

AN EXERCISE

When BLMC releases five new models on the Australian market mid-August they will be new in name only. They are merely prettied up versions of current models. But the changes will be welcomed by enthusiasts.

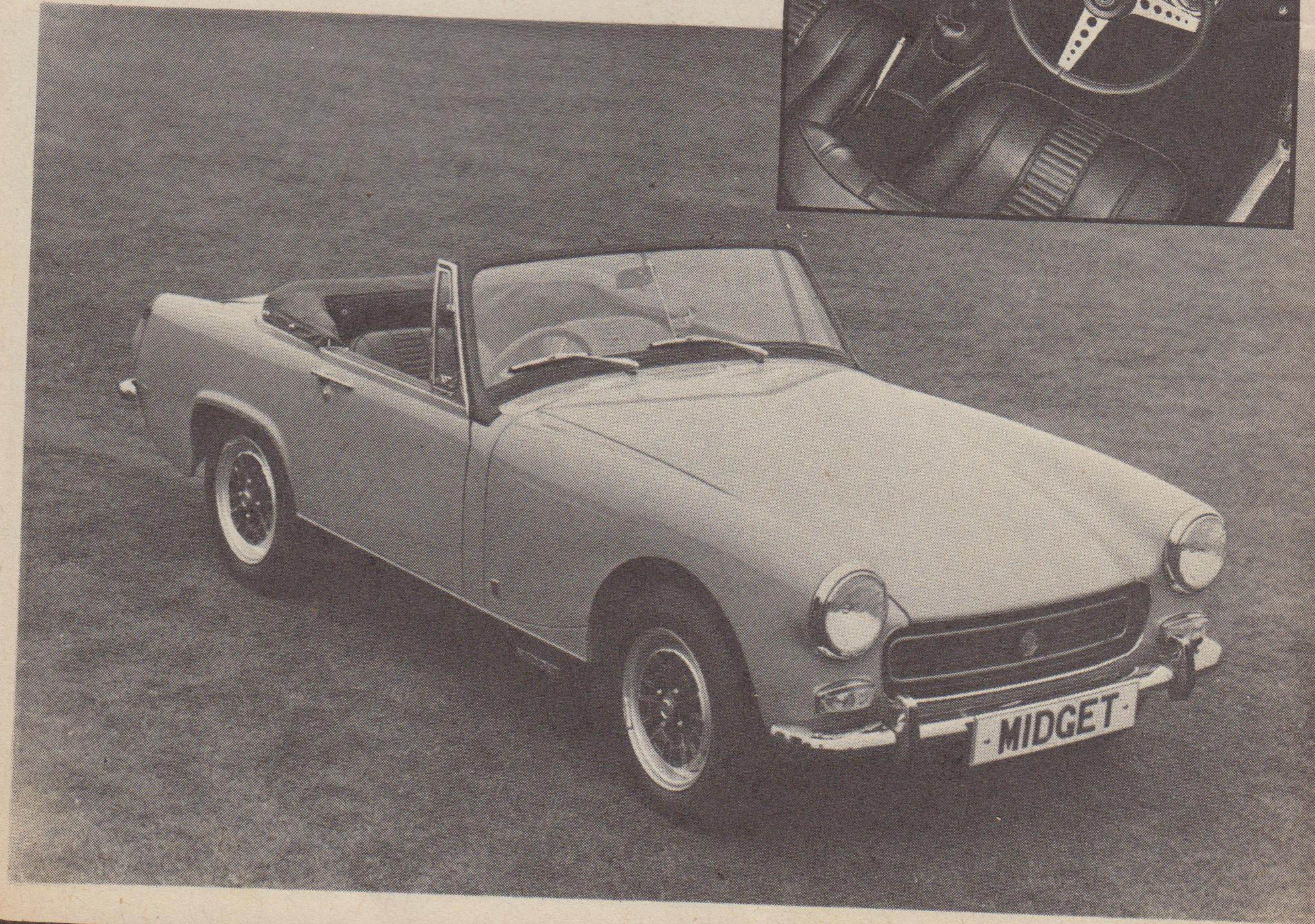
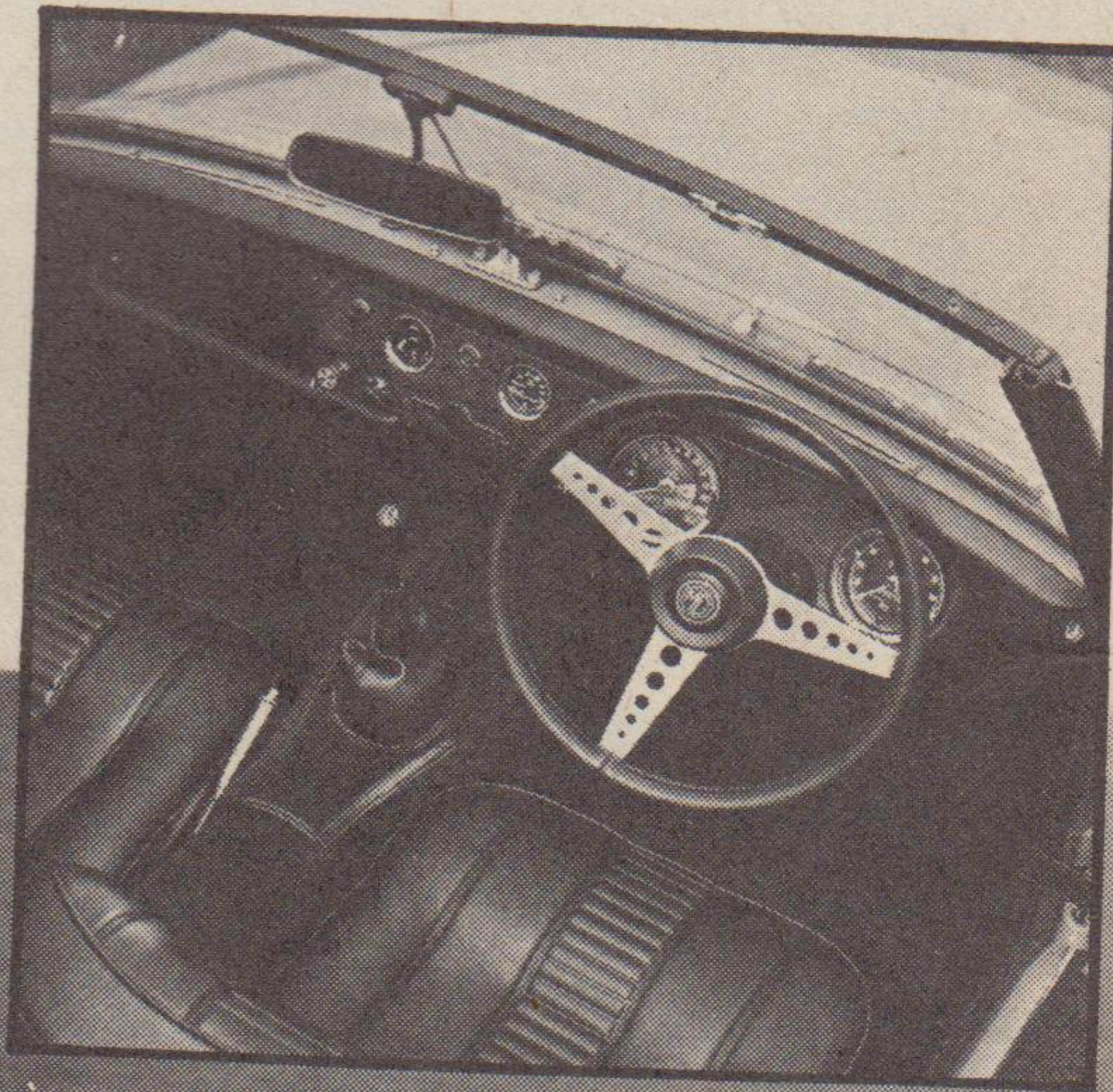
IF THE Zanda prototype, shown for the first time at the London Motor Show, is any indication, British Leyland could have some exciting ideas up its sleeve for future sports cars.

