



# THE MODEL T FORD

ITS REPAIR,  
SERVICE, AND  
RESTORATION

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## Replacing the Hand Brake Ratchet Pawl

The Ford hand brake and clutch lever pawl locks into the toothed quadrant on the frame rail. That little pawl frequently becomes worn so it cannot lock into the quadrant, which can lead to brake failure when parking the T with the hand brake engaged. Most of the time the quadrant teeth are good, but if they are worn, sometimes filing the teeth can help. If they are worn too much, replacement quadrants can be riveted onto the frame.

Replace the pawl by removing the special stepped rivet that acts as the pawl axle, so that it moves freely.



1) First remove the cross shaft from the frame, passing it under the chassis. Then remove the small cotter pin from the hand brake lever rod.



2) Locate the rivet end and grind it down to expose the rivet shaft.



3) Using a punch, drive out the rivet.



4) Test fit the new ratchet pawl on the new stepped rivet to be sure the action is free; if not, polish or sand the axle portion for smooth operation. A smear of grease on the axle portion of the rivet helps.



5) Cold peen the head of the rivet to the hand brake lever. Use a secure, hard, and flat surface for backing the larger side of the rivet to secure it.



6) Complete the task by fitting the lever rod and inserting the cotter pin, then test the action. The brake handle's flat spring should be in good condition as well. If not, replace it or use the accessory ratchet pawl spring - to fit one of those, open the circle end to wrap around the base of the control cross shaft, clip it shut, and place the hook end on the inside of the lever rod.



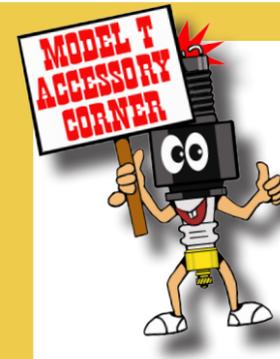
7) On the far left of this picture are two worn ratchet pawls and in the center is a new flat brake handle spring. On the far right is an accessory ratchet pawl spring - to fit one of those, open the circle end to wrap around the base of the control cross shaft, clip it shut, and place the hook end on the inside of the lever rod.



### OPERATE YOUR HANDBRAKE LEVER CAREFULLY!

When using the handbrake lever, always squeeze the handle to keep the ratchet pawl from dragging on the quadrant. That *click-click-click* noise is reassuring as you pull the lever back to engage it, but it sure does cause quick wear on the pawl and quadrant teeth!

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By Dan Treace  
Technical Editor

A showcase of aftermarket accessories from the past, often found on the Ford. Many thousands of inventive products were sold to dealers and owners to upgrade, customize, or improve over the factory parts...in most cases, not so much!

## Ratchet Wrench for Ford Transmission Bands

This thin ratchet wrench makes for easy adjusting of the brake and reverse bands.

Inscription on the wrench:  
FRANK MOSSBERG CO.  
ATTLEBORO, MASS. U.S.A.  
PAT. DEC 28, 1915  
FOR FORD REVERSE & BRAKE PEDAL BANDS.



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