

## **Posers of the world unite!**

I have just completed some extensive research and discovered that 20% of TVR drivers are pure speed fanatics, 40% are out and out posers, and the other 40% are both! And if you believe that (the research bit, I mean) then you are probably the person who called the TVR club office last Christmas to ask where they could buy some of the fantasy TVR presents that I suggested in December's Morgan's Mutterings!

So, OK I made up the figures - but I bet they are not far wrong! Which would mean that 80% of TVR drivers are posers - one way or the other!

"What's wrong with that?" I hear you say - or 80% of you at least!

Nothing at all - as long as you know HOW to be a poser! Trying to be a poser without understanding the basic scientific laws of posing can be dangerous, and may seriously damage your health (usually as a result of a smack in the teeth!)

Last April I agreed to give Robert a ride in the Griff for his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Robert is a sports car fan and his parents thought it would be a great present for him. So they made a small donation to charity, and Robert got his morning out in a Tiv! I thought the best place to take him would be a blast round some of the country roads, and end up in David Gerald's showroom, so he could have a feast of TVR'ism.

Now Robert is a clever young man who is studying to be an architect, and with his small goatee beard looks reasonably cool! But I felt that he needed a bit of educating into how to be a poser, which he absorbed easily - so much so that I now believe he will grow up to be an absolute poser - just like his tutor. Even if he doesn't, he has some great pictures of himself sitting in various TVR's - looking just like he owned every one of them!

So, to try and educate the 20% of TVR drivers who are not posers - and also, of course, to ensure that the rest of us keep up the good work, here are the "Five Golden Rules of Posing!"

**Rule number 1 - Have a suitable vehicle to pose in!** - This may seem like a bit obvious, but I can tell you I have tried to pose in a 1954 A30 with rusting sills, a green Hillman Avenger and even a bright purple Ford Escort 1.3 base - and it doesn't work! It doesn't matter how you dress the vehicle up - like covering it with stick on bits, like plastic spoilers and extra spot lamps - it still doesn't make it into a posing vehicle - I know - I've tried it all!

Today's kids are doing exactly what we did, but with straight through exhausts and loud stereo systems - and they may attract the attention of their fellow youngsters - but no-one else (except Mr. Plod of course). To be a REAL poser you have to be able to attract young and old, male and female, car fans and those who support Ken Livingstone. And to do that you need the right car - and if you can't afford a Lambo or a Ferrari, then a TVR is

just as good (and louder!!). And remember – if it's a rag top – always have the hood down – regardless of outside temperature!

I felt sorry for Robert, as I dropped him off to get back into his basic Nova - but at least he knows what to aim for, and if he gets his qualifications, he will probably be in a Tuscan well before me!

**Rule number 2 - Always wear shades!** - Doesn't matter what the weather is like - or how dark it is - always wear shades! This is very important to give that extra "cool" factor. Extremely annoying when you keep bumping into things, but important all the same.

Would the Blues Brothers have been "cool" without the shades - of course not! Actually one of my favourite lines comes from the original Blues Brothers film (and if you haven't seen it, then shame on you!). It is when they are sitting in the beaten up old cop car, in the middle of the night, with the cash from the concert and Elwood (Dan Aykroyd) says to Jake (John Belushi), "It's 106 miles to Chicago, we got a full tank of gas and half a pack of cigarettes. It's midnight and we're wearing sunglasses!" to which Jake responds with "Hit it!"

**Rule number 3 - Rev the car in traffic.** - Well, no point in just sitting there and no-one noticing you, is there. Even better if you've got a sports exhaust - only remember to either knock it out of gear or drop the clutch first!

In the seventies there was a phase when people would give their car a quick flick of the accelerator before switching the engine off - not sure why - but I often did it. Well, I did until the time I had my automatic 2 litre Cortina sitting on the drive in reverse with the hand brake only partly on!! Ouch!

**Rule number 4 - Always drive through towns - not round them.** - The downside to this of course, is that it may take a little longer. But just think of the pleasure you are giving to dozens more people who will get the chance to have a good long look at (and listen to) your wonderful TVR. I mean, it would be cruel to deprive them of the sights and sounds - so you can look on it as a form a charity!

**Rule number 5 - Slow down past plate glass windows.** - Now this is really a safety issue. You see as you gaze at yourself driving the mean machine it would be very easy to run into the idiot in front who has stopped. So by slowing down, you both give yourself a chance to have a really good look at your profile and you protect another motorist. Once again the charitable side of your nature is to the fore!

Now you may think this is taking it too far - but you are trying to be a poser - and posers like to look at themselves whenever possible, so do as you're told!!

If you are still nodding your head like the proverbial nodding dog in the back window of definitive “non-posers” then you are still with me and well on the way to becoming a real poser.

But to complete the image, there are the five “lesser” rules of posing, which some people miss, and which can lead to lost points.

Rule number six is always wear shirts, jackets and caps with the logo of your car, or car club on it. This means that when you are not in the car, which usually means you are either in the bar, in the toilet, or admiring someone else’s (car that is!), everyone will still be aware that you have a TVR. This is most important, and something that lots of would be posers fail at because they are too mean to get their wallets out!

Rule number seven is know the BHP, 0-60 timing, 0-100 timing, maximum torque at a specific rpm, gear ratios and countless other statistics that you can bore everyone to death with - even if you haven’t got a clue what half of them mean (like me!). It sounds impressive, and gets you into the verbal posing syndrome. It is even better if you can say (as I now can) - “...and it accelerates from 0 to 60 faster than a Porsche 911 Turbo and a Ferrari Testarossa..” And I can say it because I read it in a book!

Rule number eight is having parked the car somewhere, make frequent excuses to return to it and open the doors. It proves that you and the car go together, and allows more people to see you with it. Well - apart from wearing the gear and talking about it, you can’t pose without the car, can you, so while the missus is in Tesco’s, you may as well pose!

Rule number nine is add a personalised number plate. A TVR number is excellent, and so is R4CER, V8OOM or S9EED...but I’m not really sure about P10NKA or W4NKA !! I know a lot of TVR drivers think adding a personalised plate is a real posers action - but that’s what it’s all about, isn’t it? I’ve even got one on my everyday car - no point in being a flash git unless you show it!

And finally, we come to rule number ten. Ensure you have pictures of YOUR TVR on office, lounge and toilet walls and on PC’s (as screen backgrounds), then when someone casually says, “Is that your dream car?”, you can nonchalantly reply, “That IS my car!”

Now that’s posing!

Dave (G10TVR) Morgan

*Postscript: beloved has just read this and commented, “Well you manage to achieve a ten out of ten score - just proves what a total \*\*\*\*\* you are!” (but she substituted a different word for poser!! How did you score?)*