

Reproduction U-joint

by Tom Endy

Once again it appears the Model A Kingdom has been assaulted with an incorrect reproduction part that is causing considerable grief. A recent post on the Fordbarn web site described a Model A owner's frustrating effort to install a reproduction Model A U-joint only to discover that once all was back together the diameter was too wide and it contacted the inner shell of the U-joint housing.



The U-joint on the left is correct; the U-joint on the right is incorrect. Note the protrusion on the sides.

One of the posters on the Fordbarn web site string was Don Snyder, owner of Snyder's Antique Auto Parts. He confirmed in his post that the new reproduction U-joints are made incorrectly and will not fit inside the U-joint housing. His quote is below.

That's why we quit selling new universal joints. They are not made right and they have a clearance issue. The OD of the assembled universal joint is bigger than it's supposed to be. I would try to find a good original one.

Don Snyder.

Many thanks to Don Snyder for confirming this problem; you can't get better conformation than from this quality supplier.

One wonders how many of these incorrect U-joints are being sold by other suppliers and how many of them are now out there.

I checked the diameter of my stash of seven used serviceable U-joints; some are the non-rebuildable type and some are the rebuildable type. All came off the back of transmissions I acquired. The non-rebuildable measure 3.630 inches across both diameters. The rebuildable type measure 3.640 inches across both diameters. The non-rebuildables do not have a part number on them, but do have an "M" stamped on them, which I believe stands for Motocraft. One of the rebuildables has the part number B-7091 stamped on it, so it must be original Ford.

Before installing a U-joint, best to check the diameter to be sure you are not installing one of these incorrect U-joints. Before I would buy a reproduction U-joint, even a correct one (because of the cost), I would purchase a used one either from on-line or at a swap meet. There are still plenty around. At the big swap meets here in California they usually can be found for \$35-to \$45.

Good Grief!



Good grief! And that's what it was. That hairline crack shown on the top of this Zenith float caused it to fill up with gas over time until it finally sank and flooded the carburetor.