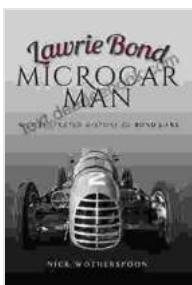


# Lawrie Bond: The Extraordinary Life of the Microcar Man

## Humble Beginnings and a Passion for Engineering

Lawrie Bond, the man who would become known as the Microcar Man, was born in 1918 in the small town of Preston, Lancashire, England. From a young age, he exhibited an exceptional affinity for engineering and a keen interest in the world of automobiles. As a teenager, Lawrie spent countless hours tinkering with cars and motorcycles, honing his mechanical skills and nurturing his passion for automotive design.

After completing his education, Lawrie joined the Royal Air Force during World War II, where he served as a mechanic. This experience not only further developed his engineering abilities but also exposed him to a wide range of aircraft and automotive technologies. Upon his return from military service, Lawrie was determined to pursue his dream of becoming an automotive engineer.



## Lawrie Bond, Microcar Man: An Illustrated History of Bond Cars

by PATTY WILSON

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 39304 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Lending : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Print length : 458 pages



## **The Birth of Bond Cars**

In the post-war era, Britain faced an acute shortage of affordable transportation. Inspired by the success of the Isetta bubble car in continental Europe, Lawrie Bond saw an opportunity to develop a similar vehicle that could meet the needs of the British public. In 1949, he founded Bond Cars in Preston, with the ambitious goal of producing small, fuel-efficient, and affordable microcars.

Lawrie's first creation was the Bond Minicar, a tiny three-wheeled vehicle powered by a diminutive 122cc Villiers engine. Despite its humble origins, the Minicar proved to be a commercial success, capturing the hearts of motorists who sought an economical and practical mode of transport. Buoyed by the success of the Minicar, Lawrie continued to develop and refine his microcar designs, introducing the Bond Mark G in 1953 and the Bond 875 in 1959.

## **The Iconic Bond Bug**

In 1969, Lawrie Bond unveiled his most audacious creation yet: the Bond Bug. This futuristic-looking three-wheeled microcar featured a wedge-shaped body, a removable hardtop, and a powerful 700cc engine. The Bug quickly became a cult classic, capturing the imagination of motorists with its unconventional design and impressive performance.

The Bond Bug's popularity was further enhanced by its appearance in the popular British television series *The Avengers*. Driven by the charismatic John Steed, the Bug became synonymous with adventure, excitement, and

the spirit of the swinging sixties. To this day, the Bond Bug remains a highly sought-after classic car, cherished by enthusiasts and collectors alike.

## **Legacy and Impact**

Lawrie Bond's contributions to the British automotive industry are immeasurable. As the founder of Bond Cars, he pioneered the development of microcars, providing affordable and accessible transportation to thousands of motorists. His designs, particularly the iconic Bond Bug, have left an enduring mark on automotive history, inspiring generations of engineers and designers.

Beyond his automotive achievements, Lawrie Bond was a passionate advocate for British manufacturing and innovation. He served as President of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) and was instrumental in promoting the interests of the British automotive industry on the global stage.

Lawrie Bond passed away in 2003, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire and fascinate. His visionary spirit, unwavering determination, and pioneering designs have earned him a place among the most influential figures in British automotive history.

