



# THE DISPLAY CABINET

## PHIL TOMBS' UVA FUGITIVE

**P**hil Tombs's Fugitive had survived a bit of a rough time before Phil bought it from a schoolteacher around ten years ago. It had been used off-road around the Malvern Hills with a gun turret on top of the roof. The gun turret hadn't been fitted by survivalist maniacs hiding in a mountaintop bunker from the commie asshole liberal bastards in the CIA and the FBI, though – the truth is rather more prosaic.

The turret was actually for shooting bunny rabbits for the pot. Townies may be shocked, but country folk are frequently engaged in such fairly basic pursuits; at least if they're shooting bunnies they aren't sleeping with their sisters. I can't bitch about dead bunnies anyway, as I like eating them, and much prefer eating dead ones.

Anyway... Phil bought the Fugitive in a very fugitive state as it had been cowering in the back of a barn for four lonely years with cracked GRP, fried wiring and a blown engine.

Phil put some hard work into it over the next while, and the chassis was the only bit that didn't need serious help. All the frame needed was to be drilled, waxoiled, filled and painted, and it will now last 100 years rather than just the usual kit car half-century. The wiring is also fresh, and the panelwork, such as it is, has been thoroughly repaired, fettled and sorted, and treated to a



nice coat of Ferrari yellow. Ali floor panels were made and fitted, and rather more lights than are strictly necessary were attached to the roll over bar.

The motor was given a sort-out to the max for a smallish Beetle engine, but the barrels and pistons were kept to a reasonable

cubic capacity in order to keep Phil's insurance at a reasonable £90 a year. The engine is actually bored to 1649cc, but it's fully balanced and lightened, with ported and polished heads and a set of bucket-sized carbs to get the fuel in, and huge filters to keep the mud out.

The rail has been covered in kak on occasion, but Phil is now thinking it would be more fun to have something a bit shorter for off-road fun as the Fugitive is actually very capable and stable. He thinks something with a short wheelbase would be more likely to turn round and bite him, which is certainly true, and would thus be more amusing, which is debatable. In any case, he now has a 289 Cobra replica as well, so it may be a while before he listens to the call of the mud puddle again.

