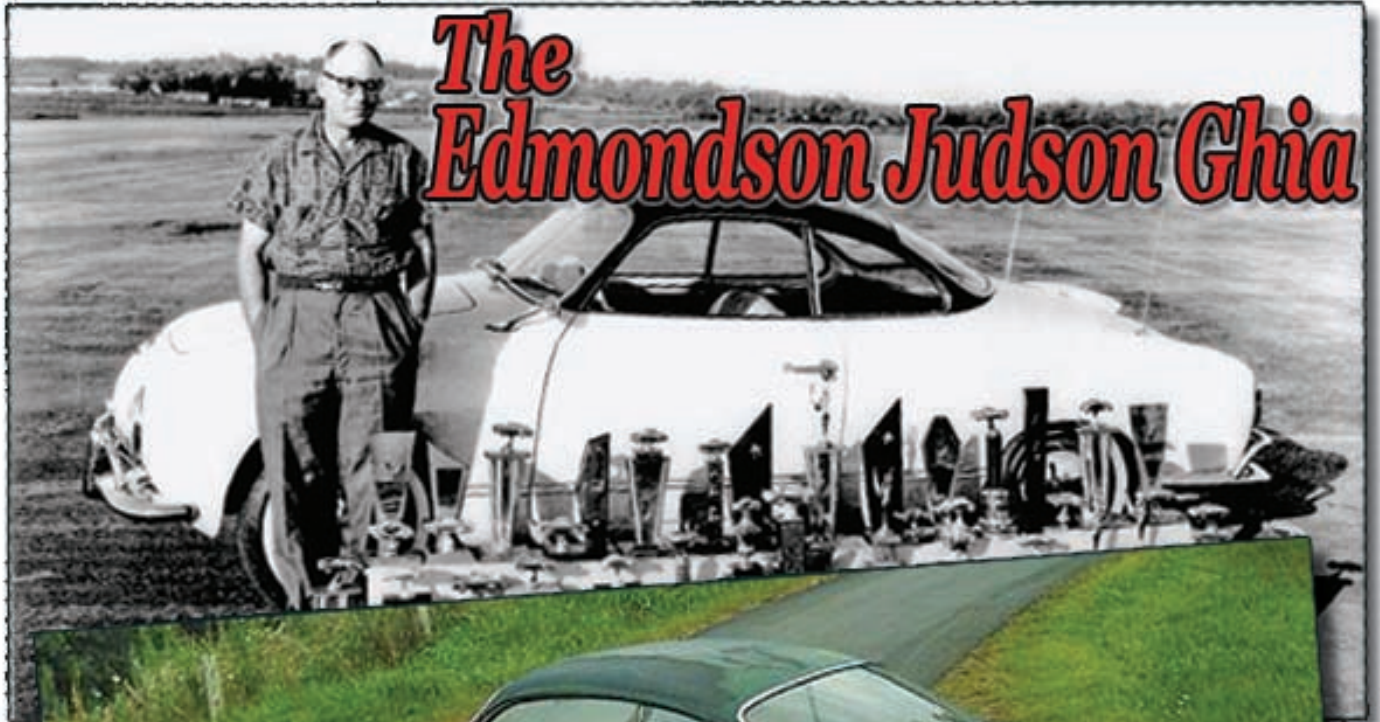


# THE VW JUDSON REGISTER NEWSLETTER

[www.vwjudsonregister.org.uk](http://www.vwjudsonregister.org.uk)

April 2007



## *The Edmondson Judson Ghia*



*Continuing the Story*

**Also in this edition:** Bad Camberg preparation....Judson Patents....Judson Literature  
New products: Repro Motormeter Gauge Holder...Okrasa Ghia Elbows...Ghia Info Discs.

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## Front Cover

Just 3 pictures that go to illustrate the varying fortunes of a well loved Karmann Ghia.

