



THE MODEL T FORD ITS REPAIR, SERVICE, AND RESTORATION

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A Simple Solution for Rust Removal

Heavy rust can be difficult to remove from small movable parts or tools when using mechanical means like a wire brush or sandblasting. An easier and more practical way to remove rust on ferrous metals is to use a mild solution of acid; such a method is described here, using a molasses and water solution. While many commercial solutions are available for rust removal, molasses is inexpensive and environmentally friendly. You can find it in gallon containers at farm and feed stores. Rust removal solutions won't remove grease, oils, or paint - the process only dissolves iron oxide rust - so the parts should be free of heavy dirt and grease before you place them in the mixture.

Using a large plastic container with a lid (plastic storage bins work great), make a mixture of 1 part molasses to 4 parts water. The mix is now 5 gallons, enough to fully submerge small parts. The parts need to be completely covered by the solution and, while it will take some time for the rust to dissolve - 3 to 5 days on average, the clean-up is fast. Use a container with a snug fitting lid to help keep the odor low, as it is an organic mix. Some evaporation may still occur, so add more water to the solution at any time. The mixture can be re-used for months. Be sure to wrap a wire or string on the parts to make them easier to retrieve from the mixture.

The Ford screw jack in the picture to the right was found in badly rusted condition for just \$2, as no parts would move. After soaking for one week in the molasses bath, the jack was removed and, with a jet stream of water, was stripped of all rust.

While soaking time can vary, rust removal is usually faster in the summer months because the solution is warm; a cold solution requires a prolonged soak. Check on the solution periodically to inspect the rust removal progress. Typically, a black residue will form on the part that is easy to wash off, or use a soap solution if needed.



A gallon jug of feed grade molasses can be found at farm and feed stores for about \$10.



Be sure to fully submerge the part(s) in the molasses solution for the most effective rust removal action.

Immediately after washing off the molasses mixture, the bare metal part will begin to rust again. Apply a preservative, like primer or paint, as soon as possible after fully drying the part.

A black residue will form on the surface of the part(s) as rust dissolves.



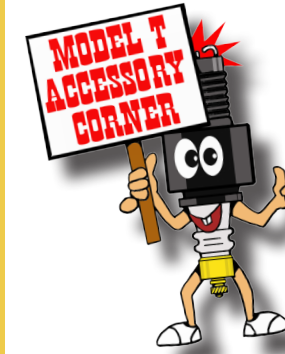
The effective rust removal solution revealed details not able to be seen previously, and restored the jack to operating condition.



These parts that were soaked in a molasses solution were washed and are now free of all rust.



This jack stand is preserved with a spray rust primer with a black finish.



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!

By Dan Treace
Technical Editor

Y-D Electric Cigar Lighter

Just for the smoker! Long before car manufacturers supplied cigarette lighters, you could get one for your Ford. They were clip-mounted to the steering column, with a long wire to allow full access when lighting up!



Accessory courtesy of David Baker, Oklahoma City, OK