

THE MODEL A TOOL BOX

THE MODEL A HORN

by Colin Lawson

Everyone likes the sound of the voice of the Model A Ford. Tuning the sound is easy – with a flat screwdriver, turn the 'ADJUST' screw on the rear of the horn cover to get the best Ahoogah sound. For all to work well there are several areas that may need attention.

1. The armature must turn freely; apply some drops of medium oil to the felt pads on each end.
2. The diaphragm has a flat sided rivet offset from the centre, check the condition of the rivet end and the agitator washer.
3. Ensure that there is enough length of the carbon brushes to give proper pressure.
4. Check the commutator to ensure it is smooth and clean, preferably shiny copper colour, clean with some fine sand paper on a flat stick while rotating by hand and clean off all residue.
5. Check the wires attached on the terminal block, they should have a bullet connector crimped on the ends to make good contact. One wire is live all the time, the other wire connects to the centre terminal of the light switch and is grounded to complete the circuit when the button is pressed.
6. If your horn button is feeling depressed – the Ahoogha sound will cheer it up!

The Ford part number group for the horn is A-13800 series. Five companies were contracted to make Model A horns: Sparton (Sparks-Withington Co.) 1927-1931, Ames (Heinze Electric Co.) 1927-early1930, Stewart-Warner 1928-1931, E.A.Laboratories(Emanuel Aufiero) 1927-1929, G.I.M (General Industries Manufacturing) 1929-1931.

