

Cotter Pins

The Castle/Slotted Nuts and Bolts There Of

The lowly cotter pin and slotted nut must have been a favorite of Henry's, for he sure used them everywhere on his Model T Fords. If a Model T is running, it is vibrating and the cotter pinned nuts are there to keep Henry's T together. You certainly don't want your cars parts falling off, specially when you're touring and having fun. Cotter Pins are cheap enough that anyone can afford to have a good collection of them around the shop.

Cotter Pins come in various diameters and lengths. The collection below has a 1/16 to a 5/32 inch diameters and an 1" to a 2 1/2" lengths. The Cotter Pin will work with castellated or slotted nuts.



These nuts come in different shapes and sizes, both slotted or castellated. Finding castle nuts is not difficult. Many hardware stores will have a good selection.



Castellated

Slotted



The bolt or shaft that corresponds to the pin and nut must have a hole drilled in it. Make sure the hole is clean and has the same diameter as the Cotter Pin.

Advance the nut over the threads until the nut is tight. If the hole doesn't line up with the nut slot, tighten the nut more if possible and not loosening it.



The Cotter Pin must be long enough to wrap over the nut and bolt end. Insert the Cotter Pin all the way into the hole so the loop fits snugly in the notch of the nut. You can cut off the excess, but you can not make it longer.



Bend the split ends of the Cotter Pin so that one is wrapped over the nut and the other is over the shaft or bolt end. This is what a properly installed Cotter Pin should look like.

