

## Happiness Is a Clean Gas Tank in Your Model A

Most of us have had to deal with a problem with the fuel system in our Model A's and often it is a result of a gas tank that is not clean. For many years, we have been dealing with problems that is caused by rust in the tank that can plug up the fuel line and shut off valve or will even find its way into the carburetor and plug up the jets. With today's fuel that contains ethanol, old varnish deposits in the tank can dissolve and find its way into the carburetor and plug up the jets or get into the engine and coat the valve stems causing them to stick and stay open. If sometime in the past, the gas tank in your Model A had been coated with a sealer, today's fuel will often soften and dislodge these older coatings which will plug up everything. Coatings available today are formulated to not react with fuel that contains ethanol but coating the inside of the tank should be done only as the last resort.

Years ago, just about the only way to deal with a dirty or rusty tank was to remove it and have it "boiled out" by a radiator shop. This process would usually clean the tank and sometimes remove the rust but it would always remove the paint from the outside of the tank. Removing the tank to have it cleaned was not only a lot of work but also required re-painting.

Today, there are alternatives that deal with the problems of rust and old varnish without removing the tank. Rust911 and Metal Kleener 2014 are 2 products, available thru "rust911.com" that I have used with very good success. Both are non-toxic, bio-degradable and come in concentrated form. If the tank is just dirty and has a lot of old varnish, it can be cleaned in place with Metal Kleener 2014. With the tank empty, just add one gallon of the concentrate and fill the rest of the way with water and let sit for several days. Periodically, rock the car from side to side to help dissolve the old deposits. Drain, flush out with water and leave the tank open for several days to dry. You should not allow Metal Kleener to come in contact with the paint but if you do, just immediately wash off with soap and water.

If the inside of the tank also has rust deposits, after using the Metal Kleener, fill with a mixture of 1 part Rust911 concentrate to 15 parts water, and let set for several days, occasionally rocking the car. Drain and flush with water and let the tank dry for several days. Again, if you get any Rust 911 on the paint, just immediately wash with soap and water. In order to get the best results, always clean the tank first with Metal Kleener 2014 before using Rust911.

This procedure may not work in every case but it is definitely worth a try before going to all the work and expense of removing the tank and having it "boiled out".



### Tech Tip

One of the easiest and most cost effective ways to help prevent fuel related problems is to install a "Fuel Tank Strainer Screen" in the fuel valve in the bottom of the tank. This little filter screen, available from the better parts suppliers, will help prevent dirt or rust from entering the fuel system. With the tank empty, just remove the shut off valve, insert strainer and re-install the valve. This little strainer costs about \$6.00 and is one of the least expensive and best improvements you can make to your Model A. It works best on Model A's with the fuel shut off valve inside the passenger compartment under the tank but will also work on the late 1931's with the fuel shut off in the engine compartment.



Friday, January 31st saw the "Low End Boys" getting Don Dawkins Model A up and running. He is trying to sell his coupe and it is worth more if it is running. The car was backfiring and losing power. Chris Whickersham suggested that the condenser in the distributor was at fault. We replaced the condenser and set the timing and it passed the road test.

The following day (February 1st) we met again to work on DePews' 1931 Wide Bed Pickup truck. Jon passed away sometime ago and was working on the truck to get it running again, but never finished. It needed a new battery and a new gas line, with filter, going to the carburetor. We got the truck started. It is a nice truck, no rust and a recently rebuilt engine and the family would like to sell it.