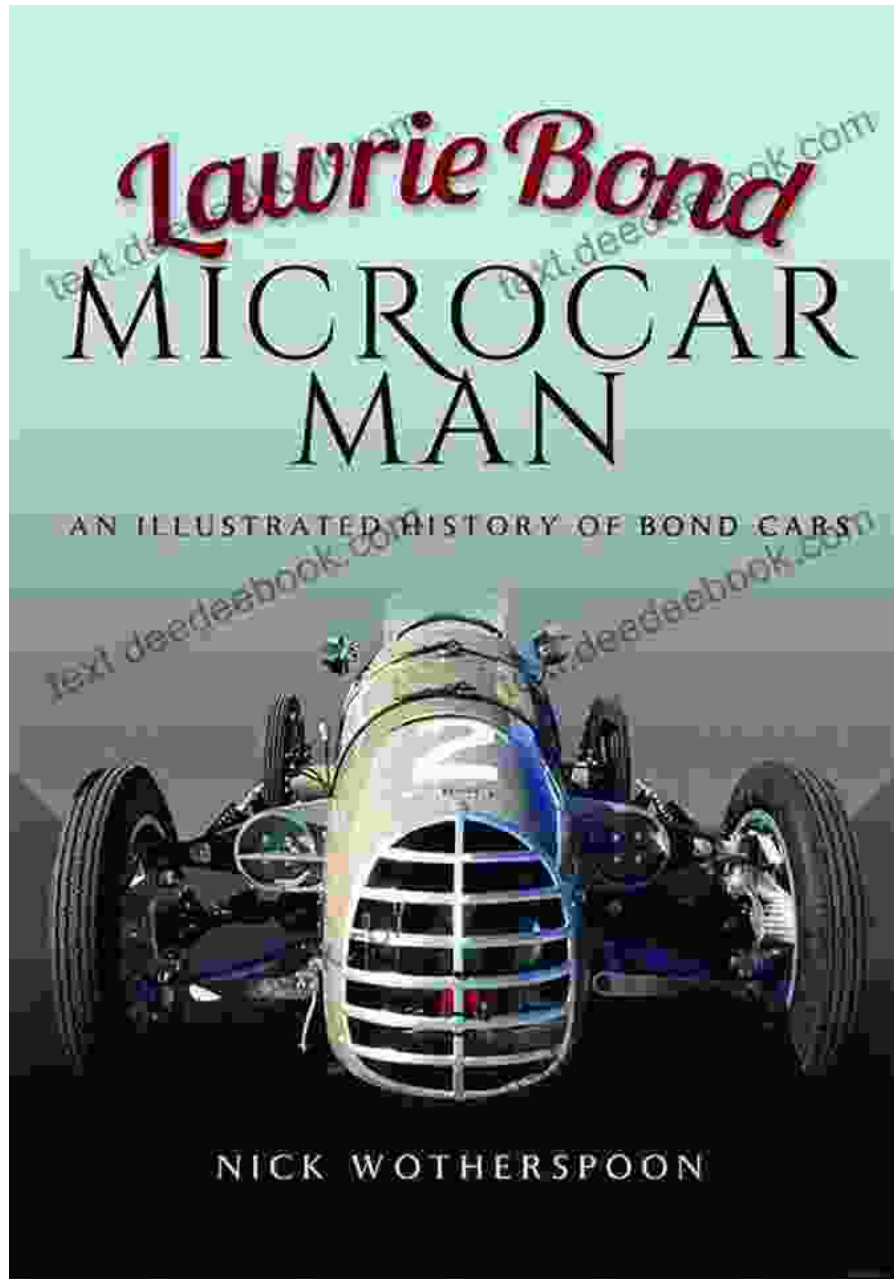
## **Preserving the Bond Legacy**

In recognition of Lawrie Bond's significant contributions, the Bond Cars Heritage Trust was established in 2012. The trust is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of Bond Cars and the legacy of its founder. The trust maintains a collection of historic Bond vehicles, organizes events and exhibitions, and supports research into the history of the marque.

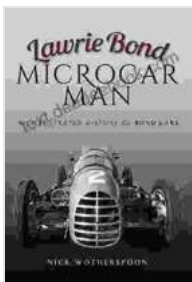
The Bond Cars Heritage Trust is a testament to the enduring legacy of Lawrie Bond. Through its ongoing efforts, the trust ensures that the story of the Microcar Man and his iconic creations will continue to be told for generations to come.

Lawrie Bond was a true visionary, an automotive pioneer whose unwavering passion and innovative spirit left an indelible mark on the world of motoring. From the humble beginnings of his microcar empire to the iconic status of the Bond Bug, his story is a testament to the power of human ingenuity and the enduring allure of the automobile.

As we reflect on the legacy of Lawrie Bond, let us remember his unwavering determination, his relentless pursuit of innovation, and his unwavering belief in the potential of British manufacturing. May his story continue to inspire future generations of engineers, designers, and automotive enthusiasts alike.



Lawrie Bond, the visionary engineer and founder of Bond Cars.



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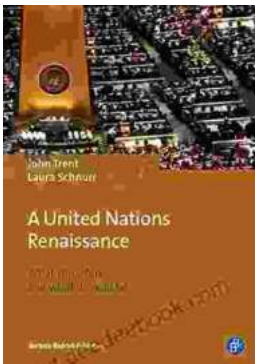
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