

Amps

I had been suffering a range of electrical maladies with my Maserati 4200 coupe, possibly with their roots in the fact that an incorrect battery had been fitted before I bought it and storage for a prolonged period away from my home over last winter, during which time it went flat a couple of times. A friend at a Fiat main dealership had checked the battery and found it to be only 25% charged. He returned it to me fully charged and all seemed well for a few weeks until the central locking began playing up at Great Western Italian Day on 11th September.

Then on the morning of 2nd October, as I was preparing to set off for Prescott, I accidentally brushed against the driver's seat adjustment switch, moving the seat rearwards a little. "No Problem" I thought; until I tried to move it forward again - it was stuck and I found the door mirror adjustment had become inoperable too. (The mirror realignment action when engaging reverse gear had failed some time previously). I drove uncomfortably to Prescott with my arms and legs fully outstretched. My Fiat dealer friend recommended the only solution to these maladies would be to allow a main dealer to deal with it.

I was somewhat reluctant, fearing massive cost. I had previously used Dick Lovett in Cardiff (as reported last year) with a positive, (if slightly more expensive than I was used to); outcome. However, the Cardiff outlet had by now given up their Ferrari / Maserati dealership, although I believed they were still capable of the work, but this time a trip to Swindon would conveniently dovetail with another activity I was undertaking. So I made an appointment with Dick Lovett in Swindon. I arrived with a new battery having the correct 780 Cold Cranking Amps* which they had agreed to install for me. (Yes, they do supply batteries but I was able to obtain one through a trade source more cheaply). At Reception I was greeted and ushered to a comfortable chair to await the Service Advisor and given a delicious cup of coffee. Jo, the Advisor soon arrived and we discussed all the maladies which she assured me, would soon be remedied. I was about to depart for the weekend by train and they kindly gave me a lift to the station.

The following week I arrived to collect the car and all was well again. The bill was not as high as I had feared. I asked to see the workshops and while there was shown their latest arrival - a Ferrari FF, which was to be their 'demonstrator' Do you fancy a test drive? I departed feeling positive about all that had transpired and enjoyed my drive home.



The showroom was full of mouth-watering motors and the staff were all most approachable and very obliging. How would you like this view from your 'work station'?



PGH

** Cold Cranking Amps - are one of the terms used to define the performance of a car battery. Cold cranking is the discharge current given by the manufacturer. It is emitted by a battery at a temperature of -18°C with a minimum voltage of $U_i=7,5$ volt for a period of 10 seconds, according to the EN specifications.*