

# Interpretation of Chassis No. coding

## Earlier Chassis numbering system

*(Not applicable to Avenger Range)*

The chassis numbering in use before the introduction of the new format described later consists of a numerical sequence of seven or more digits with a prefix letter, together with letter and/or letter and number suffix combinations. The suffixes are not detailed in the reference pages, as these indicate production variations not necessarily associated with all vehicles of one particular type.

**Exception** - Hillman Minx 111 has no prefix letter.

## Prefix letters

Other than in the case of the 1949 Sunbeam Talbot 90 Mk.11 and early Mk. 11A, which are prefixed 'A', no prefix letter denotes model period prior to 1950.

Prefix letter 'A' denotes model period 1950 - 1959

Prefix letter 'B' denotes model period 1960 onwards

(Note) Late production Hunter Range vehicles incorporated within this period carry prefix letters 'LB' to indicate Linwood manufacture.

For many years it has been practice to build into the chassis number an indication of model and year of manufacture,

e.g. A 1300001

A = 1950 - 1959

1 = Hillman Minx

3 = Minx Mk. V1, 1953

However, owing to the many changes to the original coding it is necessary for the whole to be treated as a manufacturing serial number as the original method of identification cannot always be applied.

## Suffix letters

These fall into two main headings, one of a combination of three letters, or two letters and one numerical digit, in certain instances preceded by another of one to six letters.

**When two combinations are present the first indicates:-**

B.W. - Borg-Warner Automatic Transmission  
P.O.S. - Power Operated Steering  
E - Easidrive Automatic Transmission  
O.D. - Overdrive Transmission  
L - Low Compression Engine  
M - Medium Compression Engine  
H - High Compression Engine

**The final combination indicates:-**

### **First letter**

H - Home  
R - R.H.D. Export  
L - L.H.D. Export  
E - C.K.D. Export Home Specification  
W - C.K.D. R.H.D. Export  
X - C.K.D. L.H.D. Export

### **Second Letter**

C - Convertible  
H - Hardtop  
L - Limousine  
R - Roadster  
S - Saloon  
P - Pick-up  
U - Estate Car  
V - Van  
X - Chassis only

### **Third letter or number**

M - Ministry of Supply  
O - Standard  
X - Non-Standard  
P - Police Specification  
3 - Small bore engine for Bermuda (reduced capacity)

### **Example**

B084600001 H/OD/POS HSM

Series V Super Snipe, High Compression Engine, Overdrive, Power Steering, Home Specification, Saloon Body, Ministry of Supply.

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## Avenger Range

### (Original chassis numbering system)

Vehicles of the Avenger Range produced before the introduction of the new format must be considered separately from the earlier numbering system, owing to prefix and suffix differences. Later production conforms to the new format which is described later.

Example - If a Chassis Plate shows this:-

<b>Chassis No.</b>	R F 211 000115 R - 5 - 2
<b>Colour Code</b>	108 - 701 - H

The letters and numbers of the Chassis number refer to:-

1st letter R = Plant **(1)**

2nd letter F = Series Year **(2)**

1st 3 numbers 211 = Product Code **(3)**

Next 6 numbers 000115 = Serial Number **(4)**

Next letter R = Indicates Right or Left Hand Drive (in this case R.H.D.) **(5)**

Next letter (or number) 5 = Engine Code **(6)**

Next number 2 = Gearbox Code **(7)**

The letters and numbers of the Colour Code number refer to:-

1st 3 numbers 108 = Paint Code **(8)**

2nd 3 numbers 701 = Trim Code **(9)**

Last letter H = Market Indicator **(10)**

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## Variations

**(1)** Plant Indicator - R = Ryton

**(2)** Series Year - (Internal model year indicator code)

**(3)** Product Code (Three digits)

211 = De Luxe (Export, Sunbeam 1250/1500)

221 = Super (Export, Sunbeam 1250/1500 De Luxe)

231 = G.L. (Export, Sunbeam 1250/1500 Super)

(4) Serial Number (six digits)  
000,001 onwards

(5) Right or Left hand Drive  
R = Right hand Drive  
L = Left Hand Drive

(6) Engine Code  
B = 1250cc. High Compression  
5 = 1500cc. High Compression  
6 = 1500cc. Low Compression

(7) Gearbox Code  
2 = Manual Transmission  
4 = Automatic Transmission

(8) Paint Code - See Paint and Trim Codes under New format chassis numbering.

