



THE MODEL T FORD

ITS REPAIR, SERVICE, AND RESTORATION

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Grease Cups or Zerk Fittings

The use of a modern Zerk fitting at the grease cup points on the T chassis is popular because of the ease of using a hand pump instead of twisting the covers on the grease cups supplied on the Ford. Some like to hide the modern fitting inside the grease cup to maintain an authentic appearance. Vendors in the hobby supply these special cups with the Zerk installed.



Adapt Grease Fitting to Cup

The chore of the grease cup lubrication system on the Model T can be made easier, neater, less messy by taking a regular grease cup and inserting a grease fitting inside. The grease fitting used was either a 1/4-28 thread or a standard 1/2 pipe thread. The bottom part of the cup assembly was tapped out to take the fitting. Those that were not tapped have the correct size for tapping for the new grease fitting. The tap should run right in.

From the pictures below you will note that the original appearance is maintained. To grease the car, just unscrew the cap and insert your grease gun and give a few pumps. Wipe off the excess grease and reinstall the cap.

BY KENT ARMSTRONG
MODEL T TIMES, NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1978

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The Ford Instruction Manual advises "... fill the dope (grease) cup covers, screw them down, refill with grease, and repeat operation 2 or 3 times." The Chassis Lubrication Chart notes 500 miles between rear axle outer bearing grease cup refills. The Manual further states "... axles, drive shaft and universal joint are well supplied with lubricant when the car leaves the factory, but it is well to examine and oil them frequently."

For owners, a re-greasing schedule is subject to individual requirements and perhaps the types of seals in the rear axle. Certainly, maintenance is required, rather than none at all. Determining the amount of grease to use at each period isn't easy to conclude. With modern grease retaining inner and outer axle seals now available, loss of axle bearing grease is likely minimal compared to the loss from lack of original factory seals other than simple felt. Ford did install a leather inner seal, but only in the later years.

To assist in estimating the amount of grease to apply, a comparison is presented with Zerk fitting 1/8" pipe thread size vs. grease cup cover using a standard Ford outer rear bearing grease or dope cup. The orifices of each are different, approximately 1/8" (3.175 mm) diameter for the grease cup, and 3/32" (2.36 mm) diameter on the Zerk. The grease cup cover was filled,

re-filled, and twisted down three times, as noted in the Ford Instruction Book. The Zerk fitting was pumped with three complete handle strokes, using a 12" (304.8 mm) long cartridge lever-handled grease gun.

Results show a similar volume of grease distributed. When paddled over a Hyatt rear axle roller bearing, a substantial smear is introduced. Seemingly, one or two full pumps on the Zerk, or one or two full cup covers twisted, provides a neat replenishing of fresh grease at each desired maintenance period.

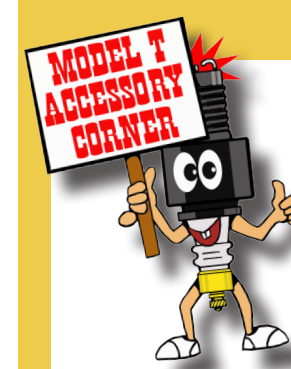


Results from applying grease with the traditional grease cup



Results from applying grease via the Zerk fitting

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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

Auxiliary Front Axle Radius Rod

Ford above-axle wishbones, or radius rods, changed to an under-axle design in 1919. As the axle position needs to be maintained, these accessories for the early above-axle rods made double reinforcement of the radius rod, which helps to prevent bending and aids in stabilizing the correct axle position for easy steering and wheel tracking.



Made of steel tubing. The steel clamps are two piece type. Lower half is tapped and slotted, permitting easy adjustment of auxiliary rod. Will not rattle, keeps the axle straight, makes lighter running, easier steering and lessens vibration. We can furnish the Auxiliary Radius Rod also in Angle Iron at the same price as the one made of steel tubing. Specify which you desire.
No. 86X4304. Price..... **.59**