

I want something a little different - I'll get a '69...

ARKLEY SS

Take a Spridget, change both ends, and here's what you get.



Engine

The Arkley retains the A-series used in the Spridget. Parts and specialist expertise for this engine are still in good supply. Check for oil leaks around the filter housing and gaskets. Overheating is often down to radiator blockages - they need flushing every two years.

Interior

Inside, it's all standard Spridget. Fortunately, this means that parts are easy to source. Also, the driving position was spot-on to start with - if it ain't broke, don't fix it. The only possible upgrade you might consider is to fit more supportive seats.

Bodywork

The SS was designed by John Britten as a front- and rear-end conversion for the MG Midget or Austin Sprite. All were sold as kits, and offered decent weight savings over the standard car. The new panels were made of fibreglass and are still available. To replace both ends will cost in the region of £760.

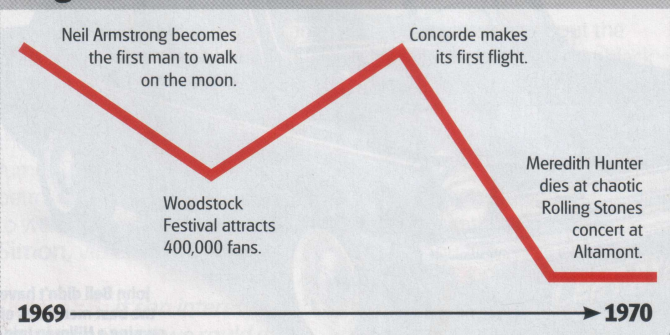
Three reasons you'll love it

1) Light weight and fatter tyres mean the handling is even better than that of a Spridget.

2) A-series engine is still well catered for and can be easily tuned for more power.

3) Even body panels can be sourced, meaning the Arkley is an easy car to own.

Highs and lows of 1969



TECH SPEC

- **ENGINE** 1275cc A-series
- **TRANSMISSION** Four-speed manual
- **SUSPENSION** Independent front with wishbones and coil springs, live rear axle
- **BRAKES** Discs front, drums rear
- **WEIGHT** 580kg

CM SAYS...

Arkley SS

£500-£5000

Performance	1 2 3 4 5
Handling	1 2 3 4 5
Maintenance	1 2 3 4 5
Economy	1 2 3 4 5
Value for money	1 2 3 4 5

Total 21/25

We like...

The superb handling and minimalist nature. Excellent spares backup thanks to the Spridget underpinnings. Lots of fun for the money. Easy to work on.

We don't like...

The styling's a bit love-or-hate. Other than that, not much really.



Contacts

■ **Arkley website**
www.arkleyss.com
 (Thanks to Andy Gibson for his help)

■ **Peter May Engineering**
www.petermayengineering.co.uk