

RABUGGI Operator's Notes - Rear Hatch

RABUGGI is replicating a car design of the mid-1930s, so has some operating features that are unconventional by today's automotive standards.

Rear Hatch

On the original Bugatti Atlantic, this round back opening is a spare tire well. On RABUGGI, it serves as access to a rear "luggage compartment". The hatch securing shoes and spring hold-down hook are a copy of the Atlantic scheme although with added internal auxilliary latches for redundancy and security. It is NOT a "pop-open" hinged rear hatch door as we may be used to with contemporary hatchbacks.

Opening...

The forward interlocking shoes are NOT a hinge. Opening requires these steps:

- 1) Disengage the interior hatch locks by pulling out knobs behind the seat backs, left and right.
- 2) Lift the spring loaded hold down hook and move it from the hatch fin rearward to the stationary body fin.
- 3) Lift the hatch by the central fin just enough to slide rearward an inch or so to disengage the forward interlocking shoes.
- 4) Grasp hatch edges with both hands and move rearward and up, free of the car.

There are three little rubber feet inside the hatch to provide for stable setting on the ground while loading/unloading cargo items.

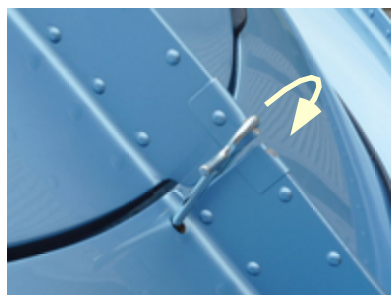
Closing...

Closing is essentially the reverse of the opening steps.

- 1) Holding the hatch at the edges with both hands, slide the hatch forward shoe under the fixed interlocking shoe.
- 2) Guide the back of the hatch forward and lower it into closed position.
- 3) Lift the spring loaded hold down hook and move it from the stationary body fin forward to the hatch fin.
- 4) Re-secure the interior auxilliary hatch locks by pushing in the knobs behind the seat backs, left and right.



Interior hatch lock knob (right side)



Spring loaded hold down hook



Forward interlocking shoes



Hatch removed and resting on feet

RABUGGI Operator's Notes - Doors

RABUGGI is replicating a car design of the mid-1930s, so has some operating features that are unconventional by today's automotive standards.

Passenger Door Open / Close / Latch

RABUGGI's doors hinge at the aft edge and latch at the front. This was often referred to as *Suicide Doors*. We definitely do not want them coming unlatched when under way.

Closing...

There are three latches for each of RABUGGI's doors... the primary latch, an upper (rotating) latch, and a lower (sliding deadbolt) latch. Once seated in the car, proper door closing is achieved by:

1) Using the central convenience handle, pull the door forward to near the closed position, but NOT "slamming" it shut. (Slamming any door is so undignified.)

1-a) Using the leather loop handle on the primary latch housing, firmly pull inward to *click* the primary latch closed. Using both hands is OK.

2) Rotate the upper latch handle clockwise to secure the top edge of the door.

3) Push forward the lower dead bolt knob with the heel of your hand to secure the bottom of the door.

Buckle up and you're good to go!

Opening...

Opening is essentially the reverse of the closing steps.

1) Pull back on the lower sliding deadbolt latch.

2) Rotate the upper rotating latch handle counter-clockwise.

3) Lift the primary latch handle upward to release.

3-a) Now, some people have learned that you open a car door by pulling the latch handle and flinging the door open with all your might. This is not necessary with RABUGGI (and is almost as undignified as slamming a door closed). RABUGGI's door hinge axes are angled such that gravity assists us in opening the door. The operator needs only to initiate the opening motion and use the leather convenience handle for controlling the door opening. The sliding door snubbers on the lower sill will steady the door in open position.

