

Turn Signals

by Tom Endy

Hand signals in the first half of the 20th century were a common sight. Most drivers understood them, although they didn't always use them. In today's world most young people don't have a clue. Often when using a hand signal they think you are waving at them.

For this reason installing turn signals on a Model A Ford is a prudent thing to do. Turn signal kits are readily available from most Model A suppliers. Several of the kits install almost totally out of sight.

The kit I installed in my Victoria came from Bratton's Antique Auto. It comes in two versions, 6-volt (part number 18770) and 12-volt (part number 18771). The kits are pricey, however, they are well engineered, well made, and come with easy to follow installation instructions. The kit also includes an emergency flasher feature.

In order to install the kit the Model A must have cowl lights and two rear brake\tail lights. The kit will utilize both cowl lights as the front signals without eliminating the use of the cowl lights as originally designed. The rear brake lights will operate as turn signals along with normal brake light operation.

The small turn signal operating lever is mounted almost out of sight under the lower left side of the dash rail. A small "beeper" is mounted behind the dash rail to audibly signal the turn signals are in operation. This is extremely handy, as the driver must cancel the turn signals manually after completing a turn. The beeper keeps you reminded the signal lever is turned on. The emergency flasher switch is located almost out of sight on the left kick panel. When activated all four turn signals are activate along with the beeper.

Brighter cowl light bulbs can be purchased from Bratton's that can be substituted for the original 3-candle power bulbs. The 6-volt part number is 18480, and is a 10-candle power bulb. The 12-volt part number is 18520, and is a 6-candle power bulb. Extremely bright LED tail\brake light assemblies can also be purchased from Bratton's that offer an added safety feature.



The turn signal switch is mounted under the left side of the dash rail. The emergency flasher is mounted to the left kick panel.



An added feature to the installation was the inclusion of two very small signal lights mounted on a bracket that just peeks out from under the dash rail. The light on the left is red; the light on the right is green. They flash in concert with whichever signal lights are flashing.

If you do decide to incorporate LED brake\tail lights be certain to replace the bulbs in the cowl lights with the higher power ones so there will be enough current draw to cause the signal flasher to operate.