

SEE AND BE SEEN

When driving your Model A, it is very important not only to see where you are going but also to have other drivers easily see you. During day light hours, you may think other drivers will easily see your car but that is not always the case. This is especially true when a “civilian” car is following closely behind you. The original left hand single tail light assembly on a Model A is minimal at best and often other drivers do not recognize that we are slowing down. Most of us have installed a second tail light assembly on the right rear of their car. This certainly helps but the original stop light bulbs were not very bright and some drivers following our cars do not see our stop lights when we are slowing for a turn or a stop.

To help others better see that we are turning or stopping, some owners have converted their stop and tail lights to LED assemblies which are much brighter than what Henry provided. These are available from the major parts suppliers at a reasonable cost and are a major improvement to the rear lights on our cars. The LED assemblies that replace both the bulb and tail light lens are the brightest and most effective. To improve the situation even more, the “Brakelighter” LED brake light assembly is available that can be easily installed in the rear window. This third brake light can be wired thru your turn signal assembly so it will activate when both slowing and when making a turn. This third brake light is very effective and is easily seen by those drivers who are following you.



Another improvement is the addition of additional tail light assemblies and also red reflectors. Reflectors are very effective when driving at night.

The headlights on our Model A's as they came from the factory with 32/32 CP (Candle Power) bulbs are adequate at best for normal around-the-town driving at night. For touring, you may want to consider installing brighter 50/32 CP bulbs. If you have good reflectors with the bulbs properly focused

and the headlights correctly adjusted, the headlights on a Model A are not too bad.

Most suppliers also offer Quarts Halogen Bulb conversions that are much brighter than incandescent bulbs but they require a higher output charging system and they also get very hot. Owners have had problems with the sockets and connections in the headlight assembly overheating and melting when using Halogen Bulbs.

Be sure you can see where you are going and also those following can see you and easily recognize when you are slowing or stopping.

Tech Tip

Make Good Connections

For the electrical system in your Model A to work best be sure all the connections are clean and dry. Corrosion can build up at connection points and add resistance to the electrical system. This includes every connection, not only those connections with screw terminals but also the connections that snap together and even the connections of the light bulbs in their sockets.

A small stainless steel wire brush used for “TIG Welding” is very useful for cleaning connections. These are about the size of a big tooth brush and are available at welding shops and most hardware stores.

After the components that are being connected are clean use a little silicone dielectric grease to eliminate future corrosion. Sometimes you will only find “Spark Plug Boot Silicone Grease” which is the same thing.