If you would like to submit a Judson related article to "The VW Judson Register Newsletter" or to respond to articles that appear in this edition please feel free to do so. Articles can be submitted as a "Word" document or as a simple text file. Pictures illustrating your article would be a great help.

Just email John at: [judsonregister@hotmail.com](mailto:judsonregister@hotmail.com)

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## EDITORIAL



**A** belated Happy New Year! Phew, we're already four months into 2007... seems like just yesterday we were celebrating the Millennium and waiting for all our computers to meltdown at the last chiming of the clock at midnight.

It didn't happen of course, mercifully saving my fledgling website from disappearing into the ether. One of the first pieces of Judson information included in those early pages was the 1960 Judson advertising flyer of "The Edmondson Karmann Ghia".

I know I have mentioned this car several times in the newsletter over the last few years but in this issue I'm very pleased to say we can tell you the story of that notable car. In the previous issue I spoke of the reappearance of the car in "The Samba Classifieds" and although sorely tempted to buy it myself it remained unsold for half the year. Now I'm delighted to say it has found a very suitable home. You'll find it as the lead story in this edition.

A few years back the arrival on the Internet of the revolutionary search engine "Google" sped up finding those elusive pieces of information. Despite this I could never find any reference to Patents on the Judson Supercharger but recently with the addition to the Google Search tools of "Search for Patents" one of our Forum Moderators came up with an interesting item. Have a look on page 8.

Once every 4 years "The VW World" prepares for the Vintage Show at Bad

Camberg, Germany. It's a gathering of the finest Vintage VWs from all over Europe and attracts a worldwide audience. We're going, (me and my local VW friends) and I also hope to meet a lot of Judson fans while I'm there.

If you're going, drop me an email or better still visit the Judson Register Forum "Bad Camberg" topic and post your intentions. This way we can make arrangements for a rendezvous point and exchange cell phone numbers.

A slight change has been made to the Registration process. Should you want to sign up for The Judson Register Forum you'll find there will be a slight delay in activating your permissions. The Registration has to be approved by Register Admin for security reasons.

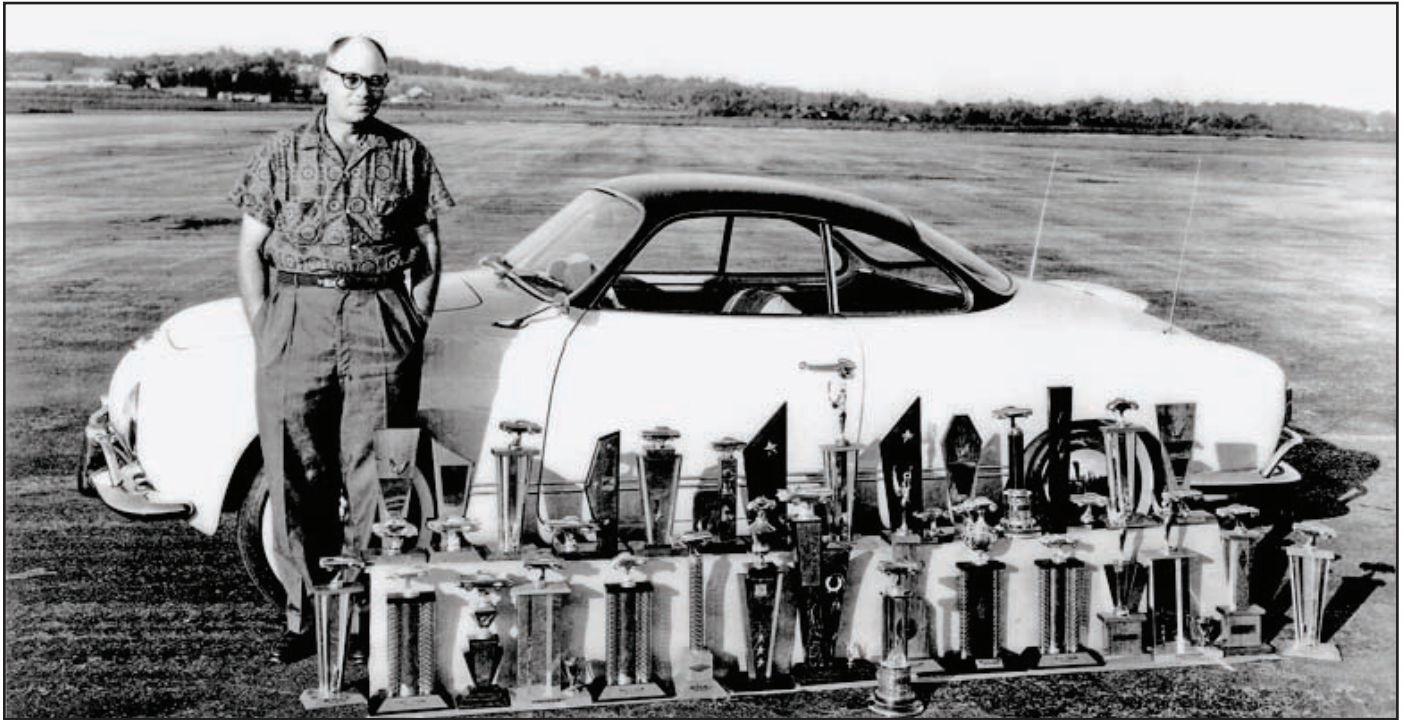
If you have any Judson items of news or would like to tell the story of your Judson car just scribble a few paragraphs or even a few pages with good quality pictures and I'll find a place for it in the next newsletter. Any contribution will be gratefully received.

