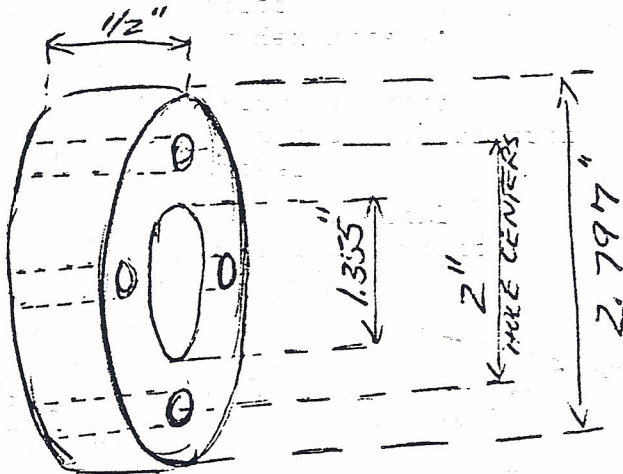


COOLING THE ELAN

As many owners know, the Lotus Elan has a tendency to heat up in slow-moving traffic on warm days. This is due in part to a lack of shrouding around the radiator and also to the stock two blade fan. An optimum fix would be the installation of one or two thermostatically controlled electric fans (available from J.C. Whitney).

Almost as good would be a declutching type fan such as the one used by Peugeot, but there do not appear to be any units which will fit in the limited space available. Both of the above fans are desirable because they use horsepower only when actually in use.

One method of getting more air through the radiator under slow-moving conditions is to mount a second stock fan (available from English Ford dealers) at right angles to the stock fan thus giving four blades. This method is heavy and may cause bearing problems due to the imbalance. Another method which has been found more successful is to obtain an Alfa Romeo fan. This unit is plastic and has six blades. In addition, it is lighter than the stock fan and is a beautiful press fit over the stock Elan hub. A spacer must be machined to go between the fan and hub, the dimensions of which are:



The fan and spacer must be drilled to mate with the four holes in the hub. The old bolts should be replaced with new ones $1/4$ " longer and these should be treated with lok-tite to preclude their loosening due to vibration.

Further help in cooling may be obtained by remounting the air filter container on its side so that it does not obstruct the radiator and by mounting the front license so that it acts as a scoop or shroud. One member mounted his plate behind the grill so that it scooped air up into the radiator but could still be seen from in front of the automobile.

Always use an anti-rust product (e.g. Macs #13) antifreeze in the cooling system to prevent rust due to electrolysis between the aluminum head and iron block, and flush once a year.

With these precautions, the Elan should function perfectly under all temperature conditions.