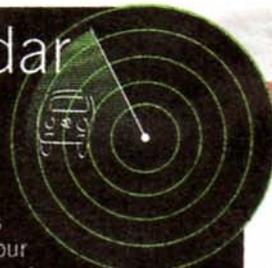




Britain's best-known Bus Boy, Rikki James, tells us what's new on the Bus scene

bay-dar

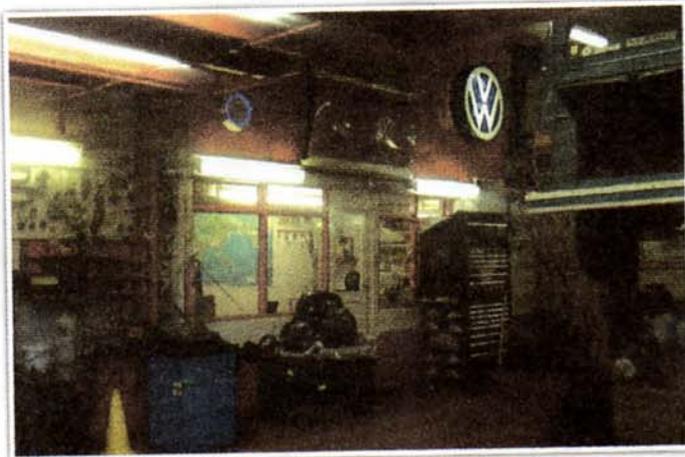
Help us convert Rikki to the ways of the Bay. Send us pictures of your Bay and present your case for the defence to Rikki.



House that Jack's built

Bus Boy strikes it lucky in West London and gets some trustworthy tip-offs on the emerging Binz brigade

Just before Christmas I was in West London, in the Notting Hill/Portobello area, so I decided to pop in to see how the new proprietors of Jack's Garage were getting on. Jack's garage has been based in West London for nearly as long as I have. In fact, I reassembled my 1960 Devon Samba there while they rebuilt the engine, some time around 1993. Back then the place was slightly more haphazard, nevertheless it always had people queuing up with Buses to be worked on! Since then the business has become a lot slicker and has moved just down the road to Kingsdown Close W10.



Jack's Garage of West London does Bays, Splits and even BBQs if your timing's right!

My only issue with the company back then was that generally they avoided working on Split Screens and concentrated mostly on Bay Window Buses! Or to be more precise, VWs built between 1967 and 1989. I could never get my head around why that was?

Anyway, the new proprietors have decided to open their doors to Splits, and they are now working on two, one of which is undergoing a full rebuild.

My timing was as impeccable as ever. As I walked into the establishment I could smell barbecued chicken, which was instantly offered to me! These are a nice bunch of guys who love VWs and will bend over backwards to help you. Jack's Garage is well established, well organised and in central London. So if you're looking for somewhere to get a restoration or a service, no job is too small for these guys, and if you're really lucky you might even get invited to one of their awesome barbecues!

Binz filled the gap in the market

End-of-line Binz

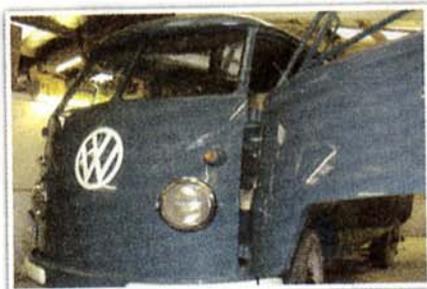
Over the last few weeks I have been getting various snippets of information about new Buses coming onto the scene. Bits of information have come my way from one person or another, which makes me think the season is well and truly on the horizon.

One of these Buses is a 1958 Binz Crew Cab. For those of you who are not familiar with these custom VWs, a Binz Crew Cab (or Double Cab as the Americans like to say) is basically a Volkswagen Single Cab converted into a Double Cab. Binz filled the gap and demand in the market for these useful utility vehicles until Volkswagen started producing them itself.

Allegedly, production of these Crew Cabs began in 1952 when Volkswagen started making factory Single Cabs and carried on through till 1959, at which point the Double Cab was introduced to the VW factory range. Binz carried on with its production of the vehicles but obviously orders reduced dramatically in 1959 until production stopped in 1960.

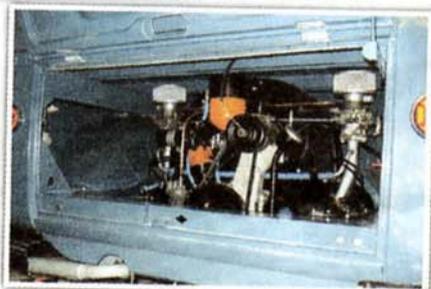
There are several Binz Crew Cabs over in the US, but they are quite rare, as not a huge amount were made or have survived. To my knowledge, there aren't any of these vehicles over here in Europe and definitely none in the UK. Well, not until now that is!

I've got a couple of pictures of this Bus in a 'build state' for you but by the time you read this it will have made a debut appearance at the Volksworld Show 2008 and will have been pictured a thousand times! I will do a full feature on this very special Bus as soon as I can, but in the meantime look out for a stock looking, dove blue Crew Cab with a slightly longer cab area running an Okrassa engine!



The Binz has been fitted with a period Okrassa engine with twin carbs

The extremely rare Binz crew cab was a coachbuilt conversion and gave VW the idea to build the crew cab 40 years ago



Winner

Hi Rikki and Volksworld. I was wondering if I could pose a question to you?

I have a 1970 Bay Window that I'm currently restoring. It's been five years, on and off, working mainly at the weekends in a very tight garage. I'm finally at the stage of prepping for paint. The problem is I still don't know what colour I'm going for. What I mean is, I know the colour but I don't know the specific colour or its code.

I've attached some images I took at VW Action back in 2004. I spotted this Bay and it immediately struck a chord. When I started my restoration, a year previous, this was exactly what I had envisioned so when I saw this Bay at VW Action I had to take some reference snaps. I think I fell in love that weekend!

Could you tell me what the name of the paint is and the code?

Cheers,
Jay Martinez, Chester

Hi Jay! The paint you seek is what looks to be Niagra Blue which would be applicable to the year of the Bay pictured ('71-'72). The code is L53D. And in case you need it the colour on top is likely to be Pastel White L90D.



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