Sorry to give you such a nasty shock at the start of this newsletter. Yes I'm talking about my picture at the top of this page. I thought it was time I faced my advancing years and updated my picture to reflect the true me. :+)

Happy Judsoning,

*John.*

# THE EDMONDSON KARMANN GHIA



I don't know if any of you are into family history but to me, there is nothing more boring than a "Family Tree"; just a list of names and dates.

If you can begin to put pictures to the names and maybe a little about what they did for a living and go through that old box of letters to learn more about them, suddenly those long dead relatives take on a spark of life.

Judson Supercharged cars judged out of their time are slow, inefficient and not worth the bother...but we do bother. That's because, perhaps we too are trying to put "flesh on the bones", trying to understand how they were viewed and used when they were new.

So now with the reappearance of a noted piece of "Judson History" the story of those involved in the "Edmondson Karmann Ghia" over the last 48 years is beginning to turn the car into something of a personality.

The New owner is Mike Gregory, someone eminently suited to moving the story on. Many Karmann Ghia fans will know Mike as the man behind the Online Ghia Parts Store "The House of Ghia" (<http://www.house-of-ghia.com>).

Mike was moved to rescue the car when it appeared in "The Samba" classifieds last year and has been delving into the car's early background. Luckily the previous owner had the address and phone number of the Edmondson family so Mike wasted no time in talking to Phillip Edmondson the original owners son. This is some of what he told Mike:

*"In 1959 my father W. Frank Edmondson, working as a salesman for a chemical company, was looking for an inexpensive, dependable car for work. Dad had fallen in love with the sporty looks of the early Karmann Ghia but after buying the Ghia in May 1959 he soon realised that despite it's looks it was more than a little short on performance. In just a few weeks he had the solution, a Judson Supercharger and an Abarth 4 Tip Exhaust.*

*Just two days after installing the Judson, on my prompting we paid a visit to an event at Greer Jaycee's Dragstrip in South Carolina. Dad had no intention to take part, but at the end of the day we drove off with a trophy, having bettered the  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile class strip record by a whopping 14 seconds. In the next few years the car's record was 38 class wins out of 40 which shows dad had certainly developed a taste for*

*competitive racing. Most of the ensuing 38 wins came courtesy of the original Judson Supercharged engine.*

