



**Factsheet updated 04 December 2008**

## **Fitting a Mason Alarm**



### ***What Is A Mason Alarm?***

Many vehicle temperature gauges show the engine warming up and then sticking at some point in the centre. This can be a problem on vehicles that have aluminium heads on cast iron blocks such as the Bongo where the gauge is set to 11 O'clock. This gives the impression that the coolant system and engine fans are doing their job, but this may not be the case.

Dave Mason originally designed the alarm to work on Toyota Townaces, but there is now a version specifically designed for the Mazda Bongo. It electronically compensates your gauge to remove the sticking point, displaying the true engine temperature. It also provides an audible alarm that you set to go off at a chosen point on the dial.

### ***Fitting Instructions***

1. Make sure you have the wiring instructions before you start; you will find these with the alarm kit. You'll also need a small and a medium sized Phillips screwdriver, and a spanner to disconnect the battery.
2. It's a good idea to disconnect your battery before continuing. Remember to disconnect the negative terminal first, then the positive (no fireworks if your spanner slips that way).
3. Lower your steering column all the way (there's a lever below the column for adjusting it).
4. Remove the 4 screws that hold the cowling around the clocks in place - and keep them safe.
5. Ease the cowling out. This is a bit awkward, but it will come out. You may need to \*gently\* bend the top of the cowl down to pop it out (because of some bits that jut out at the back). If you have any switches wired in be careful that you don't strain the wires. I only had a fog light switch

connected, but one of the spade connectors popped off while I was removing the cowl. Before taking the cowl off too much, look behind the switches and make a note of what is connected where, just in case.

6. Move the cowl to the right, out of the way.
7. Remove the 4 screws that hold the clocks in place and keep them safe (the screws are actually the same size as the ones holding the cowling).
8. Gently ease out the clocks. Again, this is a bit awkward, but be patient and gentle.
9. You should now be able to see the circuit on the back of the clocks.
10. You will need to have access to the Mason Alarm for your first few trips, because you have to adjust the setting for your vehicle. I placed mine on top of the dashboard for the moment, but later, I will hide it behind the dashboard. Insert the Mason Alarm wires through the gap between the dashboard and the pillar in front of the driver's side door. You should be able to hook it and pull the cable back to the clocks.
11. Screw the Mason Alarm connectors to the circuit, according to the instructions that came with it. There's only 3 connectors to worry about. Be careful that you don't short circuit any copper tracks!
12. If you disconnected your battery, reconnect it now. Positive terminal first, then negative.
13. Turn on your ignition and make sure you hear a "chirrup" when you do. This means its working!
14. Turn off your ignition.
15. Replace the clocks and the 4 retaining screws.
16. Replace the cowling and the 4 retaining screws.
17. Check that your fog lights still work (i.e. the switch is still connected)
18. You can now take you Bongo for a drive and adjust the audible alarm preset. Note that your temperature gauge needle will no longer sit happily at the 11 o'clock position. 1 o'clock is now more likely.
19. When you have taken your Bongo out a few times, and you are happy with the audible alarm setting, you can hide the Mason Alarm behind the dashboard somewhere, if you like.

### ***Purchasing a Mason Alarm***

You can purchase a Mason Alarm at [www.townace.plus.com/ie/ietemga2.htm](http://www.townace.plus.com/ie/ietemga2.htm)

Make sure you get the correct one (for a Bongo!). Cost is £27.00 including postage.

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Many thanks to **Dave Mason & Lee Smith** for this article.

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