



THE MODEL T FORD

ITS REPAIR, SERVICE, & RESTORATION

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Hints for Storing the Model T

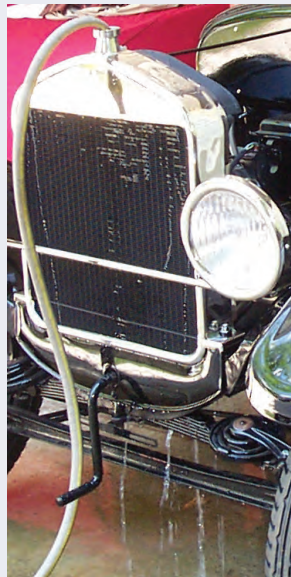
Putting the Model T into temporary storage is a regular task for many owners. These hints may help ensure that the next touring season is filled with more fun than tinkering time trying to get the ol' T running well!

Cosmetically, a good cleaning of the body, upholstery, and top should be done first, with some wax or polish on the painted surfaces. Wipe the upholstery and top with cleaners or preservatives suitable for the materials.

First, service the chassis and engine. Drain and refill the crankcase with fresh oil. Many people use a transmission screen and that should be cleaned after removing the floorboards and the transmission cover door. While there, fill and turn the grease dope cups on the driveline; the larger U-joint cup should be filled until grease can be seen oozing out of the U-joint. Ford recommended filling and turning these cups several times. Fill and turn the grease cups at the outer rear axle bearings. Using an oil can, lubricate the kingpins, tie rod, and front and rear springs. While greasing and oiling, check over the moving parts and look for any loose fasteners or missing cotter pins.

If the cooling system hasn't been flushed in a year, drain it and flush with running water until the flow out of the radiator drain is clear. If the drain is slow, push a nail into the petcock to clear it of debris. Close the petcock and refill with a 50/50 mix of distilled water and anti-freeze. Check the hose condition and hose clamps for any drips after filling.

The carburetor should be drained by first closing the gas tank shut-off. Then open the drain valve under the carburetor bowl and drain out the gasoline. The gas in the gas tank should be treated with a storage additive



to prevent the development of tainted gas. By draining gas out of the carburetor, the float needle and float stay in good condition. Place a note on the dash to remind you to close the drain valve prior to opening the gas tank!



Storing gasoline in the carburetor bowl will result in residue accumulating in the bowl, as shown in the top picture. The Vitron tip float needle was stuck due to tainted fuel, which caused the plastic tip to adhere to the seat of the float needle valve and resulted in a leaking carburetor at start up.

The battery can be removed and stored in the garage and checked for water level, or place the charger leads on the battery for remote access. *Leaving the storage battery on an unattended battery or trickle charger can be a fire hazard.* It's best to charge it from time to time and monitor this activity.

Finally, air up the tires to recommended pressures. Using jack stands is the preferred method to preserve the tires, as relieving them of the car's weight is a good thing for storage. When the T is up on jack stands, or just parked, be sure to release the clutch/emergency brake lever, leaving it all the way forward. That releases the clutch coil spring and forces

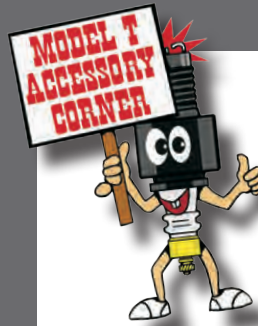


the clutch plates together, squeezing out oil that could congeal and make for harder starting in the new season.

Some may use a storage cover made of breathable light cloth material. These are helpful to retard dust collection on your freshly cleaned paint and upholstery.



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By Dan Treace
Technical Editor

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!

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20 to 30 minutes

To display the "Hoffman" sign stamps a service station as a strictly first class institution—giving only the highest class service and using only the best and most efficient materials and equipment.

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