

Lagondaforum: cracks in the block

cracks in the block

Written by Peter S30 at Jun 28, 2008 8:48 pm

I received the information from my engine workshop that there are cracks in the lower part of my DB 3I block (picture will follow).

Who has experience with welding this (by a specialist of course), did it last, or is it not recommended with this block

Alternatively I am looking for a used but good block.

Last alternative would be a new block (Tim Stamper or others). Who went this way and what are the experiences ?

Thanks for advice

Peter

Re: cracks in the block

Written by oakley at Jun 30, 2008 8:45 am

I had a bad crack in the block of my 2 Litre as well as 4 cracks (not uncommon) in the aluminium bukhead of the car.

They were all perfectly repaired (using a "cold stitching" method) by Surelock, tel. 01572 722051 mob. 07768 366070.

You don't have to bring your engine to them, they can do the work at your place, in my case I didn't even have to remove the engine and bulkhead.

They travel anywhere to do the job and are also frequently at LMB - the highly praised Lagonda experts in Belgium.

I can highly recommend them - the work they did for me is perfect and was all done within a day.

Re: cracks in the block

Written by Colin M34 at Jun 30, 2008 10:12 pm

Hi Folks,

I have heard nothing but good reports about Surelok. This seems to be the consensus of opinion. My 16/80 came with a bill from them for stitching my block and it seems fine.

My 2 Litre has a crack at the back of the block where the camshaft tunnels join the water jacket. I stuffed some 'Mr Plumber Leak Fix' in there and have never had a problem!

Good luck Peter, you seem to have landed in the deep end!

Colin M34

Re: cracks in the block

Written by Peter S30 at Jul 01, 2008 7:33 pm

Finally I received a photo, the cracks are in two of the thin block parts at the **upper** end between the liners, see image

I feel inclined to leave it as is, what do you think?

or any welding without heating the block (laser?).

This part is so thin that I do not think the stitching would work here?

Attachments:

[IMG_1046-kl.jpg](#) (filesize: 54.85 KB)

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Re: cracks in the block

Written by reevsy at Jul 03, 2008 11:44 am

Hi Peter why don't you email these photos to a number of specialist companies and see what they have to say about possibility of repair. Most of the classic car mags have name and e-mail details of repair companies.

Peter

Re: cracks in the block

Written by john at Jul 03, 2008 7:22 pm

Hi Peter You would be very lucky to find a second-hand 3 litre block that is not cracked in this place, I would leave it. John.

Re: cracks in the block

Written by yted at Jul 04, 2008 7:01 am

I agree with reevsey, email the photo to specialists.

Peter, can you tell us all a bit about the history and condition of your 3 litre, as I imagine we are going to see lots of images of split or rusted or frozen or broken components in the months to come.

Regards,
Mark

Re: cracks in the block

Written by Peter S30 at Jul 14, 2008 11:34 am

The car is only 3 months with me now. I only drove it 10 miles when purchasing it, I was aware of the problems with the engine already then.

Some history:

Engine VB6H/593

Chassis LB290/1/182

Series II DHC (one out of 3 or 4 but there is always a way to count a Lagonda as almost unique..)

floor change gearbox

Delivered 5.2.57 to a Mr. Cash

after that I have some but not all owners, the last owners before me bought it in 1981 and the next 1995. It had a body restoration and bare metal respray before 1995.

The last owner (B61) told me he never drove it over long distances because it seemed not reliable. I assume the engine had problems at least over the last 10 years. One liner looked like replaced and was sticking out a bit too much over the block.

The odometer reads 35000 miles, (may be 135000 or anything else)

In the mean time I collected some info on block repair:

many of these engines seem to have these cracks

some say it can be left like that but the shop that is intended to do my engine says they would not because the sides of the block would move and the head gasket would leak (water probably)

welding seems a big risk to get distortion of the whole block, needing rebore and non standard thicker liners

a long screw through the block at this place is not possible because of limited space

new blocks are expensive and may distort after first use (any experience?)

another used block would be fine if it can be found at reasonable price and without cracks

we think about putting dowel pins/register pins (what is correct in English?) between block and head to prevent that the block sides can move outwards

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Yours, Peter

Re: cracks in the block

Written by Colin M34 at Jul 14, 2008 11:44 am

Hi folks,

Peter wrote "we think about putting dowel pins/register pins (what is correct in English?) between block and head to prevent that the block sides can move outwards".

I interpret this as the method that Surelock do with cold metal stitching and strongly advise that this is thoroughly investigated before the engine restorer does anything. Take a look at <http://www.castingrepairs.com/>.

You never know, they may say "Oh yes another one of these, we did 5 last year..."

Comments from others please, I am only giving my thoughts...

Colin

Re: cracks in the block

Written by Peter S30 at Jul 14, 2008 2:11 pm

Dear Colin,

thank you for the link, yes I thought about it and will contact some of these metalock or stitching companies, but I think that they can use this technique only when there is enough material to drill holes and put these special screws for stitching in. The broken piece between two adjacent cylinders is so thin (see image), I think it does not work here. The only possibility to use these metalock techniques here would be to cut out that part, make a new and stitch it were you have more material to do so (closer to the sides of the block). But this is a big job too.

My idea was 4 cylindrical pins fitting precisely in bores in head and block but fixed only in one side so the head stays removable.

further ideas and experience welcome