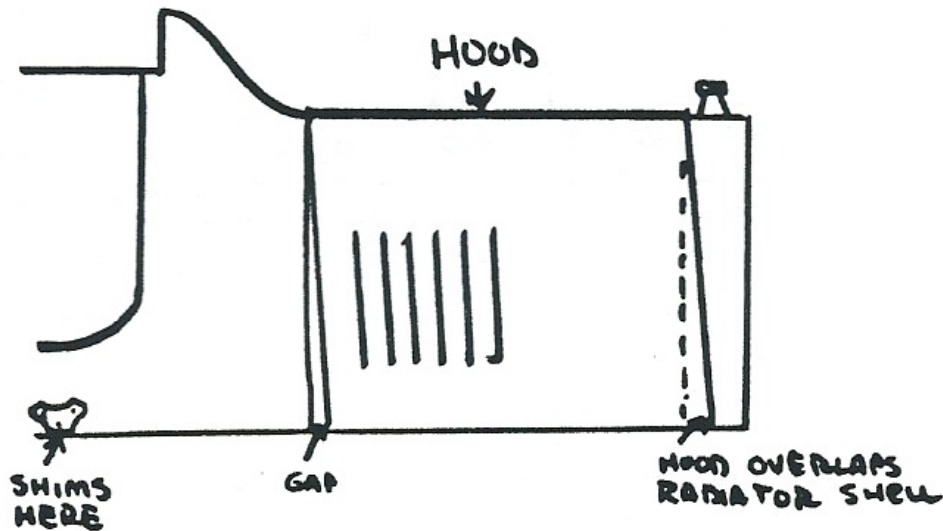


Aligning the Hood on your Model T

After completing the restoration of a 1921 touring, we noticed the hood did not align up very well with the body and radiator shell. It appeared the body was sitting too low with relation to the radiator, yet after close inspection it was determined that the frame was straight and the body was aligned properly. The problem was that the bottom of the hood, closest to the hood cleat, overlapped the radiator shell at the front corner of the hood. From the rear of the hood, a gap could be seen between the body and the bottom corner of the hood. See the example below:



The solution proved to be fairly easy. The body was raised in relation to the height of the radiator, and this was accomplished by placing shims between the front and middle body brackets and frame brackets. It was important to keep the number and thickness of the shims the same on the right and left side of the frame so the body would not acquire a tilt. It was equally important to place shims between the middle frame and body brackets in order to keep the door alignment correct.

When everything was tightened down, the hood fit perfectly and no longer rubbed the paint from the radiator shell. As the cowl of the body was now higher, the hood also fit tighter, reducing the number of rattles. This small adjustment, which I'm sure Ford would never have done on the assembly line, made the restoration of the car that much nicer!!!