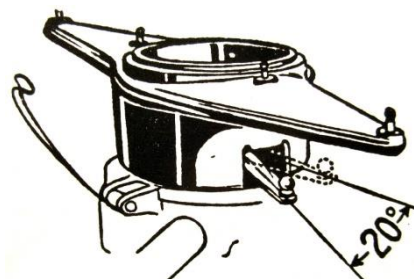


## THE MODEL A TOOLBOX

### Distributor Cap Fit and Function

by Colin Lawson

The slot at the rear of the cap body is designed for 20° space that allows for full retard (spark lever completely up) to full advance movement of the control arm (spark lever all the way down). Do not alter that dimension (ref. Canada Service Bulletin Sept 1930). When the spark lever is full up, the control arm should touch the side of the slot. If not, then for 1929 to 1931 with Gemmer steering, loosen the two steering column clamps and rotate the column slightly.



The control arm slot in the cap should allow freedom of movement of the arm. The control arm typically has a raised centre to provide re-enforcement.

The slot should be 3/8" to 7/16" in height as shown in the first photo. Some reproduction caps have an additional web in the slot that reduces the slot height to 1/4" and subsequently causes the control arm to rub and be pressed down when the cap clamps are snapped on. This will change the position of the points with respect to the cam and create uneven point gap as the rotor turns. When this web is cut down to 3/8" slot height the arm should clear and operate properly. The feature of this repro body is the Ford USA script cast on it. This Ford script was added in July 1931 and 'U.S.A.' added in August.



Cap body - inverted



Extra slot step



Ford USA script

Some repro caps do not fit snugly on the distributor base and can move sideways. To improve this, apply a thin strip of friction tape to the inner lip of the cap body. Recheck the rotor tab to cap contact distance, preferably about 0.025".

### Clutch Installation

When it comes time to replace the clutch disc it must be aligned in the centre of the flywheel before tightening the clutch assembly bolts. This ensures easier alignment when installing the transmission. As an alignment tool, use a transmission input shaft as shown or a plastic tool as sold by Model A vendors. The clutch assembly bolts have a 1/2" head and are torqued to 20 ft lb. The six clutch fingers can then be tested for correct height by placing a straight edge across the back of the clutch assembly and measure for 5/8" (0.625") space between the straight edge and the tip of each finger. Use a ratchet wrench socket that is close to 5/8" diameter as an easy measuring tool. After assembly, adjust the clutch pedal trunnion to give one inch pedal down before clutch engaging. This ensures the clutch fingers do not drag on the throwout bearing. Add some grease to the throw out bearing lube fitting.

