

NISSAN FIGARO NIGGLES – PART 2

[MY DASHBOARD TOP HAS CRACKED!](#)

After years of exposure to the sun, the vinyl on the dashboard top loses its flexibility. The top is made of steel, which can expand and contract. When it expands – the vinyl doesn't, so it cracks across together with the substrate foam. Vinyl protectants don't really help but will make the surface look good. You can minimise the chances of the dashboard splitting by using a cheap sunshield on the inside of the windscreen when the car is parked. Once the dashboard is split, there's not much you can do short of getting the top recovered! We provide a dashboard recovering service – please contact us. Removal and replacement of the dashboard top is a major undertaking!

[THE INTERIOR PANELS OF MY FIGARO ARE STICKY!](#)

Many of the interior plastic panels including the dashboard front are painted! The paint degrades with sunlight and age. Often the paintwork is nicotine stained – many Japanese smoke! Everyone seems to have a favourite way of removing the sticky surface – from methylated spirits to magic sponges. Don't use solvents such as cellulose thinners – they'll make matters worse! In extreme cases the only permanent solution is to remove the panels, strip the old paint and repaint with special plastic paint.

[THERE'S BROWN MARKS ON THE CARPETS](#)

Some of these are caused by sunlight but the Japanese tend to drive around drinking (and spilling) coffee! Often these marks are permanent, but it's possible to get the carpets degreased and re-dyed. They are no longer obtainable new from Nissan.

[THERES STAINS ON THE LEATHER SEATS](#)

These stains often appear across the top of the rear seat back and on the outer edge of the front seat backs. It's due to sunlight so short of covering the areas there's nothing much you can do. The stains can be removed with leather cleaner but tend to re-appear. It's important to regularly dress the leather seats with a product such as Gliptone – to prevent the leather degrading and cracking

[THE SEAT SQUAB HAS COLLAPSED](#)

On many Figaros you tend to sit in the seat rather than on it! The spring supports on the front seat bases cut into the foam padding resulting in lack of support. A retrimmer can re-pad and re-support for about £35 per seat.

[WINDOW DOESN'T WORK PROPERLY](#)

Windows can stop working altogether, work in one direction only or the passenger window works from one switch only. For the last problem – just ensure that the safety button isn't pressed in on the drivers switch!

Problematic windows are sometimes not easy to sort out since issue can be:

- a fault with one of the switches
- a motor fault
- a regulator fault (this is the mechanical linkage that moves the glass)
- a control box fault (the control box is in the drivers door)

All window components are ridiculously expensive – list price on a passenger window motor is over £300, drivers window switch, around £180.....It's important therefore to use a systematic approach to find the root cause – it's easy to otherwise replace the wrong parts!

We can often repair or recondition motors and window switches for a fraction of the cost of replacements. We would quickly advise if repair wasn't possible and they'd be no charge – just the return postage to pay. We keep all window parts in stock.

[MY SPEEDOMETER HAS STOPPED WORKING](#)

If the speedo stops working out of the blue, then there could be a simple explanation. The first question to ask is whether the speedo has been converted to MPH using a reduction gearbox (rather than a replacement face). These gearboxes are not Figaro specific and can become troublesome – the speedo cable doesn't always engage properly into the gearbox and the end of the cable sometimes becomes damaged. It's often possible to get the speedo working again by fiddling with the cable connection but a long-term solution is to dispense with the gearbox and fit a conversion speedo face. If the end of the cable has been damaged – this may need replacing also.

[I'VE LOST / BROKEN MY FIGARO KEY!](#)

It's sensible to have a spare key for your Figaro. After 18 years keys can become pretty worn and getting a key cut from the original often doesn't work – you're simply copying wear patterns! If there's a four-digit number on the key, we can code cut you a new key using genuine Nissan blanks – many Nissan dealers can do the same but may need to order in the blank. If you don't have an original key then the code can be found on the small lever at the end of the drivers door key lock. The snag is that the inner door panel needs to be removed.

So whilst you've got a working key – obtain a spare, or at least get the code so that a key can be made in an emergency. When you get a spare key made – remember “you should try it before you rely on it!”

As a security precaution – don't use keys with the code number on them. It would be simple for anyone who may handle the keys to get another key cut to the code!

[MY TONNEAU COVER HAS SHRUNK!](#)

It's sometimes difficult to fit the tonneau cover and often new ones are bought on the basis that the old one has shrunk.

The easiest way of fitting the cover is first to attach it to the boot lid. Before fully closing the lid – attach the tonneau to the studs on the rear parcel shelf. Once this is done – press the top corners of the boot lid to lock it – this will slightly stretch the fabric and the cover will be a good, snug fit. Far easier than trying to attach the cover to the studs with the boot-lid closed!