*The Judson powered success in 1959/60*



*By this time the Ghia had lost it's Okrasa equipped motor, which had supposedly blown, with the Okrasa engine parts being scavenged at a local mechanics shop.*

*prompted my father to write the well-known "Edmondson Testimony" and mail it to the factory in Conshohocken. It was in effect a "thank you" letter, outlining the Ghia's success on the track and the transformation of the Ghia for road use. It was after all Dad's daily driver.*

*My father's thirst for more speed from the Ghia meant that there were, after the initial successes with Judson power, trials with cams, crankshafts, Okrasa valves, Okrasa Dual Port Heads and twin Solex carbs. We raced the car in three classes in the period 1959-62: E Sports, E Modified and then C Sports. I went everywhere with my father and can remember the Ghia taking on and beating "T-birds" amongst other supposedly more powerful cars.*

*Following it's early success the Karmann Ghia was sold in 1963 and there ended our family's involvement in the story...or so we thought at the time.*

*Well not so, just 6 years after selling the Ghia, I spotted the car about a mile or so from home and persuaded Dad to buy it back.....*

*With the Edmondson family back in possession of the car, luck would bring my Dad and I to a local swap meet. Dad started talking to a guy who amazingly turned out to be the owner of the supercharger that had once performed so well on the Ghia! I persuaded the owner to sell it and once again Judson and Ghia were reunited.*

*I drove the Ghia myself from 1969 to '71, when it was then put into storage. The car was eventually sold in 1991"*

*The car passed through two more owners before Mike rescued it late last year.*

*That's the story...so far. I'm sure there is more to come with Mike now regularly in conversation with Philip Edmondson but I think we should keep the whole story for a very interesting magazine feature.*

*It deserves to be told to a wider audience as it forms part of Judson and Karmann Ghia history and a tribute to a Vintage VW racing driver and the small son who talked his Dad into trying his hand on the local drag strip.*

*continued next page.*

## April 2007

The car has a new home in Salem, Oregon and Mike Gregory has lost little time in starting to get a few things sorted.

A restoration of the car was carried out a couple of years ago during which any existing rust and bodywork problems were corrected before a new coat of Bamboo (L241) with a Dark Green (L318) roof. Unfortunately the roof Green isn't dark enough so that will be remedied shortly.

At the same time the original decklid, (which was included in the sale) along with the Judson Scoop will go to the paint shop too. Mike has quickly removed the non-stock wheels and tyres and replaced them with US Royal 2 1/4 inch whitewalls on standard rims and Lemmerz rings to match the original 1959 appearance. I think the picture tells its own story... simply stunning.



The engine and Judson Supercharger are issues still to be addressed. The original 36hp engine as we have seen is long gone, rebuilt with several modifications over the years, it finally gave out under Okrasa power.

The current 1600 dual port was installed at the time of the recent repaint and the late '60 replacement 36hp engine and original Judson were sold off to one of the restorer's friends. A freshly rebuilt 36hp is lined up for installation and when the break-in period of 1500 miles has been covered a rebuilt twin belted Judson will crown the recreation.

The interior is all original if a little tired but that's something that will be tackled in time. The main point being, this notable Karmann Ghia is back in safe hands, hands that recognise and respect the history of this beautiful time capsule.

As they say, "watch this space" or better still check out the ongoing thread in the VW Section of the Judson Register Forum, Mike (right) regularly adds a progress report.



