

GP Talon

Concept

Originally introduced in 1980, the Talon has since undergone considerable development and is now one of the most practical and attractive Beetle-based kit cars available. Most notable features of the car are its gull-wing doors and recessed headlamps, and it now has a good 2+2 seating capacity.

Contents

The kit is designed to bolt on to virtually any Beetle floorpan except the later 1302/1303 with its MacPherson strut front suspension, and no modifications are needed to any of the controls, although the individual builder may still care to shift the gearlever slightly depending on his height.

The body consists of a set of high quality self-coloured GRP mouldings; one main section includes the screen frame and luggage compartment while the other includes the main passenger compartment and the rear wheel arch/engine surround. To these are added the rear screen frame and then the gull-wing doors, the engine compartment and luggage compartment lids, front and rear bumper mouldings and the hinged headlamp covers. The front windscreen is taken from a Mark 2 Ford Cortina, and although this means it is normally only supplied in toughened glass, laminated is available on request. Rear



screen and the side windows are made from perspex. This set of parts retails for £1,710 plus VAT, and also includes both front and rear steel subframes, all lamps, all the hardware for the doors (locks, hinges and gas rams), a complete nut and bolt set and full instructions. Colours available incidentally, are white, red and black.

Extras

A full range of accessories is available to finish the car off properly. Reclining seats for example cost £67 each, and GP recommend that you fit a set of their 7 x 14 steel or alloy wheels and matching tyres, and a special Talon exhaust complete with heater adaptors. A wiring loom is a good investment even if the one from the donor

Beetle seems perfect, then you can finish the interior off with a trim kit and rear seat.

It is worth pointing out that GP also produce a range of four beach buggies (in fact, they are one of the longest established manufacturers in this field), at prices ranging from £350 plus VAT for the short wheelbase buggy up to £510 plus VAT for the Ranchero estate-type buggy, and one of the more recent additions to their product range is the Turbo-style Beetle conversion kit. Basically this is a set of front and rear wings and spoilers designed to give the car the Porsche Turbo look, and very successful it is too; this sells for £365 plus VAT.

You can get full details on the whole GP range by sending £1 to the company at Worton Hall, Worton Road, Isleworth, Middlesex. Tel: 01-568 4711.