(9) Trim Code - See Paint and Trim Codes under New format chassis numbering.

(10) Market Indicator  
H = Home  
E = Export

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## New Chassis Number Format

A new vehicle identification format was introduced in July 1970.

New chassis plate example:-

<b>Chassis No.</b>	R G 211 000115		
<b>Service Code</b>	H AA H	<b>Paint Code</b>	108
<b>Trim Code</b>	701	<b>Type Code</b>	211 H 4

Breakdown of details shown in Chassis No. box:-

1st digit is the Plant Indicator (one letter)  
L = Linwood  
R = Ryton

2nd digit is the Series Year (one letter or figure)

H = H Series

G = G Series

3 = 3 Series

Next 3 digits indicate Product Code (group of three numbers)

<b>IMP RANGE</b>	<b>G SERIES</b>	<b>H &amp; 3 SERIES</b>
<b>Hillman Imp Basic</b>	423	423
<b>Hillman Imp De-Luxe</b>	413	413
<b>Hillman Imp Super</b>	443	443
<b>Sunbeam Sport</b>	593	593
<b>Singer Chamois</b>	543	-
<b>Sunbeam Stiletto</b>	302	302
<b>Hillman Husky</b>	482	-
<b>Hillman Imp Van</b>	463	-

<b>ARROW RANGE</b>	<b>G SERIES</b>	<b>EARLY H SERIES</b>	<b>LATER H &amp; 3 SERIES</b>
<b>Hillman Minx</b>	012	-	-
<b>Hillman Minx Estate</b>	082	-	-
<b>Hillman Hunter</b>	053	-	-
<b>Hillman GT</b>	041	-	-
<b>Singer Vogue</b>	353	-	-
<b>Singer Vogue Estate</b>	383	-	-
<b>Hunter De-Luxe Saloon</b>	-	063	064
<b>Hunter De-Luxe Estate</b>	-	085	160
<b>Hunter Super</b>	-	074	075
<b>Hunter GL Saloon</b>	-	058	059
<b>Hunter GL Estate</b>	-	087	150
<b>Hunter GLS</b>	-	-	040
<b>Hunter GT</b>	-	830	031
<b>Humber Sceptre</b>	112	112	090*
<b>Sunbeam Alpine</b>	389	389	100
<b>Sunbeam Rapier</b>	342	342	190*
<b>Rapier H120</b>	391	391	120

\* On cars for France these numbers are replaced by L2S (Sceptre) and LSR (Rapier) for H Series and AAE (Sceptre) and AAD (Rapier) for 3 Series.

<b>AVENGER RANGE</b>	<b>G SERIES</b>	<b>H &amp; 3 SERIES</b>	<b>3 SERIES</b>
<b>Avenger Basic Saloon</b>	-	201	-
<b>Avenger De-Luxe Saloon (Export - Sunbeam 1250/1500)</b>	211	211	-
<b>Avenger De-Luxe Estate</b>	-	280	-
<b>Avenger Super Saloon (Export - Sunbeam 1250/1500 De-Luxe)</b>	221	221	-
<b>Avenger Super Estate</b>	-	283	-
<b>Avenger G.L. (Export - Sunbeam 1250/1500 Super)</b>	231	231	-
<b>Avenger G.T. (Export - Sunbeam 1500 G.T.)</b>	251	251	-
<b>Cricket Sedan</b>	219	219	-
<b>Cricket Sedan (with options)</b>	239	239	-
<b>Cricket Wagon (Estate)</b>	-	289	-
<b>Sunbeam 1250 S.C. (E.E.C.)</b>	-	-	226
<b>Sunbeam 1250 T.C. Saloon (E.E.C.)</b>	-	-	236
<b>Sunbeam 1250 T.C. Estate (E.E.C.)</b>	-	-	286
<b>Sunbeam 1500 T.C. (E.E.C.)</b>	-	-	256
<b>Avenger G.L.S.</b>	-	-	252

Next group of six numbers is the SERIAL No.

