AWAKENING A SLEEPING MGB
CHECKLIST

So, let's wake her up:

_____ Put the car on 4 jack stands & remove wheels.
_____ If there was an old battery in her, remove it to use as a core for a new battery.

ENGINE COMPARTMENT

_____ Disconnect fuel lines at carbs.
_____ Remove spark plugs & turn engine over by hand checking for compression at each spark plug hole (I'm not interested in the amount of compression, just that I still have it!).
_____ Install new battery (DO NOT ATTEMPT TO START ENGINE!).
_____ Turn ignition key on & allow fuel pump to drain any gas remaining in the tank (&, in the event you didn't drain it before laying car up, you'll probably have 'dead' gas in there.)
_____ If fuel pump doesn't operate, stop & rebuild fuel pump and repeat process of draining gas tank. While you're under there, replace all flexible gas lines to fuel pump.
_____ Adjust valves.
_____ Change engine oil and filter. (In cold months, I use 10W-40 Castrol; in warm months, I use 20W-50 Castrol.)
_____ Install new, properly gapped spark plugs.
_____ Rebuild distributor (if electronic, check manual closely).
_____ Install new spark plug wires.
_____ Check the ignition circuit for proper operation (AGAIN: DO NOT ATTEMPT TO START ENGINE! At this point, all I want to know is if I have 'fire' at the plugs.)
_____ Drain all fluids (radiator, engine, transmission, rear end, brakes/clutch)
_____ Inspect radiator for signs of leakage (the proper way to store a radiator is with anti-freeze inside; you can tell if there's been any leakage by the tell-tale wierd, green patina on the core or along the edges of the tanks.). If there are signs of leakage, remove radiator for cleaning, pressurizing, and repair.
_____ Back flush the engine cooling system to remove any built-up crud.
_____ Replace engine thermostat.
_____ Remove the plug in the water pump & add a bit of grease.
_____ Remove all belts from front of engine.
_____ Bench check alternator/generator for proper operation.
_____ With proper spray cleaner & one of GEM Enterprises' special purpose brushes, clean all Lucas wiring harness connectors. Once cleaned, coat them with a LIGHT film of conductive grease (I mean every one you can see with the hood up! Take 'em apart & clean both ends of the bullet connectors). Pay especially close attention to the fuse block.
_____ Replace all belts with new ones and reinstall alternator/generator.
_____ Reinstall the radiator along with all new hoses.
____ Fill windshield washer tank.
____ Refill the cooling system with the proper mixture of water and anti-freeze.
____ Remove carbs & rebuild/clean them as necessary. Replace air filters.
____ Inspect engine mounts & replace as necessary.
____ Replace all fuel/vacuum lines in engine compartment.
____ Replace fuel filter.
____ If so equipped, renew all emissions items to include recharging charcoal canisters. If equipped, remove the hoses from the air pump & spray lithium grease up inside the pump.
____ Turn engine over with ignition switch to check compression (AGAIN, DO NOT START ENGINE!).

UNDERNEATH CAR

FRONT
____ Remove front rotors & check for warping.
____ Turn/replace rotors as necessary.
____ Check calipers for proper operation.
____ Replace all flexible brake lines.
____ Install new brake pads.

CENTER
____ Replace fluid in transmission with the same oil you put in engine.
____ Grease universal joints/check for looseness.
____ Inspect transmission mounts & replace as necessary.
____ Visually inspect exhaust for rust/holes, proper installation, etc.
____ Visually inspect underside of car for rust.
____ Lubricate hand brake.
____ Clean all Lucas wiring harness connections & coat with a LIGHT film of conductive grease.

REAR
____ Remove brake drums. Visually inspect & replace/turn as necessary.
____ Replace wheel cylinders (NO! Don't even try to repair - just replace them!)
____ Install new brake shoes.
____ Replace flexible brake line on passenger side of car.
____ Drop gas tank & visually inspect for rust.
____ Remove gas sending unit & check for free operation of arm.
____ Have gas tank boiled/cleaned as necessary (I take mine to my local radiator repair shop).
____ Install cleaned & newly painted gas tank.
____ Replace all flexible fuel lines to fuel pump/gas tank.
____ Fill rear end with SAE 90 Gear Oil.
____ In trunk, if so equipped, replace flexible lines to vapor separator & gas tank.
____ Put 93-octane gas in tank & pressurize fuel system to carbs.
____ Clean all Lucas wiring harness connections & coat with a LIGHT film of
conductive grease.  ____ Top off brake & clutch master cylinders
  ____ Bleed clutch slave cylinder & check for proper operation of clutch.
  ____ Bleed brake system starting with driver rear wheel.
  ____ Reinstall wheels & adjust rear brakes

DON"T TAKE OFF JACK STANDS YET!

  ____ FIRE 'ER UP!
  ____ Allow oil pressure to come up & note where it stops at idle.
  ____ Allow car to idle until temperature has come up to normal operation range.
  ____ Make any adjustments to carbs or timing.
  ____ Depress clutch & verify its proper operation.
  ____ Check operation of transmission through all gears.
  ____ Check operation of hand brake.
  ____ Check operation of wheel brakes.
  ____ TURN ENGINE OFF.
  ____ Visually inspect for any leakage along gas, clutch & brake lines, at wheel
cylinders & calipers, in cooling system.

  ____ Install & balance new 185x70R14 tires (tubes also if wire wheels) - HEY!
    They're probably dry rotted!
  ____ Install wheels, adjust rear brakes & take car off jack stands.

BODY

  ____ Check operation of all exterior lights.
  ____ Replace windshield wiper blades & check operation of wiper/washer system.
  ____ Spray lithium grease door, hood, & trunk hinges and latching mechanisms.
  ____ Install one of GEM Enterprises' emergency hood latches.
  ____ Lubricate top bows, seat rails & adjusters.
  ____ Check operation of all dash, interior, & trunk lights and switches.
  ____ Clean all Lucas wiring harness connections & coat with a LIGHT film of
conductive grease.

ENGINE COMPARTMENT

  ____ After engine has cooled down, readjust valves.
  ____ Check/refill cooling system as necessary.
  ____ Check engine oil level.

NOW, its time for a short test drive. Once around the block only. While driving, pay
particular attention to status of gauges, check for proper operation of brakes, watch for
tell-tale signs of smoke from exhaust. Back in garage...

ENGINE COMPARTMENT

  ____ Recheck all engine fluid levels.
  ____ Check belt tension.
  ____ Check clutch & brake master cylinder levels (look for signs of leakage in
engine compartment, under dash, and on garage floor under car).

- Put car on jack stands.
- Recheck rear brake adjustment.
- Tighten lug nuts (or wire wheel center cap).
- Put her on the ground.

At this point, feel free to drive down to the nearest filling station and fill up with 93-octane gas. I know, I know! Some of you are going to tell me that's not necessary. But, hey, that's all I ever put in my cars. I personally feel its needed all the time but should be used at least once every few tanks full.

Now, after a good wash, wax, and interior detailing, she's ready for daily use. From this point on, follow the maintenance guidelines in your owner's manual.