

Triplex Glass Date Codes

by Joel Justin

Many British cars from the 1950's thru the 1960's used Triplex glass for the windscreen and other windows. I know for sure Triumph and MG did, and I'm guessing Jaguar, Austin Healey and others did as well. If you have any original glass on your car, you can determine the approximate build date. It's approximate because the date is when the glass was made, not when the car was built, but I don't expect glass sat around for long, so it's a good approximation.

To figure out when your glass was made, find the Triplex logo, usually in an upper or lower corner of the glass. If you don't find it on your windscreen, try a side window (if you have them!). Here's how you decode your logo:

The year code can be found in the letters of the word TOUGHENED. This also works for the word LAMINATED. One dot below a letter gives the year of the decade (you need to at least know the decade!):

T = L = 1
O = A = 2
U = M = 3
G = I = 4
H = N = 5
E = A = 6
N = T = 7
E = E = 8
D = D = 9
No dot = 0

The quarter code of production is found in the letters of the word TRIPLEX. One dot above a letter indicates the quarter of the year:

T = 1Q (Jan, Feb, March)
R = 2Q (April, May, June)
E = 3Q (July, Aug, Sept)
X = 4Q (Oct, Nov, Dec)

Here's some examples with real build dates from my Heritage Certificates:



Triumph 10 Estate Wagon
Build Date: September 15, 1958 (3Q58)
Quarter Dot: X = 4Q
Year Dot: last E = 8 = 1958



Triumph TR4

Build Date: October 4, 1961 (4Q61)

Quarter Dot: E = 3Q

Year Dot: T = 1 = 1961



Triumph 2000 Mark 1 Saloon

Build Date: November 1, 1965 (4Q65)

Quarter Dot: E = 3Q

Year Dot: H = 1 = 1965

If you don't have a Heritage Certificate, go look at an original piece of glass and see about when your car was built!