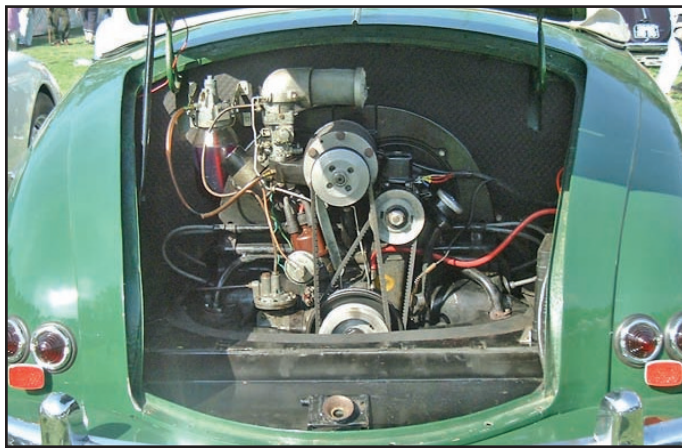
## BAD CAMBERG VINTAGE VW MEETING

Can it be four years since I last wrote about going to this Premier Vintage VW show? Last time in June 2003 I took the soft option and flew from our local airport but this time I'm driving the '63 Kombi.

I belong to the "Hampshire VW Owners Club" and we have a hardcore of Vintage fans, (not just our ages). The Kombi will be loaded with 5 others and myself. Convoying with us to join the BBT convoy in Antwerp will be another 5 cars so as you can see we're going gang-handed.



Judson kit you will be able to buy "off the shelf".



In 2003 I met quite a few Judson fans most of whom were known to me only by email. I hope to meet some of them again and a whole lot more. This is not just a Vintage VW Meet but also an International Social Gathering; new friendships will be made and old ones renewed.

Last time the most reliable and obvious meeting point for Judson and Vintage Speed fans was Alejandro Martin's large stand (above right). This year Al tells me his stall will be bigger and better, not only will you be able to order your

Al also hopes to be able to provide table and chairs to sit down and talk with his customers and friends. That's what he hopes but knowing how popular his products are at Vintage Meetings you'll just have to wait until the day too see if he has time to socialise.

If you're going to the meeting and you'd like to arrange meetings with other Judson & Vintage Speed fans I've started a Forum Topic so you can see what others are doing, just click on the link at the bottom of this page.

