

## Number plates and car bits

Spanish Number Plates is the name of my business and my primary roles is re-registering foreign vehicles so that they end up with, well, Spanish number plates

Some people however take the name literally and calls are often received from people asking me where to get replacement plates and even UK plates (?) An English lady acquaintance not renowned for her intellectual capacity thought for months that I spent all day actually making the plates. I suppose that these misconceptions are perfectly understandable. I imagine that there are some people who think that Alcoholics Anonymous is a club for secret drinkers, firemen are pyromaniacs and people who network are employed in the fishing industry. As for solicitors, perhaps they are found on roundabouts?

So where do you get number plates and for that matter other car bits? Everyone asks if there is a Halfords in Spain, well if there is I've never seen one and the nearest equivalent that I know of is a company called "Feu Vert" who frequently have concessions in or next to large supermarkets. The company that I use for most parts is Serca who are part of the massive "a.d." group with outlets all over Spain and beyond who operate in a similar way to "Partco" in the UK, being available for both trade and private customers. Many garages also supply plates

As in the UK, if you wish to obtain a replacement number plate for your vehicle, you will need to take the vehicle documents with you and will often be asked for the ubiquitous NIE and some form of identity

What do you ask for if you want number plates? Well I'll tell you later, but here is a useful-to-keep summary in Spanish of the main parts for vehicles that you may need to know, but skip to the bottom of this and prepare to be offended!

### English

### Spanish

Air Filter	Filtro de Aire
Alignment	Alineacion
Alternator	Alternador
Antifreeze	Anticongelante
Ball Joint	Rotula
Battery	Bateria
Bearing	Cojinete
Bonnet	Capo
Boot	Maletero
Brakes	Frenos
Brake Pads	Pastillas de Freno
Bulb	Bombilla
Cable	Cable
Camshaft	Arbol de Levas
Carburettor	Carburador
Chassis number	Numero de Bastidor

Clutch	Embrague
Coil	Bobina
Controls	Mandos
Dashboard	Salpicadero
Distributor	Distribuidor
Engine	Motor
Exhaust pipe	Tubo de Escape
Fan Belt	Correa de Ventilador
Fuel Tank	Tanque de Combustible
Fuse	Fusible
Garage (workshop)	Taller
Gasket	Junta
Gauge	Indicador
Gear Box	Caja de Cambios
Handbrake	Freno de Mano
Headlight	Faro
Horn	Klaxon
Hub Cap	Tapacubo
Ignition key	Llave de Contacto
Indicator	Intermitente
Injector	Inyector
Jack	Gato
Lights	Luces
Liquid	Liquido
Lock	Cerradura
Mechanic	Mecanico
Mirror	Espejo
Oil Filter	Filtro de Aceite
Power Steering	Direccion Asistida
Pump	Bomba
Puncture	Pinchado
Radiator Hose	Manquera de Radiador
Reflector	Reflector
Seat	Asiento
Seat Belt	Cinturon de Seguridad
Shock Absorber	Amortiguador
Silencer	Silenciador
Spark Plug	Bujia
Starter Motor	Motor de Arranque
Steering Wheel	Volante de Direccion
Suspension	Suspension
Thermostat	Termostato
Timing/Drive Belt	Correa de la Distribucion
Transmission	Transmision
Tyre	Neumatico
Valve	Valvula
Water Pump	Bomba de Agua
Wheel (inc. Tyre)	Rueda
Wheel (metal)	Llanta
Window	Ventana

Windscreen	Parabrisas
Wiper	Limpiaparabrisas

At the risk of being hung drawn and quartered, here are some extra words for females only

Petrol	Gasolina
Mirror	Espejo cosmético
Mobile phone	Teléfono móvil
Left	Izquierda
Right	Derecha
Parking	Aparcamiento
Reverse Parking	Not understood
Blokes	Untranslatable in every sense
Red	Rojo
White	Blanco
Blue	Azul

(As in the colour of cars)

Ok Ok... And now for those referred to by Shania Twain when she sings "You kiss your car good night! You must be joking right?"

Speed	Velocidad
Go Faster Stripes	Rayas de Mas Rapido
Horsepower	Caballos de Fuerza
Petrol Head	Cabeza de Gasolina
Burn up	Quemar
Hair gel	Gel de Pelo
Bling	Bling
One Finger Salute	Saludo de un dedo
Road Courtesy	Doesn't translate
Women drivers	Dare not translate
Multi tasking	Yeah right!

Anyway enough of this or Jane Cronin the excellent CBN Spanish language teacher will accuse me of straying on to her patch

Time for this sad old bugger to put his anorak on again. The normal long narrow number plates are a uniform size throughout Europe, so when you change your plates to Spanish they will fit perfectly. When I fit them, I follow the native procedure of riveting them on. Makes them less easy to nick and end up on someone else's car you see

Some cars have very small plates which were made primarily for Alpha Romeos and similar class Italian jobs. If your car can take the standard size plate, then Alpha

plates should not be fitted as your car may fail the ITV inspection as many have done in the past

Personalised plates and those showing non standard lettering do not exist in Spain. The standard plate is black on white

Red number plates show the registration number of a trailer or caravan as this type of non-motorised vehicle is registered in Spain in the same way as powered vehicles, so if you have a trailer or caravan in excess of 750 Kg carrying capacity it needs to be registered and show the red plate. If under this weight, registration is not necessary, but a one off ITV inspection is. As previously mentioned the rules surrounding the registration of caravans has eased and can be less onerous and expensive than previously

Certain motor traders also use red number plates, known in the UK as Trade Plates, but the restrictions on use in Spain is restrictive

Green plates are used in special circumstances for temporary periods by vehicles being imported. I have never had to use these plates as I have found no advantage over the traditional method

Little yellow plates are used for all vehicles with an engine size less than 50 cc. Whilst these are mainly used on mopeds, those little cars peculiar to Spain that can be driven without a car licence also show these plates at the rear

So how does Spanish number plates translate? Placas de Matricular Espanol- Simple eh?

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