



# Blount British Cars, Ltd

## Maryville, Tennessee

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## PROJECT ILENE

### PART ONE

It all started with an email from a club member (Eric) back in 2007, asking “do you know anyone that wants a free 1966 Spitfire?” Thinking that it may make a fun club project, to build and sell or raffle, the idea was brought before the club, Blount British Cars, Ltd (BBC). With a positive vote, BBC now had a free club project that came with 25 years of miscellaneous spare parts.

Two pickup trucks and a trailer made the road trip to North Georgia to load up the ‘66 Spit and 25 years of parts and bring it all to Blount County. Somewhere between loading the Spitfire (and 25 years worth of parts) and unloading in Blount County, our new acquisition picked up the moniker “Ilene.”

With all that noted, let us introduce you to “Ilene”, a 1966 Triumph Spitfire Mk 2, which has been our club project since 2007.

After unloading, the first task was to sort and catalog all the parts. To develop some cash flow, we sold some of her collection of parts – the ones we did not think we would need. The “Ilene” project was officially under way.

So what was going to start out as a general refurbishing type project, thinking in terms of a new paint job, rebuild the front & rear suspension, brakes and the original engine, and check everything else (replacing or rebuilding as needed), disassembly was started...and as those who have been there and done that know - simple renovation projects can and do grow.

Starting with the “let’s take her apart and see what we have” stage, the work began and continued to grow with her body off the frame and the frame in the shop to start repairs, and be sandblasted.

With her frame now coated with a rust preventative the front and rear suspensions parts were cleaned, inspected, painted and rebuilt, using urethane bushings.



Front hubs were rebuilt using GT6 disc brakes and spindles. New brakes, front and rear, and all new universal joints were installed.

Work is continuing on her body and interior at this time. The progress on Ilene will continue with story and pictures - stay tuned. So far, the sale of miscellaneous parts has paid for all the purchases needed.

With the frame and suspension completed BBC decided to raffle "Ilene." Raffle profits from Ilene will go to the Blount County Children's Home, which has been our club's charity for the past 24 years. Working closely with the Children's Home, we decided to focus on getting Ilene ready for unveiling at our 2012 Springtime in the Smokies British Car Gathering, our 25th anniversary. The tentative plan is to sell the tickets for one year with the raffle drawing to be at our 26th Annual British Car Gathering in 2013.

Watch our web site, [www.blountbritishcars.org](http://www.blountbritishcars.org), for more information about the raffle; in the meantime look for Ilene and check out her lines as she visits local British Car Shows and cruise-in's.



## PART TWO



First, for those who did not follow Part I of the Project Ilene, a brief summary – Ilene is a 1966 Triumph Spitfire club project for Blount British Cars, Ltd in Maryville, Tennessee. Ilene will be revealed at our 25th anniversary British Car Gathering on May 12, 2012. At this time we will begin selling raffle tickets to determine her final residing place. Proceeds from the raffle of Ilene will go to support programs at the Blount County Children's Home ([www.blountchildrenshome.org](http://www.blountchildrenshome.org)). Check out our web site, [www.blountbritishcars.org](http://www.blountbritishcars.org) for Part I of the story or order issue #39 of Spitfire & GT6 Magazine.

Second, I want to thank the companies that have helped us get to where we are today. Without their parts and pieces, technical support, services and friendship we would not be where we are today. Many thanks to:

- Advance Auto-Wire - [www.advanceautowire.com](http://www.advanceautowire.com)
- Spitbits - [www.spitbits.com](http://www.spitbits.com)
- Joe Curto, Inc. - [www.joecurto.com](http://www.joecurto.com)
- Alternator's of Knoxville; Knoxville, Tennessee (Alternators, Generators & Starters) - 865-524-2999
- Hitch Machine Shop; Maryville, Tennessee - 865-983-2816



- Brit-tek - (MGB guy, but has helped out with Spitfire parts & pieces) [www.brittek.com](http://www.brittek.com)
- Stevenson Tire - [www.stevensontire.net](http://www.stevensontire.net)
- Advanced Distributors - [www.advanceddistributors.com](http://www.advanceddistributors.com)
- Fix-It Auto Body; Maryville, Tennessee - 865-389-7447

Now, Part II of this story will describe Ilene's body. What can I say about a 45 year old! She has her share of dents, scratches, rust and bondo from previous repairs, but still looks good and not beyond repair. The worst were the floor pans and boot (trunk) floor. Like many British cars that get left out in the rain or stuck in a rain shower, then put away wet rust sets in. So we cut away the old floors and installed new, sealed all the seams, top and bottom and now the floors are ready for primer and paint. The boot floor was patched where needed.



