

Speedometer dial face replacement for Volkswagen Beetle (Mexican)

- ◆ Remove the speedometer from the car (fairly simple). Be careful to mark the wiring as it is pulled off and make a rudimentary wiring diagram for connection when work is complete.



- ◆ With the speedometer removed, carefully unclip the surround ring (black in this case) and remove with the lens. I was surprised to discover that my lens is made of plastic (if you have this type, be careful not to use the wrong type of cleaning products, otherwise the lens could become cloudy). Once the lens and ring have been removed, the needle becomes accessible.



- ◆ I pulled the needle upwards carefully with my fingers and noticed it wasn't going to budge. Deciding against using excessive force, which could lead to damage, I phoned Kingfisher Kustoms. Lift the needle over the stop pin carefully and allow to rest at the calibration markings.



- ◆ The needle comes off at this point and should be refitted within these markings. This gives the speedometer the necessary preload. If the needle is too stiff, use some spoons to lever it off. I found that this avoided damage (scratches) and they performed well as leverage tools.



- ◆ Two small screws now need to be unscrewed in order for the dial face to be removed. I have found in the past that screwdrivers tend to damage screw heads or slip and scratch surfaces. My tip is to use a small sharp blade. The screws should not be too tight.



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- ◆ So, this is what the speedometer looks like after a few simple steps. It is all fairly straight forward and the only thing that you need to do is be especially careful. The instrument is quite fragile and should be handled as such. The working area and tools should be kept clean at all times.



- ◆ The new dial face from Kingfisher Kustoms was of good quality. Be sure to choose the correct dial face for your needs. This picture shows a dial face without cut-out for the fuel gauge. Both types are available. They cost £19.95 each plus postage. Contact them at Kingfisher Kustoms or telephone 0121 558 9135.



- ◆ The finished product (seen here fitted to a different speedometer).



Tip! The new custom stainless steel dial face (which I received in the post) comes without stop pin! It may need some slight adjustment before the new face fits over the old one. I think this is the "fiddly" bit Kingfisher Kustoms are referring to on their website. The best option would be to see a watchmaker or similar and get a new stop pin fitted. That may not be viable in some cases. I managed to remove the old one and superglue it in place on the stainless steel dial face.