

A close-up photograph of a blue car's front end, focusing on the headlight and grille. The car is painted a vibrant blue. The headlight is large and oval-shaped with a ribbed lens. Below it is a smaller, round fog light. The grille is visible on the right side. The background is a solid blue color.

The TVR Griffith and Chimaera

Second edition

Steve Heath

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- second edition -

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Preface

This second edition started off as an update and ended up being a complete rewrite, with this edition now over twice the size of the original book, which was in response to those Griffith and Chimaera owners who saw my book on the TVR S series and asked “When are you going to do one on the Griffith and Chimaera?” I must admit it did not take too much persuasion, especially when having to own and drive one of these cars would be an essential part of the research... This edition was prompted by similar comments when owners saw the second edition of the S series book.

This book is written for Griffith and Chimaera owners and potential owners, TVR enthusiasts and anyone else interested in TVRs. It provides a source of material derived from the author’s own experiences of owning two Griffiths, the TVR Car Club (TVRCC) archives and information from TVR Engineering. It bridges the gap between the Owner’s Handbook and a workshop manual and is designed to help any owner or prospective owner to enjoy the cars at their best. It covers all the production models, from the Griffith 4.x models and the Griffith 500 to the Chimaera. Each chapter covers a particular aspect of the cars and combines explanations and descriptions with hints and tips on how to enjoy and maintain the cars.

This second edition follows the basic format of the first edition in providing additional technical information and guidance about these cars. In the four or so years that have separated these editions, the amount of information I have had access to has increased dramatically and this edition has become more of a workshop manual. It still follows the basic principle of explaining how the various systems work

and provides details of how to do things — and, perhaps more importantly, how not to. This includes indications when professional help is the recommended way forward.

I have not ignored the history side and the book has been updated with the Griffith 500 LE and last Chimaera models, together with pictures of their spiritual successors, the Tuscan and Tamora. Chapters have been added to explain some of the driving techniques that need to be learned to enjoy the cars’ performance safely. This is often ignored, especially in the rush to get in and drive! Information on touring and modifying your car is also new to this edition.

This book would not have been possible or completed in the timescales without the help of several key people. Thanks must go to Carol Folkard and the TVRCC committee for agreeing to support this book, for giving me permission to use the material extracted from the Sprint magazine and for providing a route to publish this and my other TVR books on the S series and the Wedges.

TVR Engineering deserve several accolades: for building the cars in the first place and for continuing to build such exciting cars that create such passion amongst owners and admirers alike. I am extremely grateful for their having given permission to reproduce the electrical circuits, along with other drawings and photographs, particularly those taken by Noel Palmer. The big vote of thanks must go to Peter Wheeler, John Ravenscroft, Ben Samuelson and Jason Rogers of TVR for their time and interest. John, Jason and Ben have been a great source of guidance and information and always found time to help, despite their heavy workloads.

Steve Heath

Acknowledgements

The material in this book has come from several sources. The majority of the photographs and drawings were taken or drawn by the author. All other photographs and drawings have been identified within their associated captions. I must express my thanks for permission to print and use this material. In particular, thanks must go to:

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I must also thank a lot of other people who have provided information:

Mike Jennings, Adam Quantrill, Steve Powell, Simon Smollet, John Upham, Peter Humphries, Peter Beech, Ralph Dodds, David Balderson, Paul Knight, Craig Alsop, Manek Dubash, Richard Thorpe of RT Racing, Dave and Mark at Tower View Race Services, Richard Branch, Picture Management Ltd and, finally, Steve Lewis, my fellow 'Sprinter from Hell' and now Tasmin Challenge champion.

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As technical characteristics are subject to rapid change, the data contained are presented for guidance and education only. For exact details, consult the relevant standard or manufacturers' data and specifications.



The TVR Griffith and Chimaera

For many people, the TVR Griffith and Chimaera are their dream cars, combining drop dead looks with power and performance for not much more money than a top of the range saloon car. They have quickly established themselves as classics within just a few years.

This book is written for Griffith and Chimaera owners and prospective owners, TVR enthusiasts and anyone else interested in TVRs. It provides a source of material derived from the author's own experiences of owning eight TVRs, including two Griffith 500, the TVR Car Club archives and information from TVR. This edition has been extensively revised and now contains over 400 pages of information on maintaining and enjoying these cars.

It covers all the production models, ranging from the 4.x litre Griffiths, the Griffith 500 and the Chimaeras. Each chapter covers a particular aspect of the car and combines explanations and descriptions, along with hints and tips on how to enjoy and maintain the cars at their best. The practical text is extensively illustrated with photographs and drawings, drawn from the archives of TVR, the TVR Car Club and the author's own collection.

Contents:

- History of the Griffith and Chimaera
- Building a TVR
- The engine
- The ignition system
- The fuel injection system
- Battery
- Exhaust systems
- The cooling system
- The braking system
- Chassis
- Suspension
- The transmission system
- Electrical systems
- The interior
- The exterior
- Tyres and their maintenance
- Maintenance
- Buying a Griffith or Chimaera
- Track days
- Laying up for winter
- Driving your TVR
- Enhancing your car
- Bibliography
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