The rear valance also had some issues – to make a long story short, we cut out rusty stuff and put in new metal and we also had to use some fiberglass and bondo, but nothing like she had before. The rear valance took a lot of work, but has turned out nice and is ready for final finishing. The right door needed a new door skin. Probably due to being hit one too many times – the metal was really stretched. Instead of loading it with bondo again, we installed a new door skin. Miscellaneous other repairs were made to the front wheel wells to remove rust. The front cowl had a few holes and needed some work and the bonnet was in pretty decent shape for her age. Like all her other body parts it did need some TLC.



The major body work is just about completed; the finish body work and painting will be done by Fix-It Auto Body. We are planning on delivering Ilene to the body shop after Christmas.

Next, be on the lookout for Part III of Project Ilene: cleaning, prepping and painting all the miscellaneous parts, engine rebuild and assembly.

## **PART THREE**

### **Project "Ilene" Part III – She's Back**

Hopefully everyone has been following our club project - Project "Ilene" – the 1966 Triumph Spitfire we are rebuilding and will raffle off with the proceeds going to the Blount County Children's Home. ([www.blountchildrenshome.org](http://www.blountchildrenshome.org))

Part III of the Ilene Story will be short; she is back from Mike's Fix-it Auto Body with her Old English White paint job. Again, I want to thank Mike for doing the final body work and painting her. I also want to thank the guys at Premier Automotive Color in Alcoa, Tennessee (865-979-9273) for helping us with the Old English White paint, primer and other miscellaneous supplies Mike needed to do the paint job. Ilene has never looked so good.

Now it is crunch time. We need to find all the parts and pieces that we have removed, cleaned, bagged and tagged waiting to be re-installed on Ilene. So instead of spending an excessive amount of time on Part III of the Project Ilene, we are looking for the parts and pieces and planning the work. Therefore stay tune for Part IV of Project "Ilene", this one will tell the story of Ilene going back together complete with pictures.

Our goal is to have Ilene substantially complete by the weekend of May 11, 2012, which is the 25th Anniversary for our British Car Gathering, Springtime in the Smokies in Townsend, Tennessee. Ilene will have her formal unveiling Friday night at the hospitality tent. Visit our website for more information about the gathering [www.blountbritishcars.org](http://www.blountbritishcars.org).

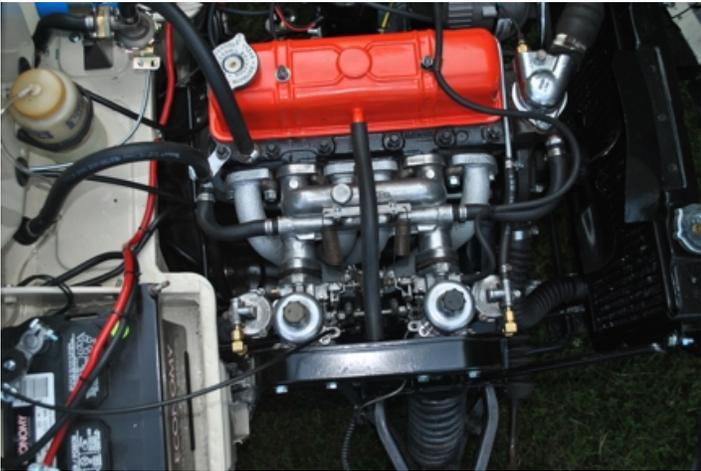
Stay tuned for Part IV and come and be part of Springtime in the Smokies, with the Spitfire as the featured mark at this year's Gathering in celebration of it's 50th Anniversary.



**PART FOUR - SHE'S FINISHED!**









## PART FIVE - ILENE HAS A NEW OWNER

As much as we hate to see her go, she is going to a new home, where she'll share garage space with another 1966 Spitfire.





**MISCELLANEOUS PICTURES OF THE PROCESS**