Introduced as a styling exercise, the Zanda is based on the 1500 ohc engine mounted amidships. The styling is not outlandish or impractical—as some of those from Turin—and could quite easily be translated into a very attractive two seater GT production model.

MG MIDGET

Major changes to the Midget include new grille with square matt-black insert and double chrome surround. Windscreen surround is also matt-black.

The interior of the Midget has been given a facelift with a new drilled three-spoke steering wheel and new lay-back seats.



SE IN FACE LIFTING

Meanwhile, the MGB and Midget continue with a few minor body changes. This is quite remarkable since the MGB has been on the market in its present form for seven years. And since the MGC was dropped, production has been increased to keep up with the demand for the B, especially from America.

While the mechanicals remain the same, both the B and Midget will get a face lift for 1970.

The new look MGs will appear on the Australian market in August of this year. With them will come three extra cars for the Mini and sedan range.

These are the Mini Clubman, the 1275 GT and the 1300 GT which will join the current Australian Cooper S and Mini K.

The MG midget has been considerably modified by the combination of a new and more slender

MGB

The MGB has received even less treatment than the Midget. Main change is the front grille with vertical black insert and new wide wheels.

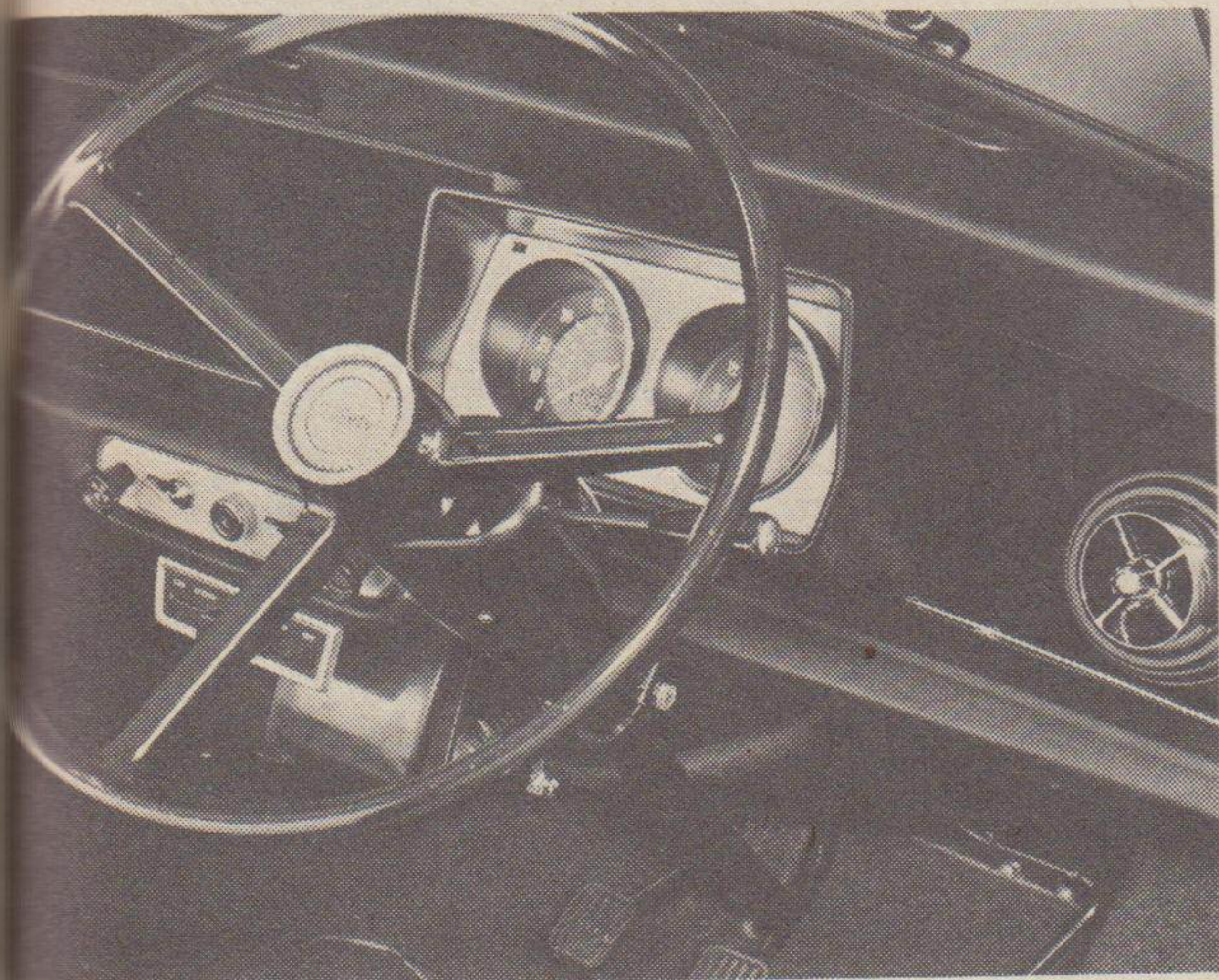
The MG-B also receives the new three-spoke steering wheel and has the lay-back seats with provision for head-rests.



MINI CLUBMAN

The Mini Clubman, powered by the 998 cc A series engine, has also been given the extended bonnet treatment and new interior styling.

Interior of the Clubman, showing new three-spoke steering wheel, new dash treatment and the introduction of face-level air vents on either side.



1300 G.T.



front bumper treatment and a new front grille. This is finished with a square matt-black mesh with a double chrome surround. A black side-winder extends down each side below the doors and carries the word Midget.

The rear of the car has quarter bumpers instead of the continuous ones. A notable change is the adoption of the English Rostyle mag wheels. The wire type will more likely be standard on the Australian versions.

Interior changes include full lay-back seats and a leather-bound steering wheel with a three-spoke drilled centre. This replaces the old vintage style plastic one.

Changes to the B are even fewer. It also has a new grille styling after the fashion of the Midget, new seats and a leather-bound steering wheel but otherwise changes have been confined to badge treatment.

The most striking styling changes come with the introduction of the Mini Clubman, 1300 GT and Mini 1275 GT. The body shells remain the same except for new shape fronts and bonnets.

These have been extended 4½ in. and give the cars somewhat of a bulldog look. The body shape of the 1300 is the same as the current Australian 1500. The obvious step for BLMC to take here is to apply the 1300 trim to the existing 1500.

The Clubman will carry the familiar A series 998cc engine. The 1275 GT will have a single-carburettor version of the 1275 cc plant and the 1300 a two carburettor 1275.

Special on the 1275 GT is the leather cover for the three-spoke wheel, standard on all models. It also carries disc brakes on the front.

Mechanically, the Mini Clubman and 1275 GT follow the same specifications as the current models on the Australian market. #

BLMC's new 1300 GT due for release in Australia about August. The car is powered by a two-carburettor version of the 1275 cc A series engine.