

Technical Notes

Model "A" Tachometer

By Steve Pargeter

The Model "A" engine is limited to 2,700 revolutions per minute (RPM). This was a design objective of Ford since he believed in high torque low speed engines as the way to get performance and long life. Modern automobiles have very smooth high RPM engines so we naturally tend to over rev the Model "A" because of our experience with modern cars.

Since the Model "A" engine is limited in its RPM capability, a tachometer is very useful in keeping it under the maximum RPMs as well as knowing where the sweet spots are in the engine speed band. Our 6 volt positive ground electrical system makes finding a good tachometer more difficult than for a modern automobile but not impossible.

There is a company located in Sonoma, CA that makes custom tachometers so you can buy a four cylinder 6 volt positive ground tachometer that works very well. I recently bought one of their units and only waited about a week from the time I ordered it until it arrived. The tachometer I bought was a Westach 0-3500 RPM 4 cylinder 6v positive ground unit; part number 2CT32-6V and I added the 2" mounting cup, part number 692B-714 and the light package 186-6V. The total cost including shipping came to about \$150.



The tachometer face is shown on the left. It is a simple unit to wire up, on the back there are two pins, #2 and #5. You connect a wire from pin #2 to the passenger side of the coil and a wire from pin #5 to the driver's side of the coil. If you buy a light kit you will have to decide how to wire it. On my car I ran a wire from the light to ground and the other wire to my water temperature gauge's light. If you are

interested you can contact Westach at www.westach.com or by mail at 3400 Westach Way, Sonoma, CA 95476. The company has been in business since 1944 so they should be around if you ever need service. I have no connection to the company, I am just happy to find a tachometer that fits my car and works well and thought you might be interested.