

Technical Notes

Is Your Model "A" Acting Up?

By Lynn Sondenaa

For starters let's assume the Model A was running fine and this condition was a sudden change. We are also assuming that the engine is in good working condition, and by that I mean not bored over .080 and has cylinder compression of 55 or higher. The radiator and water jackets are clear with no blockage. The following is a short list of possible causes.

Backfire

- Faulty condenser
- Rich fuel mixture
- Manifold air leak at block gasket
- Manifold to exhaust pipe air leak

Overheating

- Incorrect timing (retarded is most common)
- Fuel mixture (too rich or too lean both have the same effect)
- Low water level

Loss of Power

- Fuel line restrictions
- Dirty carburetor jets
- Incorrect float level
- Timing is retarded
- Defective coil
- Burnt points
- Water in the gasoline

The above list was generated by problems that I have experienced over the years. I realize that a person could write a book on this topic. I just tried to create a short list of common causes. I also realize that you the reader could probably create your own list!