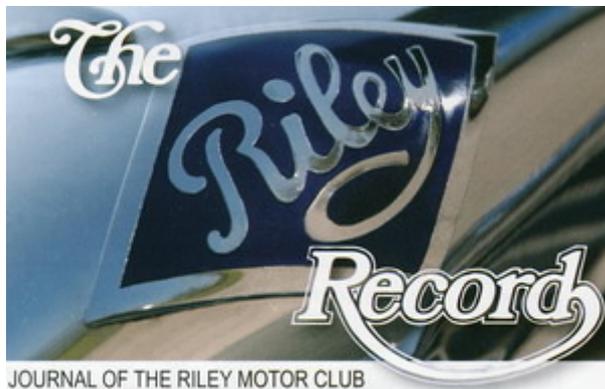
I regard it a mandatory inclusion in all our A/S book libraries. Knowing the vagaries of book publishing and the difficulty of obtaining re-runs, I strongly recommend that we all "grab" one whilst they are available in the specialist automotive bookshops; don't "dilly dally" is the message.

For those who may worry that the book may have translation errors, it appears to be completely free of these. The general prose is just as we would expect had it been originally written in English.

This is a truly wonderful addition to our A/S heritage books and, whilst quite deep in detail, is a very easy read. Making understanding the concept of such epicyclic workings clear, which has hitherto not been clear to very many people.

"Just buy it!" is my closing comment.

R Penn Bradly



August 2011

Riley Motor Club Member Peter "Banjo" Meyer's new book is a prime example of manual writing at its best - I'd even say that after reading it, I reckon I could strip down and re-assemble a preselector all by myself (anyone care to lend one to me?) Peter has owned, restored and raced British classic cars for decades (his 1936 Riley Falcon Special "The Rat" is well known) and he despairs of today's "diagnostic technicians" for whom repairing a car means replacing each component until the fault disappears. Far more satisfying, he writes in the book's preface, to dismantle a faulty part and find out "how does it work?" "...how does it go together?" and "...how can I get it working again?". This book will provide the owner of a car with a Wilson Preselector gearbox with the answers to all those questions.

Profusely illustrated throughout its 174 pages with color diagrams and photographs, the book's chapters cover the development history of the preselector 'box and operating instructions and then move on to a detailed explanation of how the gearbox works, its lubrication, maintenance and fault fixing and finally its disassembly, overhaul, reassembly and adjustment. Peter's writing is easy to follow and cross-referenced with the photos and diagrams should enable even a novice "spanner man" to complete an expert overhaul.

A CD accompanies the book and contains a 3-D animation of the 'box in action, the operating mechanism and the drive train plus details of patents and how to construct a test bench for the gearbox -fascinating stuff!

David Pipes, Editor

prewarcars.com

August 2011

Over the years we have driven lots of cars and liked almost every one of them, but now is the time to make a confession: we have never, ever driven a car with the Wilson preselector! So when asked to write a review about a book that solely deals with the ins and outs of this peculiar gearbox, what to do...? No problem though, we just picked up the book, and began to read. The book starts with a biography of Major Walter Gordon Wilson, the inventor. What always amazes us is that people like him have a particular mind that enables them to focus on a very complicated apparatus and then have the ability to carry it through to

production. In fact the same goes for writer Peter "Banjo" Meyer who in this book takes you through all the intricacies of this gearbox, first explaining the way it works and then goes on describing its maintenance, its faults and, most important, how to rectify them. It's really a hands-on book that takes you through all the steps that are necessary to take the box apart and more important, get it back together working properly. The book includes many large color photos and diagrams. It comes even with a DVD that has a 3-D video animation of the gear changes. As said above we have no experience with the Wilson preselector, but judging by the text and the photos, Peter Meyer sure knows what he's talking about. Conclusion: a definite must if you own a car with the Wilson Preselector.

Rutger Booy

...and reader's opinions

This book is not just good – it is exceptionally good! It has been written by an absolute genius who has obviously met the same kind of problems that I have. He appreciates that the simple things that you feel daft asking about are the ones that stop you from doing the job forever too. His pictures and explanations of how and why things work in this complex device, how to strip it and in what order, how to identify and repair damage and then reassemble it are crisp and clear. In my opinion he should be charging lots more for it.

Frank C., A

I ordered a copy a while ago and must say it is money well spent. The book is comprehensive well printed and presented. I now feel that I am going to be able to dismantle and re-assemble my gearbox quite easily.

Ian S., UK

It is a thorough and splendidly accessible book. Each step in the disassembly and re-assembly process has been marvellously photographed and precisely annotated.

Peter C., UK

Firstly I must say what a well set-out and fantastic reference you have created. It is a great service you haven't given to the world automotive community and the cars that run these gearboxes. Many thanks.

Chris B., A

I received the book today, very quickly, thanks. I am looking forward to refurbishing my pre-selector now. It was quite daunting before, but your book gives me confidence.

Harold S., UK

I congratulate you for creating a very high standard book.

Joseph D., A

Your book is a great addition and should be useful to very many owners of AS cars as well.

Robert B., A

I now have the book and I'm thrilled with it!

Andrew C., A

...it is better that I had been led to believe.

Andy B., UK

Einfach großartig!

Roland W., CH

Das Buch ist angekommen, einfach sensationell, vielen Dank.

Günter L., D

...ist wirklich gut gelungen.

Claudio T., D

...it is a fantastic book and well worth every cent of its modest cost.

Robert B., A

Super Buch!

Georg B., D

Just a line to let you know that the copy of your PS book has arrived safely (in Australia) and I am delighted with it! I am looking forward to reading it in detail but initial looking is most enjoyable.

Peter C., Australia

Just to let you know that the book arrived safely today. A first quick look over...a GOOD book.

Gary H., D

...your Preselector Gerabox book is excellent and has answered a number of questions for me where previous materil confused or left unsaid. Thanks for the dedicated work.

Gerry P., UK

...endlich mal eine sehr gute und detaillierte Beschreibung eines sogar in Fachkreisen schwierigen Themas.

Raine A., D

...it's an absolutely marvellous book. The photographs, illustrations and diagrams are excellent and will be very, very helpful when I restore my own gearbox.

Peter C., A

Michi's Oldtimer Blog

Das Buch ist wirklich Klasse, denn es erklärt wirklich jede Schraube (und das schreibe ich nicht so..., das ist wirklich so) am Vorwahlgetriebe. Auch versteht man dadurch den Aufbau und die Funktion des Getriebes. Darüber hinaus wird die Geschichte seines Erfinders Major Walter Gordon Wilson erzählt, der nicht nur dieses Getriebe erfunden hat, sondern auch viele andere Dinge ebenfalls.

Das Buch ist nicht nur etwas für die Schrauber unter uns und auch nicht nur für Riley-Fahrer (denn das Vorwahlgetriebe wurde in vielen Marken verbaut und auch vielen Rennwagen)... sondern für jeden Technikbegeisterten. Ganz herzlichen Dank für das Buch!