Commencing 000001 = Ryton

Commencing 600001 = Linwood

Commencing 900001 = C.K.D.

The letters and numbers from the SERVICE CODE box reveal the following:-

1st letter is the ENGINE CODE and tells you which engine is fitted.

A = Imp, 875 c.c. Low Compression

B = Imp, 875 c.c. High Compression

E = Avenger, 1250 c.c., twin carb. High Compression

F = Avenger, 1250 c.c., single carb. High Compression

G = Avenger, 1500 c.c., single carb. Low Compression

H = Avenger, 1500 c.c., single carb. High Compression

K = Avenger, 1500 c.c., twin carb. High Compression

L = Avenger, 1500 c.c., twin carb. Low Compression

M = Arrow, 1500 c.c. Low Compression

N = Arrow, 1500 c.c. High Compression

P = Arrow, 1725 c.c. Low Compression

Q = Arrow, 1725 c.c. High Compression

The 2nd letter or number is the TRANSMISSION CODE and tells you which transmission is fitted:-

A = Automatic transmission with standard axle, Avenger H Series  
B = Manual transmission with 3.70 : 1 axle, Arrow  
C = Automatic transmission with 3.70 : 1 axle, Arrow  
D = Overdrive with 3.70 : 1 axle, Arrow  
E = Manual transmission with 3.89 : 1 axle, Arrow  
F = Auto transmission with 3.89 : 1 axle, Arrow  
G = Overdrive with 3.89 : 1 axle, Arrow  
H = Manual transmission with 4.22 : 1 axle, Arrow  
J = Automatic transmission with 4.22 : 1 axle, Arrow  
K = Overdrive with 4.22 : 1 axle, Arrow  
N = Manual transmission with standard axle, Avenger H Series  
S = Standard transmission, Imp  
W = Manual transmission with non-standard axle, Avenger H Series  
X = Automatic transmission with non-standard axle, Avenger H Series  
1 = 4.37 : 1 axle with Manual transmission, Avenger 3 Series  
2 = 4.37 : 1 axle with Automatic transmission, Avenger 3 Series  
3 = 4.11 : 1 axle with Manual transmission, Avenger 3 Series  
4 = 4.11 : 1 axle with Automatic transmission, Avenger 3 Series  
5 = 3.89 : 1 axle with Manual transmission, Avenger 3 Series  
6 = 3.89 : 1 axle with Automatic transmission, Avenger 3 Series

The 3rd letter is the OPTION CODE and indicates the vehicle was fitted with the following:-

A = No other option  
B = Servo brakes  
C = Servo brakes and radio  
D = Servo brakes and heavy duty suspension  
E = Servo brakes, heavy duty suspension and radio  
F = Radio  
G = Radio and heavy duty suspension  
H = Heavy duty suspension

The 4th letter is the MARKET AREA the vehicle was intended:-

H = Home, R.H.D.  
E = Export, R.H.D.  
X = Export, L.H.D.

The PAINT CODE box contains a group of three numbers which refer to the colour of paint used on the vehicle. (a full list of the colour codes will be added at a latter date).

The TRIM CODE box contains a group of three numbers which indicate the colour of trim used in the vehicle and they are as follows:-

000 = Non-standard  
701 = Black  
707 = Eucalyptus Green

708 = Saddle  
709 = Red  
713 = Light Blue  
714 = Vellum  
715 = Green Opalescent  
716 = Pewter Opalescent  
717 = Tan Opalescent  
718 = Blue Opalescent  
719 = Olive Opalescent  
720 = Turquoise Opalescent  
721 = Black Opalescent  
722 = Beige Opalescent  
724 = Vellum Print

The TYPE CODE box repeats the Product Code, and Engine Code, with the addition of transmission alternatives:-

2 = Manual  
3 = Overdrive  
4 = Automatic