

S.S.120 PROJECT

PART THREE OF AN INTRIGUING PROJECT AT FINCH RESTORATIONS

THE ART OF THE AUTOMOBILE IS flourishing at Finch Restorations, Australia's oldest car restoration firm, located in Adelaide.

Finch has developed a beautiful range of 'imagine-if' vehicles with styling contemporary to the classic and highly desirable vehicles of the late-1930s and early 1940s. Finch have called these their SS120 range - an evolution of the S.S. Jaguar 100 that might have been, had William Lyons been able to evolve the S.S.90 and S.S. Jaguar 100 series if not for the outbreak of WW2.

The coachbuilding team at Finch has been busy during Winter sculpting the sleek steel body of the beautiful SS120. The body is all steel and stylishly formed, metal-finished and lead-wiped by the coachbuilders in the Finch body-shop. With the arrival of Spring, we are pleased to see Finch has achieved the milestone of completing the bodywork. The SS120 body has since had the holding primers removed, and the body has now entered the Finch paint-shop for the application of the final epoxy primer system.

Kim, Finch's in-house timber coach-builder, is fabricating the timber dashboard, door trims, and toolbox influenced by 'MkIV' and MkV styling. Traditional burr-walnut and figured walnut is used for interior door and rear panels. The timberwork of the open two-seater will be given UV polish protection. The tool-kit is custom-designed to hold both traditional and modern tools, and is lined in quality felt to match the car upholstery.

Once the epoxy-primer system has been applied, the trial fitting of the interior and trim will be completed. The body will be returned to the paint-shop for the application of the final colour paint system. In the case of the first SS120, the colour will be Midnight Blue. This will make a handsome contrast to the Ox



86:1



87:1



86:2



87:2



86:3



87:3

Blood leather interior trim.

The completion of the bodywork has also permitted the SS120 chassis to be returned to Finch's mechanical and assembly workshop. The Finch mechanical team is now consolidating the chassis and driveline while the paint and trim systems are being applied to the body.

Soon the paint, trim, chassis and driveline systems should be complete, at which point the body and chassis will be remarried.

The Finch SS120 is based on a shortened MkV chassis and is similar in philosophy to that used by William Lyons who, in 1948, revealed his newly developed XK120 based on a shortened MkV chassis.

Like Sir William's XK120, Finch also uses the XK engine but the later 4.2 litre version. Behind the engine, Finch has fitted a modern five-speed T5 gearbox.

86:1 The huge range of very fine collector's cars under attention at Finch Restorations.

86:2 The new tool kit is formed by craftsman Kim and is based on S.S. and pushrod engined models.

86:3 The classic lines of the SS120 are obvious.

86:1 The main body of the first SS120 nearing completion at Finch Restorations.

87:2 The chassis is ready to be reunited with the body after a trial fitting.

87:3 It's all hands on deck while parts are trial fitted to the bare cabin.