

# Ryan Overdrive

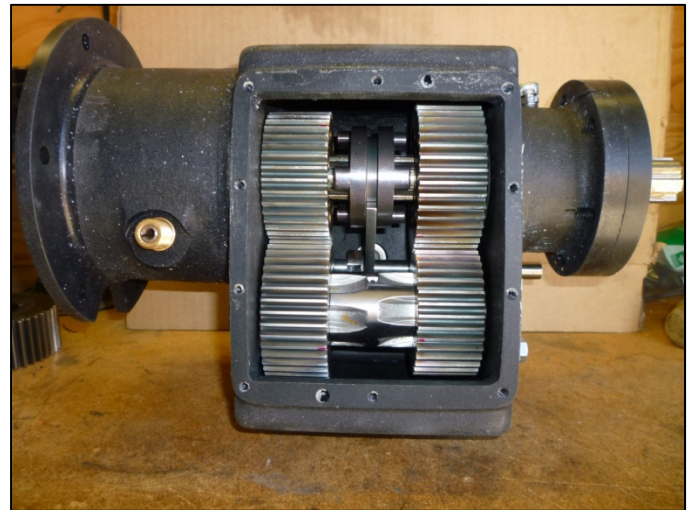
by Tom Endy

The Ryan overdrive is a factory built overdrive designed for the Model a Ford. They were manufactured in Denver, Colorado and marketed between 1990 and 2000. They were discontinued sometime after that, however, quite a few were sold. They were available in two gear ratios 33% and 23%. The operation of the overdrive was very simple it shifts with a single shift lever on the floor. All the way back is out of overdrive, shifting forward there is a neutral position, and all the way forward it is in overdrive. The shifting in and out of overdrive is accomplished by pushing in the clutch and shifting. There is a unique built in synchromesh. The design is very simple with four robust gears that do not come out of mesh with each other. There is a mechanism between two sets of gears that moves laterally to lock the input and output shaft together for out of overdrive; when shifted into overdrive all four gears are in the drive train.

The Ryan overdrive is not compatible with the Victoria, the A-400, and the 1931 two door phaeton as it conflicts with the dropped floor pan. In order to provide the required clearance in my Victoria I had to remove the dropped floor pan and cut away the back portion that is under the back seat and have a panel welded in place.



The 23% Ryan overdrive installed in my Victoria in 1994 has over 50,000 miles on it. The back of the dropped floor pan was cut away to provide clearance for the overdrive.



A Ryan overdrive still new in the box was discovered at a swap meet. The four gears never come out of mesh. The two on the right are replaced to change from a 23% to a 33% This one is a 23%.



The new Ryan 23% overdrive installed on a newly overhauled rear axle assembly:



A single shift handle does the shifting: