

Technical Notes

Model A Gasoline & Battery Care for Storage

By Lynn Sondenaa

If you want your Model A to start and run good after it has sat in storage for one to three months the following procedures should be followed to eliminate gasoline or electrical problems.

First, either drain the gasoline from the tank or fill the tank full and add a fuel stabilizer such as "STA-BIL", or "Sea-Foam". In my Model A, I add 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ounces of fuel stabilizer and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ounces of Marvel Mystery Oil. The Marvel Oil will help to lubricate the float valve, valves and valve guides in the Model A. Today's unleaded gasoline does not have the lubricating powers of the leaded gasoline. New cars often have aluminum heads with bronze bushings and guides which don't need near the lubrication as their predecessors of cast iron and steel valve systems.

If your fuel tank is not full there will be room for condensation to form, which in turn will cause water in the gasoline. The ethanol gasoline attracts moisture and when not used or sloshed around for 30 days can form a gel or gum like substance. This can plug the carburetor jets, micro screens or float valve.

Second, the battery should be disconnected or a battery maintainer charger be connected to the battery. Accumate is one of the top brands sold. It will bring the battery to a full charge and then it goes into a "stand-by" mode. These are not battery chargers, but maintainers. They are not designed to charge a dead battery. Disconnecting the battery is the safest practice. The battery terminal posts and cable ends should be cleaned with a solution of baking soda and water. They should also be sprayed with a protector & sealer to prevent corrosion. The battery terminal posts should have the felt treated corrosion arrestors placed on them. It would also be a good idea to coat the electrical contacts with dielectric grease. This will prevent corrosion on all electrical connections, such as distributor body contacts, spark plugs, light bulbs and wire connections.

If you follow the above practices your Model A will be in fine condition and ready for the touring season. You will also be a very happy person when your Model A fires right up!