



THE MODEL T FORD ITS REPAIR, SERVICE, AND RESTORATION

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Front Axle Radius Rod Installation

The front axle radius rod (wishbone) has the important function of stabilizing the axle, to ensure good control of the front wheels and steering. Fitting the radius rod is best done with the front axle in place, with the wheels mounted so the chassis is down and the engine weight assists with fitting the radius rod ball to the crankcase socket.

Check the condition of the radius rod for straightness, and that each perch end hole is not worn oblong for the tapered perch nut used from 1921-27. The ball end should be fully spherical, 1.250" (approximately 31.7 mm) diameter, without any egg-shaped wear.



Chassis ready for installing the front axle radius rod



Perch end of radius rod showing round hole, not oblong

Using a support to lift and hold the radius rod up, attach each end of the radius rod to the spring perches, then place the perch nuts and tighten each securely. Fit the cotter pins to safely retain these nuts.



Using a jack with support under the radius rod, apply copious grease to the ball end of the rod and the socket under the crankcase. Jack up the radius rod to secure the ball in the socket.

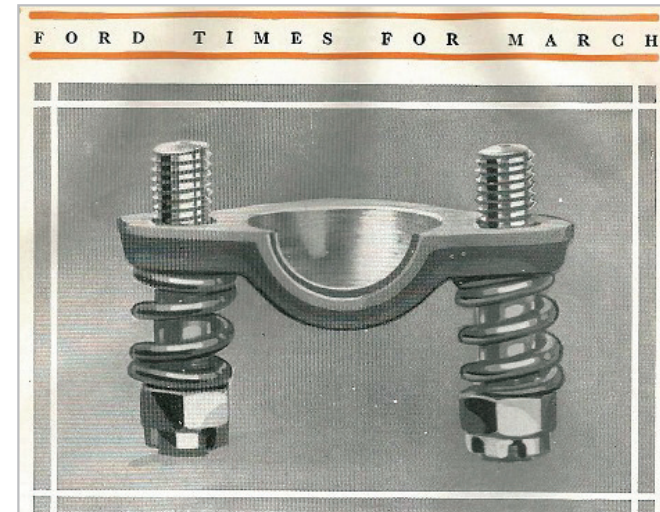


Jack with wood support used to lift the radius rod into the crankcase socket



Greased cap in place with springs compressed, castle nuts awaiting safety wiring

Complete the installation by adding the radius rod ball cap, the two springs, and the castle nuts to the threaded studs on the socket. Wire each castle nut to each other, running the safety wire through each stud so they can't become loose. The compressed springs allow the ball to move slightly with the axle, in the fashion of Ford's three-point suspension.



Front radius rod ball cap

Owners Should Get New Cap, Studs and Springs

All Model T cars have for some time been provided with the type of front radius rod ball cap illustrated above. The tension produced by the springs is sufficient to take up any wear or play that may develop at this point. The new cap, studs and springs may be purchased from any

of our Branch Houses and will apply to all Model T cars put out in previous seasons.

We are calling attention to this improvement, in view of the fact that owners are buying all sorts of devices from outside concerns which may or may not accomplish the desired end.

Ford spring fitted cap

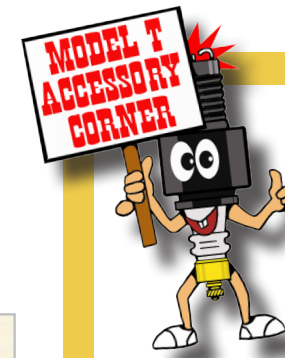
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did you KNOW?



Technical articles, tips, and a digital library with Model T manuals are available at the club's website at no cost.

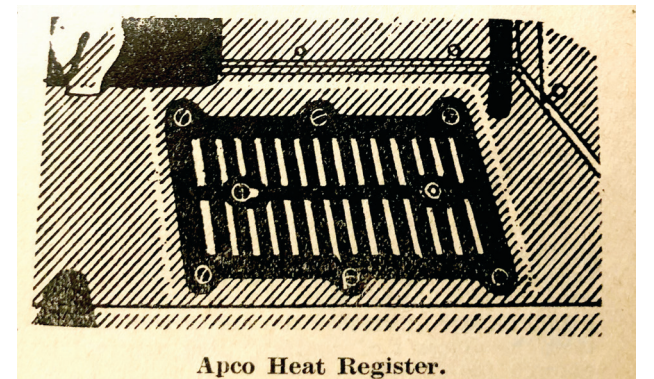
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by Dan Treace
Technical Editor

Floorboard Heat Register

Useful in cold weather, heater vent plates were mounted on the floorboard over the exhaust pipe near the manifold. Some had sheet metal covers over the pipe to pull fresh, heated air into the passenger compartment. The nifty register lid could be adjusted to limit the heated air supplied.



Apco Heat Register.