



THE MODEL T FORD

ITS REPAIR, SERVICE, AND RESTORATION

DAN TREACE
MTFCI Technical Editor

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 76
Earleton, FL 32631
USA

E-mail:
tmodelman@comcast.net

Phone:
(904) 616-4362

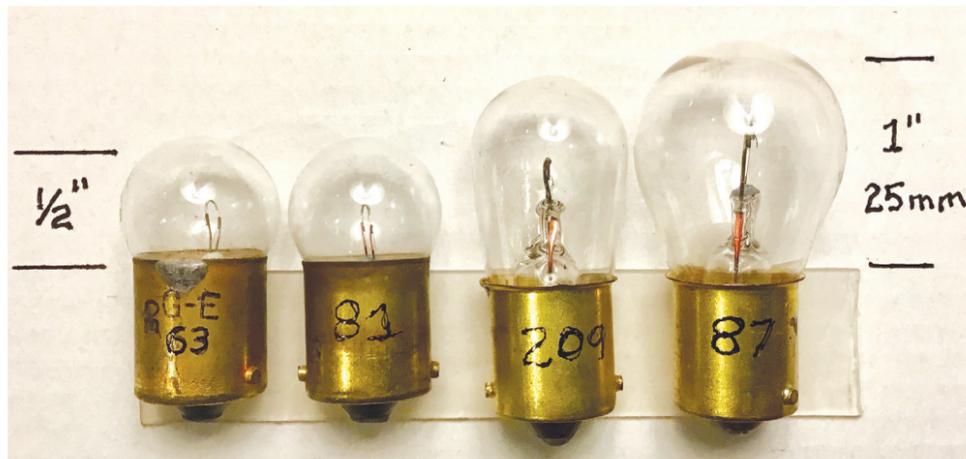
Bulbs for Electric Tail and Stop Lamps

For today's driving, the old Ford should have good tail lamps or stop lamps for better visibility. Many states require specific vehicle lighting equipment, including dual rear red tail lamps, stop lamps, and even turn indicators, so be sure to check your local laws.

Typically, most states allow factory equipment and, for our Fords, that is pretty simple: a single red tail lamp with license plate illumination. Adding extra lamps improves upon the basic equipment.

Many styles of lamps are available, from modern lamp housings to vintage ones. Since I prefer lighting that is more period correct, I like to find vintage clearance lamps with red glass lenses. When choosing a lamp, one can select a single contact socket or dual contact socket, but the bulb type has to match. A dual socket will accommodate a bulb with twin filaments and twin wires, for combination tail and stop lighting; most of the combo bulbs for automotive use are 12 volts. The single socket can be suitable for tail or stop lighting by fitting the proper bulb, with sufficient candlepower (CP), to be seen well at a distance.

On my '23 cut-off wood bed Pickup, the electrical system is 6 volt DC. The incandescent bulbs listed in the first table fit the typical single socket, are bayonet base (BA15S, where 's' is for single contact), straight pin, and have globe sizes 1/2" to 1" high that can be placed into most small vintage housings.



6 V Bulb ID*	Voltage	Amps	Candlepower (CP)	Comment
#63	7	.63	3	Typical tail lamp; approx. 4.4 watts
#81	6.5	1.0	6	Brighter tail lamp; approx. 6.6 watts
#209	6.5	1.78	12	For stop lamp; approx. 11 watts
#87	6.8	1.91	15	For stop lamp; approx. 12 watts

For those with 12 volt DC conversions, some 12 volt BA15S bulbs are available to use in single contact lamp housings. The advantage with these is that the overall bulb height is similar.

12 V Bulb ID*	Voltage	Amps	Candlepower (CP)	Comment
#1155	13.5	.59	6	For tail lamp; approx. 8 watts
#97	13.5	.69	8	For stop lamp; approx 9.3 watts

*Bulb Town, www.bulbtown.com (site search these automotive miniature bulbs by ID #)



Newer and vintage clearance lamps suitable for tail lamp or stop lamp use



Clearance lamps mounted under my wood Pickup bed, one on each side. They are wired to a switch connected to the brake pedal. . . .

For previous technical articles printed in the *Model T Times*, visit www.modelt.org and click on "Model T Ford Repair, Service, & Restoration".

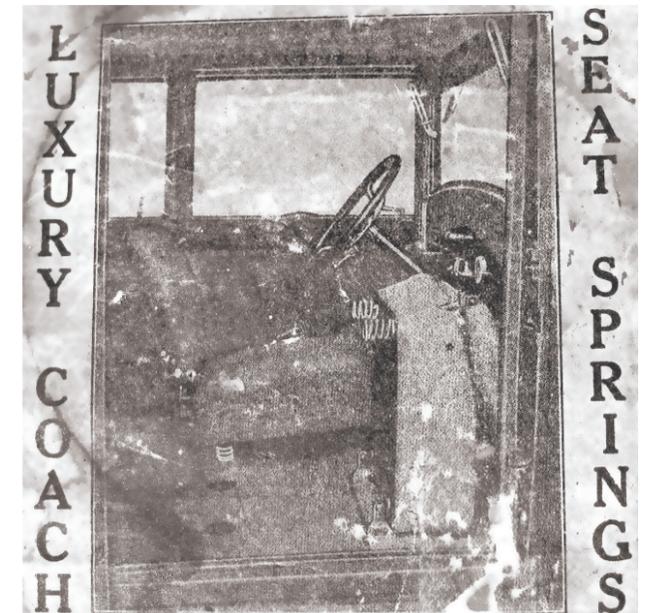


A showcase of aftermarket accessories from the past, often found on the Ford. Many thousands of inventive products were sold to dealers and owners to upgrade, customize, or improve over the factory parts...in most cases not so much!

By Dan Treace
Technical Editor

Comfort Seat Springs for the Sedan

These special coil springs mount to the rear base of folding Sedan seats. The spring action provides more comfort to the driver and passenger by helping absorb the motion caused by the harsh bumps and lumps on the roads.



Accessory courtesy of David Baker, Oklahoma City, OK