

# Raising and Lowering the Soft Top on Triumph Sports Cars

It's been apparent to me over the years that many convertible owners have no idea as to the correct way to raise, lower and stow the soft top on their cars. Way back when I looked at a Spitfire for the first time, I flicked through the owners handbook and saw the instructions printed therein. Ever since, I've thought that it would be a fine thing to share with other owners. Now Spitfire owners handbooks are pretty thin on the ground in New Zealand, although they are available as new reprints from various sources. Now that I have a copy of the Spitfire Mk3 owners handbook (thanks Tim) I can pass on the instructions to everyone else.

Note that these instructions *do not apply* to Stags, Spitfire Mk1, Spitfire Mk2, Herald convertibles, Vitesses convertibles, TR2s, TR3s or Surrey Topped TR4s or 5s. They *do apply* to Spitfire Mk3, Mk4, 1500, TR4s and TR5s without Surrey Tops, TR6s, TR7 convertibles, MGBs, and MG Midgets.

Alan Hyndman (December 2002)

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## SOFT TOP

The soft top, which is made from PVC material, is supported by a hinged frame. The assembly folds down into the back of the car and is retained by a cover.

### Raising the Soft Top

Unfasten and remove the hood cover. Fold the sides of the hood fabric outwards and pull the fabric rearwards over the luggage compartment lid. Lifting the front hoodrail, raise the assembly sufficiently to allow the fabric to lie evenly over the frame. Secure the fasteners (four each side, Fig 3) to the body. Locate the front hoodrail on the windscreen header rail and turn the levers (Fig 2) inwards. Knock the second hoodstick (arrowed Fig 1) forwards as far as possible, and secure the fasteners (Fig 1).

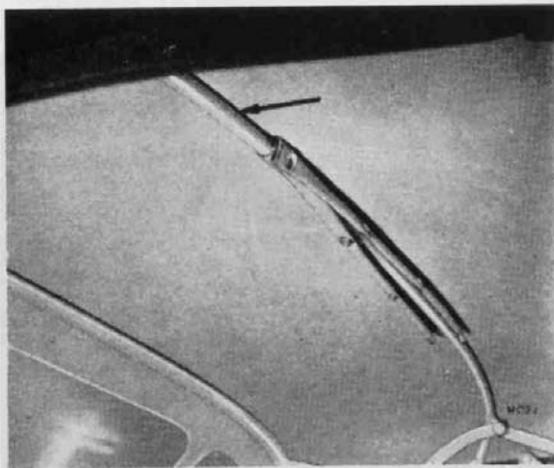


Fig 1. The second hood stick and fasteners.

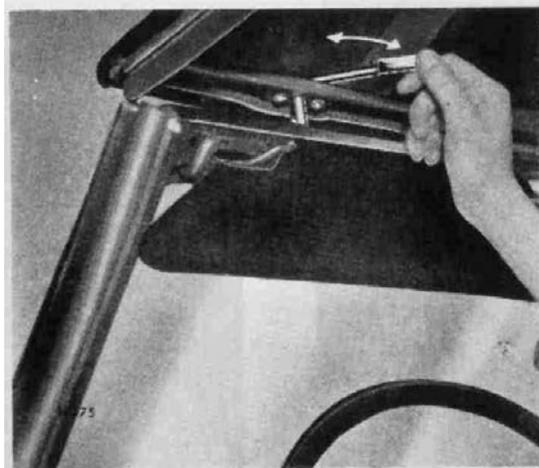


Fig 2. Securing lever on the front hoodrail.

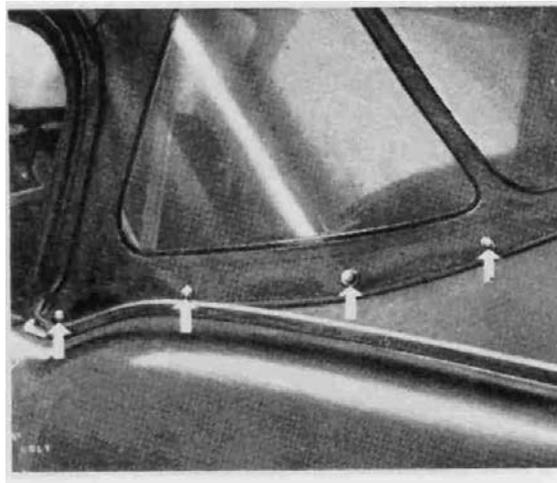


Fig 3. Fasteners at rear of soft top.

