

# Technical Tip:

by Tom Endy

On a long tour it is sometimes necessary to fill the gas tank to its full capacity. In order to do this easily without fighting the rubber boot on the gas nozzle a PVC pipefitting can be temporarily inserted into the gas tank opening. The required fitting is inexpensive and can be obtained from any home supply store. Simply remove the gas cap and insert the fitting. The height of the fitting is just about right to push the rubber boot back and allow the tank to be filled to the very top. The fitting can be stored in one of the door pockets for handy access.



**1&1/2 inch PVC pipefitting**



**PVC pipe fitting in gas tank filler opening**

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Reproduction gas caps have a quality issue that can cause you some amount of grief. A large single rivet in the center on the bottom of the cap holds the assembly together. The rivet goes through the bottom metal grabbing device, a red colored gasket, and a large brass flat washer. Off to the side is drilled a vent hole through all three parts. Without a vent hole the tank would experience a vacuum lock as the gas in the tank is depleted. Eventually it would stop the gravity flow of gas to the carburetor and the car would appear to run out of gas.

It is possible, and extremely likely, that as the cap is twisted on and off the tank numerous times, one or more of the three parts will rotate out of position on the center rivet. When this happens the vent hole will be blocked off and the vacuum thing will happen. When you remove the cap you are liable to hear a “Whoosh” sound as air rushes into the tank to equalize the vacuum.

Before you allow the vent hole to become blocked it is a good idea to modify the cap. Drill a second hole through the three pieces. Be careful not to drill clear through the top of the cap, just the three pieces. Tap the hole for a 6-32 screw. Lock-tight or epoxy it in place so it won't fall out into the gas tank. The screw will prevent the three parts from rotating out of position and the vent hole will maintain alignment through the three separate parts.



**Modified gas cap with a small rivet epoxyed into place opposite from the vent hole.**