

Rob's Briefings : Bicycle Renovation & Refurbishment



A series of easy-to-understand guides to help enthusiasts repair or rebuild bicycles

Mudflap - in leather - just like Brooks

Having tried various types of mudflap - both manufactured by mudguard makers and the old CTC favourite with a piece of riveted-on Fairy Liquid bottle it became obvious that whilst the Brooks leather mudflap appeared to be a vanity item it did actually function rather well.

The secret being that it soaks up water to start with and then deflects the water as more of a *drip* than a *spray* that you get with hard plastic materials.

BUT the price* didn't appeal to me!

My solution was pretty simple - using a suitable mudflap as a pattern I drew template on a piece of stiff plastic (the cover of a notebook from Poundland) and cut that to shape, marking it for two holes to be punched. (Craft knife, steel ruler, a 2p coin for the radius curves - on a cutting mat)

I then sourced some leather material - in my case an old music case bought on eBay for £4.

Unstitching the case to get the flat panels of leather gave me enough material for about 12 flaps.

Using the plastic template - draw round it with a ball-point pen, cut the material to shape (craft knife and cutting mat again) and punch the holes for fitting it to the mudguard (I have a leather hole punch plier - but poking holes with a small screwdriver would work!)

Position the new flap on the mudguard and mark where the holes are required - drill and fit the flap using short M5 bolts with either a spring/serrated washer and dome-nut (for appearance) or a bolt and aero-nut.



* make no mistake - I'm an avid Brooks fan - with my most-used machines all having Brooks B17 saddles. They of course go very well with the range of Carradice saddle bags I have ...

If you have any ideas or tips that you would like to share then e-mail : cyclebriefings@beewee.co.uk

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