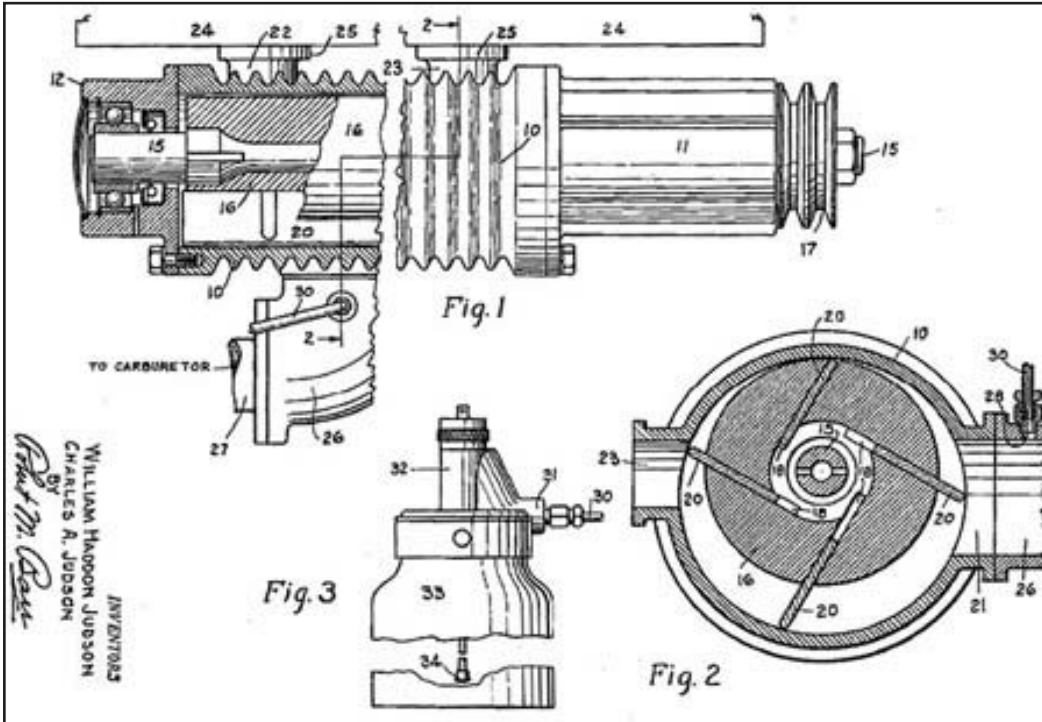


<http://forum.judsonregister.org/viewtopic.php?t=181>

# JUDSON PATENTS

Late last year Italian Register member and Judson Forum moderator "Peppe" sent a link to a U.S. Patent. If you go to the search engine "Google" you can now type in your search "keyword" and get it to trawl

MGTD but I'm not an expert on those types so I can't be sure. However, included in the Patent is the use of the Inverse Oiler to supply the supercharger vanes with a measured amount of oil. This I find



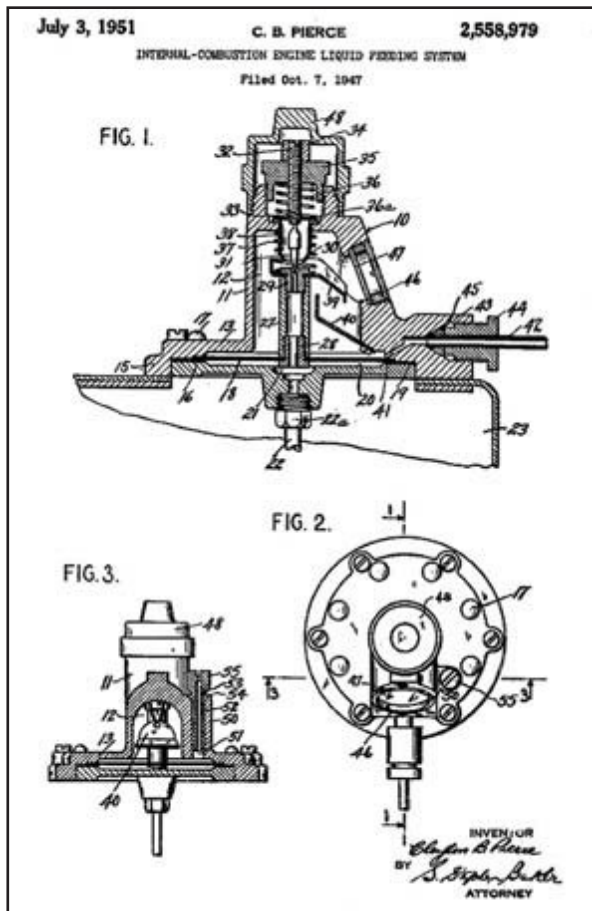
was rather surprisingly granted as it seems to mean that anyone who wished to use this method to lubricate a vane supercharger would have to pay a royalty to the Judson Company. It was hardly a ruling that would favour Marvel Oilers, more like a restriction on their trade.

through U.S. Patents. Oh boy! Another way to waste your lunch breaks.

When you type in "Judson Supercharger" you might be surprised to find it returns just one Patent. It was filed in 1954 and granted in 1956.

At first glance it looks like it's a general patent for Judson Sliding Vane Superchargers but reading through it carefully you'll find it's about a specific Judson Supercharger that can be bolted directly onto an engine without the need of an intake manifold.

From the drawings it looks like the Judson made for the



I did a further search and found the original patent application for the Marvel Oiler Valve. you can see the drawings right.

The application for the Marvel Oiler Valve, was filed 7 Oct 1947 and granted 3 July 1951.



## JUDSON LITERATURE ON EBAY

I'm sure most of you know we try to carry most of, if not all Judson Literature for free download from our website. Most of it is of a pretty good quality, ideally, scanned from the originals when it can be found.

There does however have to be something of a compromise in quality for inclusion on a website. The file size has to be reduced to speed up the download of the page but this of course is at the expense of image resolution.

It doesn't then, come as a surprise to see people paying quite substantial sums for original Judson Instructions and promotional literature. I'm often tempted to bid on items if I think it will improve the quality of items we already carry.

## NEW PRODUCTS

I am asked from time to time if there is any alternative to cutting a 2 inch hole in your dashboard to fit a Judson Gauge.

I'm sure all of you who have additional gauges have been through this scenario and have come up with your own solution. I myself have long wanted a Motormeter steering column gauge holder but they are, 1. Hard to find and 2. Usually very expensive when you do.

Well I was very pleased when I came across this picture recently in "The Samba Classifieds". Gary Constantine of "Brezelwerks" I'm pleased to say carries a full range of these gauge holders as near perfect high quality reproductions

I was however, surprised recently to see a winning bid of \$176 on 3 items of Judson literature, not originals but copies! If the winning bidder had taken the time to search The Internet first he would have found all the items on our site, ready to download free of charge.

Ah you might say, "maybe the quality was better than the copies on the website".

Don't let that fool you...if you're looking for something in particular and the copy on our website maybe isn't quite good enough, drop me an email, it's likely I still have the original high resolution copy on file.

A quick email could have saved the Ebay buyer \$176.



*continued next page.*

tions. The beauty of the Motormeter gauge holder is the fit is virtually universal just as long as it has a short piece of exposed steering column. VW, MG, Volvo owners etc will have no problem. If you know how much the real thing costs the price will be pleasing too. You can find Gary's advert here: <http://www.thesamba.com/vw/classifieds/detail.php?id=327614>

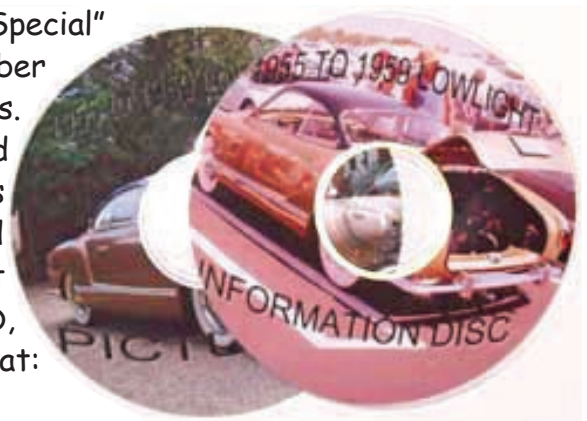
I know this is not a Judson item but it is "Vintage Speed". Our good friend Stephane Lhonneux has again stepped into the breach and recreated these ultra rare Okrasa parts for the Karmann Ghia.

Steph tells me these air cleaner elbows are a perfect repro in shape, finish, size and fitting. They are for the 52mm carb and filter only. As most of you know the quality will be top class too.

You can contact him through his website: <http://www.mrwob.com>



As this issue is taking on the appearance of a "Ghia Special" I suppose I'd better tell you about Register member Ian Broad's Lowlight Karmann Ghia Information CD Roms. If you're not aware "Lowlight" Ghias are those produced between it's introduction in 1955 until 1959. The discs consist of an Information disc and a Picture disc and between them cover every aspect of these much sought after Karmann Ghias. Now also available as a DVD, 2.5GB's of data. For more details contact Ian at: [ian-broad@copperstream.co.uk](mailto:ian-broad@copperstream.co.uk)



## MEMBERSHIP

There was a time when I could tell you exactly how many signed-up "Register" members there are but now I've simply lost count. I do know however that over 1000 people have shown an interest and receive this newsletter as and when it appears.

This issue is later than usual, basically because I've been waiting for a few developments that still aren't quite ready to be announced and that maybe a "hot" Vintage Speed subject or two would make interesting articles. Ask anyone who writes a specific interest newsletter and they'll tell you sometimes it's difficult to find things to fill the pages so that's where you come in.

