

Technical Notes

Bumper Clamp Safety Tip

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This safety tip is just something to think about. Original Model A bumper clamps were a one piece forging that was chrome plated in 1928, 1929, and early 1930. In 1930 and 1931 the clamps were a one piece forging with a stainless clad cap. The original bumper clamps are very strong and usually will not break. Our modern reproduction bumper clamps are made by one of the following four production processes.

- A pot metal casting poured around a bolt, also known as die casted. These are very cheap to purchase and have a high tendency to crack and break, especially if they are over tightened.
- Cast steel poured around a bolt. These are also prone to cracking and breaking. The more they are tightened the greater the chance of failure.
- Forged steel. These are like the original construction and very strong, they are also expensive.
- Forged stainless steel. These are bullet proof bumper clamps that are one piece and they do not break or rust. They too are also very expensive.

This is a safety thought. Do not over tighten your bumper clamps. They only need to be torqued between 25 to 30 foot pounds. More torque than that will place undue stress on the clamp. Make sure the lock washer is in good condition with spring. I use the reproduction 1928 Ford script bumper clamps on my Model A. These are a pot metal bumper clamp, so I also use a clear zip tie as a safety restraint. (Fig. 1&2) I would suggest using zip ties to anyone using the pot metal or cast steel bumper clamps. The zip ties will prevent the bumper from falling off of the Model A if the bumper clamp breaks. Use heavy duty-high strength nylon ties rated at 120 pounds of holding power. This type of strength is only made in the United States. It would not be much fun to run over your own bumper.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2

