

Transmission Vent

by Tom Endy December 2023

The Model A Ford transmission does have a vent, it is located in the tower. Many in the Model A kingdom may not be aware of it. There is a 1/8" hole drilled into the backside of the tower located just above the floor level. It is very common for this hole to become plugged off from dust and debris collected on the floor. When this occurs pressure will build up inside the transmission and force oil out through the end of the cluster and idler shafts that are probably already leaking oil. It is prudent to periodically check this hole and run a wire, paper clip, cotter pin, or even a drill bit through it to make sure it is open.

In recent years an O-ring modification for the two shafts has become available and most suppliers carry the modified shafts. When overhauling a transmission it is prudent to install them as it will eliminate the oil leak. Another option is a device that fits over the ends of the two shafts in the form of a small casting that bolts on and essentially dams up any oil trying to exit around the two shaft. Most suppliers carry them.



The vent hole in the backside of the transmission tower



The O-ring modification for the cluster shaft is seen in the photo above. The idler shaft has the same modification.

The device that fits over the ends of the two shafts in the form of a small casting that bolts on and essentially dams up any oil trying to exit around the two shaft is seen in the photo at right.

