

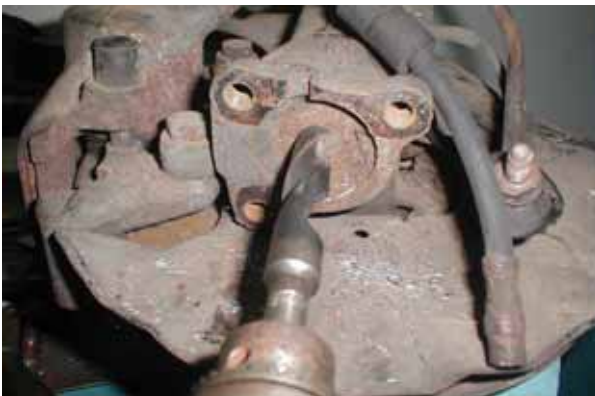
# **Preparing BMW front struts for Python Chassis**

After removal of the strut from the donor vehicle: -

- 1 Remove the bottom casting from the strut – this is held in place by 3 hexagon headed machine screws, which are locked with locking compound on assembly. A good impact socket & an impact wrench are required for this – try not to damage the flats on the heads, as they are needed for re-assembly.



- 2 This should also show which other parts need to be removed from the strut to enable easy handling when cutting off the top part, just above the brake pipe bracket, approx. 15 mm. This cut is not important but may give practice for the important cut later on. Cut off the top of the strut complete with spring, do this by cutting around the tube until only the outer wall is cut, when the shock absorber & spring assembly should come off the lower part. Oil may be present, so be prepared.



- 3 The lower end, exposed when the bottom casting is removed, is the area where a hole must be made to give access for re-assembly after welding. This hole is started with as large a drill as can be used, the hole is then enlarged to give clearance for a socket & extension bar for assembly of the top swivel. The hole can be enlarged with a file or best, using a die grinder & burr.





- 4 Re-cut the top end of the lower strut to **250mm** from the bottom; this needs to be as square as possible, hence the practice at first. True up with a file or angle grinder, de-burr & try the top mount, supplied, on the open end of the tube, if it fits satisfactorily then bevel the edge of the tube to approximately 45 degrees, repeat for the second strut, then everything is ready for welding.



- 5 After welding with a good penetration of weld, the strut can be sand blasted with the lower casting & painted. Everything then is ready for assembly to the car.