### Lowering the Soft Top

Release the fasteners securing the fabric to the second hoodstick (Fig 1). Release the levers (Fig 2) and the fasteners (four each side, Fig 3) securing the edges of the hood to the body. Push the front hoodrail rearwards and lightly upwards while knocking the second hoodstick (arrowed, Fig 1) rearwards, until the assembly begins to fold. **DO NOT PULL the second hoodstick downwards.** Continue lowering the frame and pull the fabric flat over the luggage compartment lid (Fig 4). Fold the fabric forwards over the hoodsticks and turn the sides inwards (Fig 5). Ensure that the Vybak windows are free from distortion and that the hood fabric is not trapped by the hoodsticks.

Retain the hood in position with the cover provided (Fig 6) as follows:

Attach the cover to the outer fasteners and continue working towards the centre. Attach the inner pillar fasteners and hook the three straps under the bottom hoodstick.

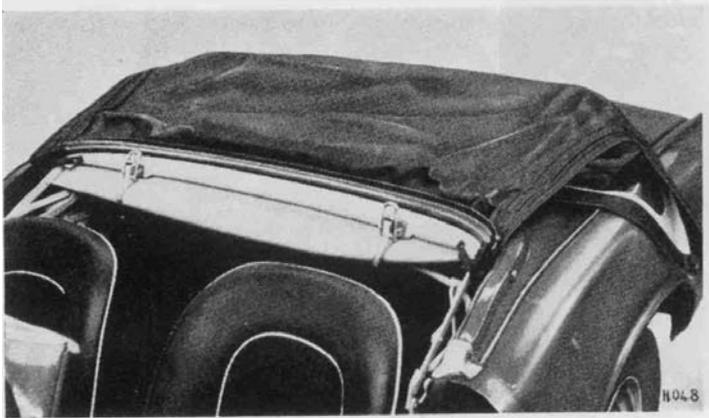


Fig 4. Sitting the fabric flat over the luggage compartment.

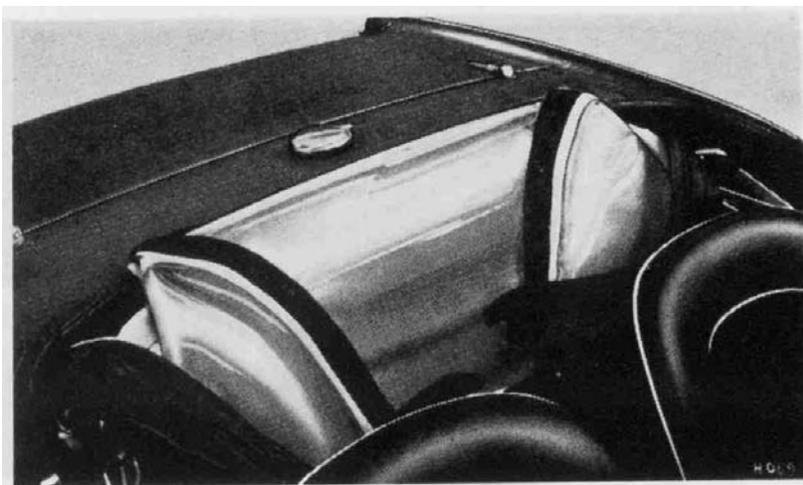


Fig 5. Fabric folded over the hoodsticks with sides turned inwards.

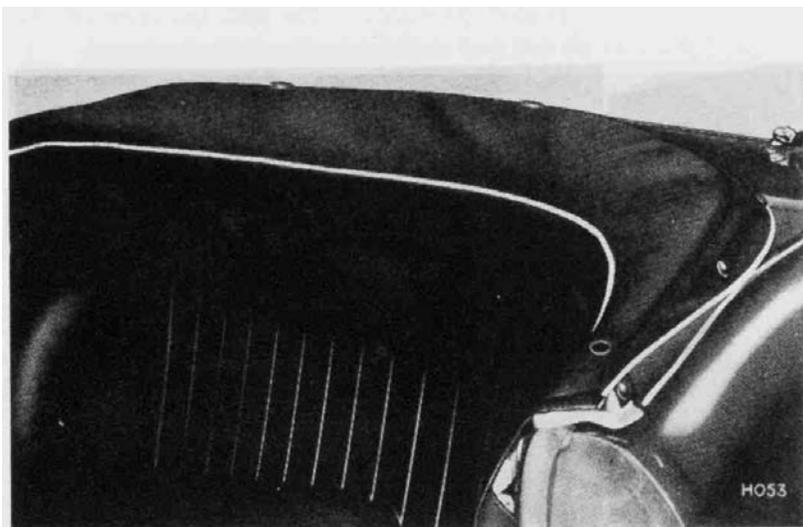


Fig 6. Cover in place over soft top.