



THE MODEL T FORD

ITS REPAIR, SERVICE, AND RESTORATION

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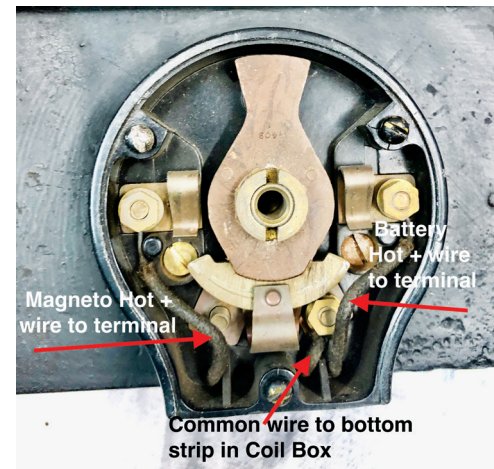
Rebuilding a Switch Faced Metal Coil Box

The typical non-starter Ford coil box (1914-1922) with the ignition switch mounted on the face uses the same wood panels and terminals found in the later coil boxes. Restoring the wood parts and terminals is similar with both styles of coil boxes. The switch faced box, however, differs in the wiring to the common bottom strip and to the porcelain standoffs for the magneto and a battery (if equipped by the owner).

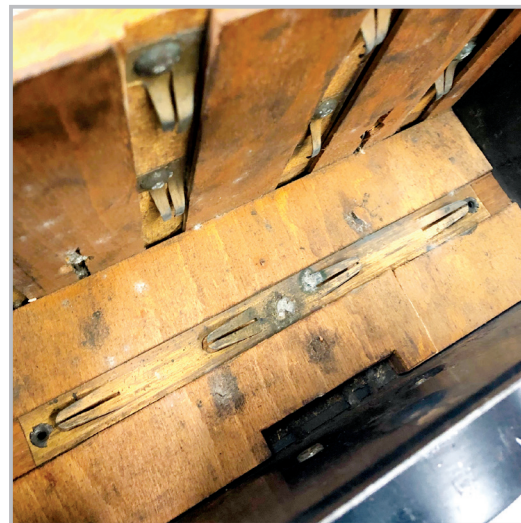
The rebuilding process includes removing and repairing the switch, if needed, and mostly just replacing the wires to the switch. The illustration to the right shows where the wires are placed on the switch and where they run from the lower front of the metal box to the underside of the bottom wood panel, in grooves provided.

The wires are insulated from the metal box with fabric tape, or Gorilla adhesive tape works well, too. Additionally, an insulated fiber gasket is placed behind the switch to isolate the open rear of the molded switch body and its contents from the metal box.

When cleaning the porcelain standoffs, soaking with denture cleaner tablets can restore them to a bright white. The same solution is good for cleaning tarnish off the brass terminal strips and clips. Below are the steps in restoring the coil box.



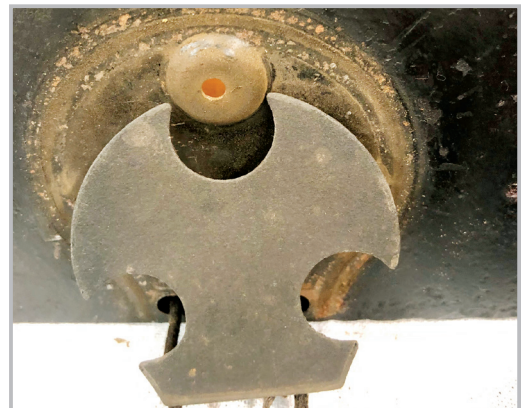
The location of the switch wires



1) Old wood needs to be replaced and terminal strips need to be cleaned in order to be reused



2) Remove the wires from the terminals and the three brass screws and nuts to lift the switch away from coil box



3) Remove the insulating gasket from behind the switch



4) Remove wood screws to release back and base panels



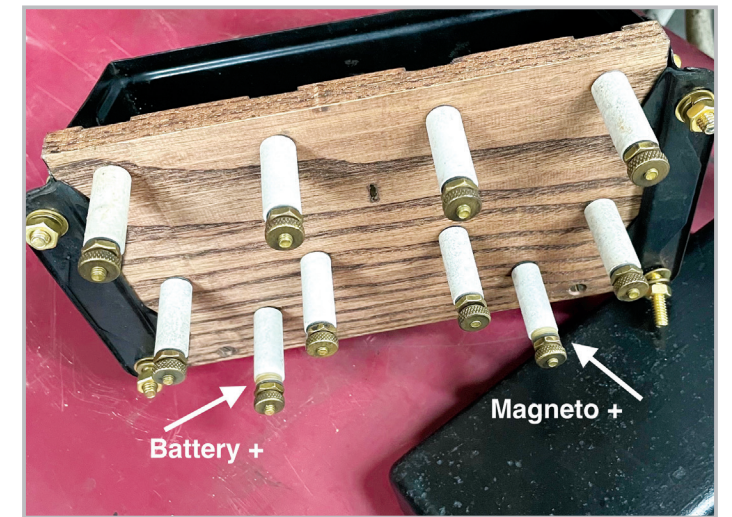
5) Add tape over wires for insulation



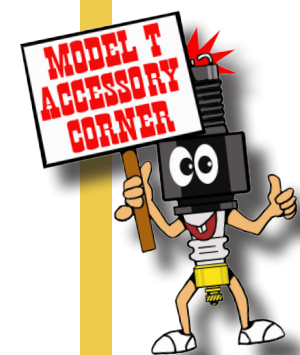
6) Lace new wires to the switch. Install gasket behind switch before fastening to coil box.



7) Rebuilt coil box with brass nameplate over switch



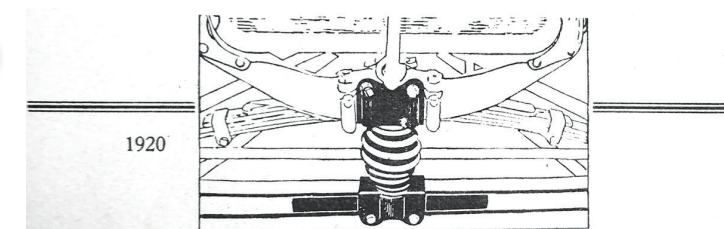
8) The back of the rebuilt coil box, with porcelain standoffs cleaned and installed with new screw fasteners



by Dan Treace
Technical Editor

Gemco Front Coil Spring

A coil spring added to the center of the axle to assist in comfort when traveling bumpy roads. The clamped upper part of the coil is fitted to the front leaf spring for extra support.



"Bumping the Bumps" may be fun in an amusement park, but not in a Ford. Why let rough roads get the best of you when real riding comfort can be secured by installing the Gemco Tri-Chek on the front of your Ford between the spring and axle.

Gemco Manufacturing Co.

