

LET'S GO TOURING!!



Model "T" Pre-flight or Getting Ready for Touring

By Glenn Storck



With spring here and the touring season starting, I thought it might be helpful to share the routine I use when getting ready for a tour. This has been very helpful since I have a tendency to forget things at times.

This procedure is divided into three sections; body, running gear and engine. I begin with a thorough visual inspection of the body and associated hardware front to back and top to bottom. I look for anything loose, broken, about to fall off or that does not look right. I tighten all loose bolts and nuts (not forgetting cotter pins). While under the car, I also make sure the exhaust system is tight.

Next I move on to the running gear looking at brakes and linkages (be sure to adjust if needed). Check the differential oil level, but do not over fill. I check the condition of wheel spokes for looseness, adjust the tire pressure (55-60 PSI), and also check for wear and condition of tires. At the front end, check for looseness in the steering linkage and wheel bearings. I try to clean and repack the wheel bearings at least once a year. It is a good practice to periodically remove the steering wheel and gear cover to lube the three gear drive pinions. Check grease cup for pitman arm on steering linkage and add grease if necessary. Do this also at rear spring hangers. I also check universal joint grease cup for grease and give it a twist.

Under the hood I clean and gap the spark plugs at least once a year. I use a distributor on one car, so I file and gap the points at the same time as working on spark plugs. Oil the generator rear bearing, but a word of caution here as too much oil is bad messing up the brushes in generator, so use sparingly 1 to 2 drops. Oil the fan pulley by removing the brass screw and filling the cavity with motor oil. Check the condition of the fan belt and adjust or replace as needed. Clean and oil the commutator (timer) if running coils. Change engine oil if required. I change oil every 15 to 20 hours of driving. Do not forget to check coolant level in radiator and water level in battery adding as needed. Check electrical system for proper operation, lights, charging, etc.

Always be on the look out for any signs of wear, looseness, out of adjustment etc. I then wash the car outside and clean the interior with a damp rag. Finally, the windshield is washed using water and ammonia solution.

That's about it. I have found this procedure to be very helpful in not forgetting anything and providing a safe journey