

## A Word About the Glass in Your Model A

Last month, we discussed the importance of having seat belts installed in your Model A and always using them. This discussion came about because of a recent accident involving a Model A without seat belts where the passenger died and the driver suffered serious multiple injuries. One injury to the driver was a severely lacerated arm that was partly the result of the side window glass shattering and the razor sharp glass shards cutting into his arm. The side windows in this Model A were just plain plate glass and not safety glass.

All Model A Fords were originally manufactured using laminated safety glass in the windshields. It was not until March of 1931 that laminated safety glass could also be ordered for the side and rear windows. The exception was all glass in the Town Car and the divider and rear compartment glass in the taxi was laminated.

Unless your Model A is a very original un-restored car that is used mostly show and educational purposes, you should seriously consider replacing any non safety glass windows with safety glass. When a plate glass side window breaks as a result of an accident, resultant razor sharp glass shards often inflict very serious injuries. The use of safety glass will often reduce or eliminate injuries caused by broken glass.

There are 2 basic types of safety glass, laminated and tempered. Up until the 1950's, all automotive safety glass was of the laminated type, where a thin clear vinyl sheet is bonded between 2 thin layers of glass. When laminated glass breaks, the pieces of the broken glass stay bonded to the flexible lamination and do not fly around within the passenger area. In the 1950's tempered safety glass became more widely used in side and rear windows. When tempered glass breaks, it will shatter into very small pieces that usually will not cause serious injury.

When replacing the glass in your Model A, always install Laminated Safety Plate Glass in the windshield. This will break but not shatter. For side and rear windows however, you have the choice of using Laminated or tempered safety glass. Personally, I like to use laminated glass. If broken, it will usually stay intact. This will allow your car to still be weather tight until you can replace the broken glass. This can be very helpful if you should break a side window when on a tour. Most Model A Parts suppliers can provide safety glass for your car.

## Model A Ford Windshield Trademarks



## Tech Tip

When replacing the glass in the roll up windows in your Model A, it is also a good time to replace the window channels or as some refer to as the "runs". Also replace the top seals and if necessary, the metal glass mounting bottom channels. Be sure to remove, clean, lubricate and, rebuild or replace the operating regulators. New glass installed with good channels and properly operating regulators will restore the roll up windows in your Model A back to the way they worked when your car was new.

### Parts Involved in Replacing Side Windows



Regulator



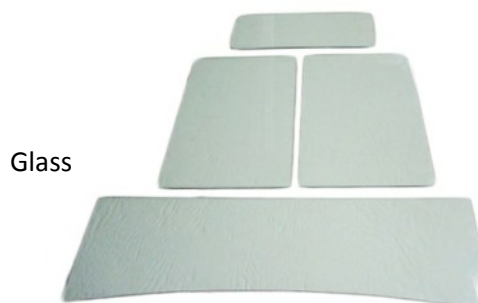
Steel Channel



Seal Kit



Felt Channel



Glass