

# ***LETS KEEP OUR MODEL A HAPPY***

*By Claude Sipe, Tech Advisor*

## **LUBRICATION INTERVALS**

Good lubrication maintenance is very important to keep your Model "A" operating trouble free. Most of us drive our Model "A" quite differently than our "Regular Vehicle"

So most of us follow a different lubrication schedule. I randomly surveyed 15 club members and asked the same questions to get a feel for what is actually happening as far as lubrication maintenance on Model "As" is concerned. The following questions were asked and the answers are as follows:

Does your engine have a stock oil system or pressure system. 13 stock----12 pressure

how often do you change your engine oil? 500 miles-1, 1000 miles-3, 2000 miles-2, 3000 miles-1, 3 months -2, 6 months -1, 12 months -5

what type of oil do you use? 10/30 detergent -13, 30 non detergent -1, synth 1

do you always change the filter when you change oil? Yes 6---no filter 9

how often do you lube the chassis? 500 miles -1, 1000 miles -2, 2000 miles 1 6months -3, 12 months 7

Before you drive your Model "A" do you check, Engine oil, coolant level, & visually for soft tires? Yes 12---no 3

How often do you check and fill the rear end & transmission? Every lube job -7, 3 months -2, 1 year-4, never 2

Do you do most of your own maintenance? Yes 15--- no 0

Do you keep a good written record of your maintenance? Yes-9 no-6

As you can see we don't all follow the same schedule! Also I'm sure we don't all drive our vehicles the same way or the same amount. If you are currently happy with your lubrication schedule then don't change it! I am sure everyone I talked to can justify, in their own mind, why their schedule is right for their car, and again if they are happy I wouldn't want them to change! However if you don't have a schedule or are new to Model "A's" I would like to suggest the following for a vehicle that most likely won't go over 100 miles a month.

First there is no substitute for good written records! All maintenance and repairs should be logged showing; the date, mileage, what was done, and any parts replaced.

I personally like to see this record kept in the vehicle so if you have trouble on the road the record is with you.

At the beginning of the tour season change the engine oil, lube the chassis check/fill transmission & rear end, perform a complete safety check, and repair all defects found! A little caution on the chassis lube, Be very careful lubing the front brake actuators, and the rear wheel bearings, as the grease can get on the brake shoes! One small “squirt” is plenty on these fittings. Also the rear water pump bearing can contaminate the coolant so be sure to use “water soluble” grease [boat wheel bearing grease] and don’t over do it! The tendency is to overgrease everything so be careful. Also don’t forget the “oil can” lube points on the generator, throttle linkage, and distributor. This entire operation should take less than 3 hours not counting repairs. I prefer to use 10/30 detergent oil for the engine, and if we drive a lot in one year, say a trip to Southern California or up to Oregon then I’ll change the oil again, otherwise I don’t change it until the end of touring season, about September. So basically I change the oil every six months and do a complete lube job and safety inspection every twelve months. In the interim period I watch for “abnormal oil spots” under my car and investigate these as well as “strange or new noises” I know my schedule for maintenance does not agree with what Henry Ford recommended back in 1929 when this car was new but lots of things have changed since then. The roads are much better, and we have grease fittings that don’t allow the grease to pound out, the grease itself is much more durable, as is the engine oil. With the modern multiviscosity detergent oils we have much better lubrication over a much wider temperature range and the contaminants are held suspended in the oil instead of collecting on the internal engine parts. I also do a “quick check” every time I drive the car, including engine oil, coolant, and tires.



I have found if I keep my Model “A” Happy it will keep me Happy

Your tech Advisor

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