

RADIATOR SHELL BADGES AND MASCOT MORRIS 8 CARS 1934 to 1938

Very early 1934 Pre Production cars apparently had no mascot and had an early type oval cast badge fitted to the face of the radiator shell. I saw one of these on a Two-Seater in Colchester in 1967 and wish I had photographed it. You can just pick it out on an old photograph in the Profile Publication for the Morris 8, but it is not very clear. Vans had a smaller 'winged cap' instead of a mascot and the forward facing badge was marked VAN.

Apart from these, if your car is a Pre-Series model (ie the Chassis No prefix is 35/E, you should have a solid cast polished chromium plated mascot without the pair of red/silver vitreous enamelled 8s. If it is a later car Chassis No prefix S1/E or S2/E the mascot will have these 8s fitted. (If your mascot has the red/silver 8s but no raised 'scroll' at the front it is probably from a Series E).

If your car has a 35/E prefix, the forward facing badge will have MORRIS EIGHT on it, but on all later cars it will be MORRIS 8.

There are replica badges around of good quality, but the ones I have seen are too highly polished and do not incorporate all the colours, generally being black and polished chromium plating.

An original forward facing badge, whether marked VAN, EIGHT or 8 will have satin silver embellishments, a black background lettering and numbering, blue water and a red ox. It will be vitreous enamelled without any polished chromium plating. **Previously I wrote that the lettering and numbering was blue, but this is certainly not right for all the 8s I have come across.**

My view is that the reason for changing from EIGHT to 8 was because the marketing department wanted to adopt 'international' numbers for the models (not only the 8) to avoid confusion in overseas markets where English was not the primary accepted language.

Oh, and the Ox is, well, the Ox and the water represents the ford! It is definitely not a Bull, it is an Ox! If you look up the history of Oxford and it's Coat of Arms you will see from where Morris Motors obtained their badge design ideas.

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