



# NOSE JOB

MOST PEOPLE CHANGE THE OLDER VB/VC SHEET METAL TO MORE MODERN VH/VK STUFF, BUT HOSKING DECIDED TO GO THE OTHER WAY  
STORY BY LIAM QUIRK PICS BY CHRIS SORGSEPP



**A**fter swapping the doors on Ben Hosking's wagon a few issues back, the front end was looking decidedly bluer than the rest of the car.

We didn't think this was fair, so three weeks out from the Cruise for Charity we made a decision. We opted to paint the car matt black ready for the day.

Over lunch, we decided to also fit the VB SL/E front end that Ben had sitting around for it. Hell, we're not the kind of guys to do things by halves – all you have to do is look at

Ben's Project Banana to see that.

The front metal was sourced through our internet forum, but it wasn't just the guards, doors and bonnets that Ben picked up. If you think these panels are straight, just wait until you see the interior bits he's accumulating.

The swap is a straight bolt up and can be bowled over in a few hours.

**1.** Start by removing the bonnet. You can't reuse the VH-VK bonnet due to the front ends being different shapes.





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2. With the bonnet off, undo the bolts that run up the inside of the guard.



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3. Stepping inside, remove the kick panels and remove the two bolts that hold quarter on. Also, remove the Phillips-head screw at the top of the panel.

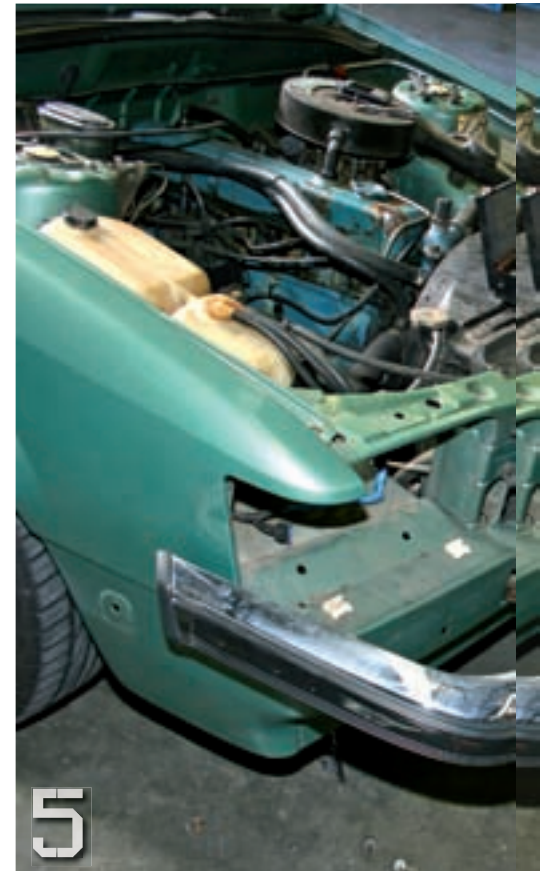
4. There's a bolt under the car as well. It won't be going far with that in, so remove it to expose nasty surprises.

5. Climb under the front of the car, undo the bumper support bar and remove the front chrome.

6. Still under the car, remove the three bolts that hold the quarter panel to the front apron. With that undone, the guard should come free.



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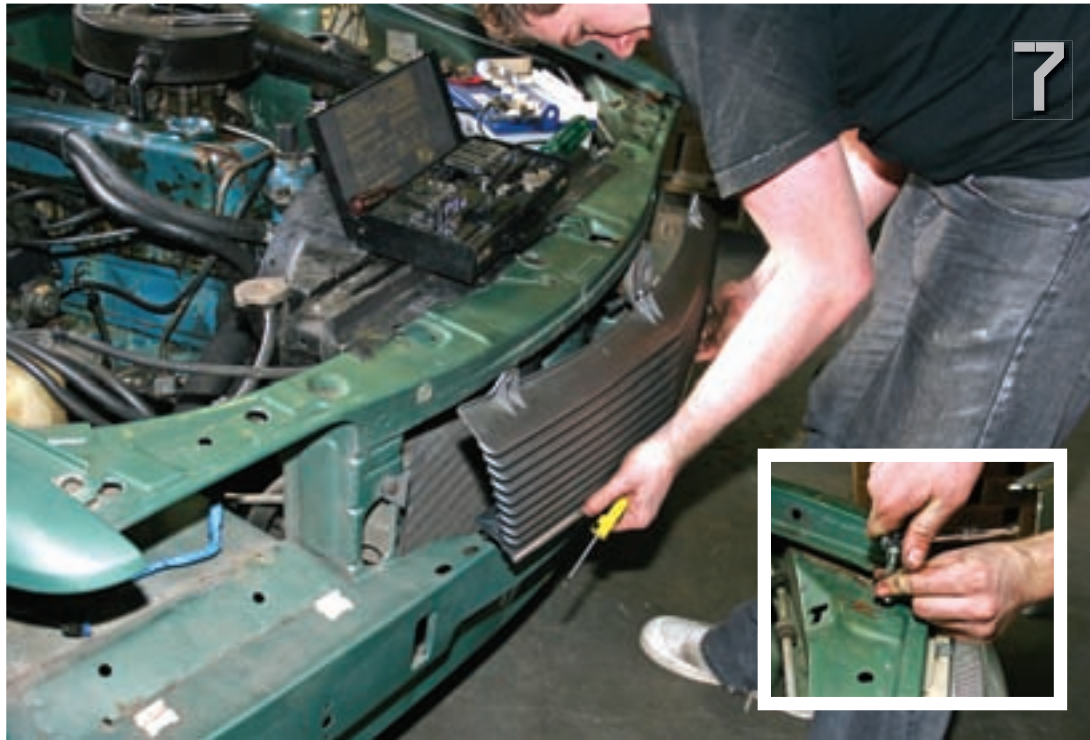
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**7.** Remove the lights and grille. The lights are obviously different, but the new ones bolt straight up.

**8.** You should be staring at something like this now.

**9.** Start putting the thing back together now. The quarters can go on first. Take some time to align them properly – we did, and just quietly it looks awesome!

**10.** One of the last pieces of the puzzle is the grille and the fresh lights. We found a NOS one on eBay, and just like the new lights, it makes the biggest difference.

**11.** Refit the bonnet (obviously, take the time to fit it just right or you will never get it open again) and you're pretty much done.

For two front ends that are only subtly different, retrofitting the VB front end to the VH has given the car a very tough look. It's going to look even better doused in matt black. *SC*

