

Rear Spring Cross Piece

by Tom Endy 2020

The rear spring on a Model A Ford is a 7-leaf for roadsters, an 8-leaf for coups and Tudors, and a 10-leaf for sedans and pick-ups. The rear spring is mounted to the frame with two U-bolts. The U-bolts are the same size for all Model A cars. In order to accommodate the different thickness of the rear spring the cross piece at the bottom of the U-bolt comes in two different thickness sizes. A 1 1/8" thick cross piece accommodates the 7-leaf and 8-leaf springs. A 5/8" thick cross piece accommodates the 10-leaf springs. It is important that the correct cross piece be used with a given spring. Two are required for each spring installation.

If a 7-leaf or 8-leaf spring is installed using a 5/8" cross piece it will not allow the rear axle assembly to be properly secured to the frame of the car because the nuts will have bottomed out on the threads of the U-bolts before the spring is secured to the frame, which will create an unsafe condition. If a 10-leaf spring were to be mounted using the 1 1/8 cross piece, I don't think you could get the nuts on the U-bolts all the way.

Both size cross pieces are carried by most suppliers. Snyders refers to it as a "rear spring clip bar". (part numbers A-5708-A and A-5708-B). Bratton's refer to it as a "rear spring center bottom plate" (part numbers 7510 and 7520).



The rear spring mounting cross piece comes in two thickness sizes, make sure you have the correct one for the spring you are mounting. Two are required for each spring.