

# Mini Cooper rides again

by Daniel Ward

**THE MINI COOPER IS BACK**  
as a mainstream Rover model:  
the 1275cc Cooper will be

launched at the Birmingham  
Motor Show in September,  
powered by a 61bhp catalyst-  
equipped version of the old MG  
Metro A-series engine.



Limited-edition Cooper — using leather upholstery — goes on sale right now. Available in green, red and black. Mainstream Cooper debuts in September

Minilite lookalike wheels, an original Cooper grille and white roof will complete the '60s image.

It is understood that Rover has approved a dealer-fitted kit, developed by John Cooper, which will turn the new Cooper into a fully fledged Cooper S. Although the catalyst remains, the kit includes twin SU carburetors, polished cylinder head and racing exhaust system. The 1990s Cooper S will sprint to 60mph in about eight seconds, compared with 11 seconds for the original

76bhp Mini Cooper S.

Rover has negotiated with importer and motor dealer group TKM for the exclusive rights to the Cooper name, as the marketing rights were given up by the racing car builder John Cooper when he sold his Cooper Car Company garages to TKM. John Cooper has worked with Rover on the latest Minis to carry his name since the project began.

The £6500 Cooper is expected to account for one-third of all Mini sales, although in Japan nostalgia-mad enthusiasts will push Cooper sales to half of all Mini registrations. To launch the new Cooper, Rover's new Special Products division has developed a 1000-off limited-edition Cooper. It will be identified by 'works Cooper' white bonnet stripes signed by John Cooper and a leather interior borrowed from last year's Mini Thirty, and goes on sale in July.



Mini Cooper badge last used in '71