I'm sure there are a few of you out there with Judson or related "Vintage Speed" stories that you might like to share. It doesn't have to be 10 pages but I'd welcome notes (with pictures if possible) which, if you like, can be developed in the Forum pages. Not signed-up to the Forum yet? Get over there now and log-in you'll be surprised how the interaction of others can draw out stories you'd mostly forgotten.

Finally just to prompt you to visit Mike Gregory's "House of Ghia" (<http://www.house-of-ghia.com>) for the very good reason that Mike is about to take the large step of turning this enthusiast's sideline into a full-time business. He's a man who knows his subject so give him the support he deserves.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## For Sale

Judson supercharger 36 hp VW, good condition, complete with both pulleys, belts, cast alum air-cleaner, marvel oiler and brackets. \$1400 + shipping.  
Ray Knight Jefferson, IN, USA: [rknight@thepoint.net](mailto:rknight@thepoint.net)

## For Sale

I have 2 NOS Judson magnetos for sale. One of them still boxed with original instructions. Ask for pics, price and shipping cost.  
Jean-Dominique David, Loudin, France: [snake.86@hotmail.fr](mailto:snake.86@hotmail.fr)

## For Sale

Judson model VW Type 2. Price 1100 euros or make me an offer. Ask for pictures.  
Jonas, Sweden. [lotus-jonas@hotmail.com](mailto:lotus-jonas@hotmail.com)

## For Sale

I have a complete Judson 40 hp kit for sale, 100% complete. It was completely restored by Alejandro Martin and has done 10hrs run time since. Notes, instructions, badges and decals are all there. I am looking for £1,050 for the kit. Pictures here: <http://www.shakespeare.talktalk.net/vw/judson01.htm>  
Paul, Bournemouth, U.K. [shaky@far-canal.co.uk](mailto:shaky@far-canal.co.uk)

## Wanted

Complete Judson Set up for ford Flat head V8 or any parts for them. Tech articles, Magazine reviews or any other info on them. Mark, Orange, CA USA. [mark@bombshell-n-ink.com](mailto:mark@bombshell-n-ink.com)

## Wanted

Lower Judson crank pulley for A/H Sprite. Sam Babb, Colorado USA [sam\\_babb@msn.com](mailto:sam_babb@msn.com)

## Wanted

A complete Judson set for my 1959 beetle (type 1 Judson). E-mail me if you have something to sell or know where to ask. Jaakko, Finland. [viitanen@hotmail.com](mailto:viitanen@hotmail.com)

## Wanted

Complete rebuilt Judson kit, 36 hp in excellent condition. Karl, [karldomino1@yahoo.com](mailto:karldomino1@yahoo.com)

## Wanted

I am looking for superchargers for a bug-eye Sprite and a 1300cc Spitfire.  
Ivan, Sydney Australia. [sueandi@pacific.net.au](mailto:sueandi@pacific.net.au)

## Wanted

Judson (or other) supercharger for T-series MG. Needed for vintage racing application. Prefer rebuilt but will settle for rebuildable. Thanks...Gene, Mississippi, USA. [anngene@bellsouth.net](mailto:anngene@bellsouth.net)

## Wanted

Looking for a ROTOR in good condition for my 40hp VW Judson.  
Per, Falun, Sweden. [per@perlut.com](mailto:per@perlut.com)

## Wanted

Judson Supercharger 40hp Type2. In any condition, doesn't have to be restored, just to have the main parts. I'm interested also in those in very poor condition!!! That is, anything. BIG Thanks!!!  
Slavko, Vojvodina, Serbia. [slim@pyrotherm.co.yu](mailto:slim@pyrotherm.co.yu)

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You'll find more classified ads and Services from our recommended restorers on our "Buy & Sell" page at: <http://vwjudsonregister.tripod.com/buyandsellpage.htm> and in our "Classified" section on the Judson Register Forum, here: <http://forum.judsonregister.org/adverts.php>