

## ALUMINUM ROCKER ARM COVERS - CLEANING

If you own a Rajo, Frontenac or one of the other overhead-valve heads that have aluminum covers for the rocker arms, keeping them clean and shiny can be a chore. Most of the manufacturers of the time ground, buffed and polished them to give that nice finish. Replacement covers sold by most vendors can be purchased polished or in the rough. If you have a need for a replacement cover, do spend the extra and buy the polished one.

Over the ensuing years following their manufacture, these original covers have lost their gloss and shine. The accepted way to bring back their beauty is to purchase a good grade of aluminum polish and a sleeve of four-zero steel wool and then spend hours removing the grime, muck and oxidation that has accumulated.

Most of us have observed the shiny aluminum trailers pulled by truckers. Recently, at a service center on the New York turnpike, I asked a driver how he and others kept their boxes looking brand new. He said that most of the bigger truck stops that have tractor and trailer washing facilities spray the trailers with a mild phosphoric acid solution after a thorough washing and allow it to remain on the trailer for four or five minutes. It is then rinsed well and blow-dried. The result is a shiny trailer.

Now, this lad is not going to take a Rajo rocker arm cover out to the Big T truck stop. That would be sort of foolish. Checking around, I found out the heating and air conditioner contractors and service agencies use a spray with a diluted mixture of phosphoric acid, inhibitor and water to keep the compressor condenser squeaky clean. This is not done primarily for looks, as a clean condenser coil increases the efficiency of the unit and saves on electricity as well.

A person could buy concentrated phosphoric acid and dilute it with the proper amount of water. This can be a hazardous operation if not done properly as a lot of heat is generated. So don't. Most HVAC outfits and some hardware stores sell a product already mixed in the proper amount and it comes in a one quart spray bottle. One product is called Coil Clean

and sells for fewer than ten dollars for a 32 ounce spray bottle.

It is quite simple to use. With the cover free of grease and other dirt, wearing rubber gloves and an eye shield, spray the rocker arm cover inside and out liberally. Allow it to remain for four or five minutes and then rinse it well with water. To prevent watermarks, it should be dried well. You will be pleased with the results and as they say in Kentucky: "It will do you proud."

Now, if your covered trailer has a diamond-tread aluminum stone guard around the front end, it can be brought back to a new appearance with this product.

John recommends giving the spacer several coats of linseed oil cut with a little turpentine, letting one coat dry thoroughly before applying the second. Properly place this space will add some rigidity to the early frames and preclude the possibility of breaking a rear motor support.

## PUTTING OIL IN THE REAR END

Bob Schellig from up in Michigan has come up with an easy way to put that thick-as-molasses 600W rear end lubricant in through the small tiller plug of the rear axle housing. Unless one has a Ross gun (a device sold during the 20s to make it a simple job to add lubricant), it can take a lot of time, make a mess, and cause a lot of aggravation to add this viscous fluid.

It might be well to mention at this point that while 600W is fine for the stock Model T rear axle assembly, it is best to go to an SAE 140 weight lubricant if your T is equipped with a Ruckstell. A lighter weight lubricant will make sure that all the internal workings do not run dry.

Bob came up with a solution that would not go over in my household but did the job for him. He first located a flexible tube funnel at a parts house. This is almost a necessity whether you do it his way or not. He then measured about a half pint of 600W into a plastic jar and put it in his wife's microwave for about five minutes at full throttle. Filling up the plastic container once more, he returned to the kitchen and "nuked" that batch. Heated, this heavy lubricant flowed like