



Ford T Tips



By Douglas Dachenbach

Installing Oilers

There are at least 11 flip-up oilers by my count and I may have missed 1 or 2. In the earlier models there are brass screw-in oilers with a screw-on cap. The purpose is the same; to put oil on a specific joint or bushing. Motor oil was recommended, but chainsaw bar oil works quite well and doesn't leak as easily. Two problems may occur; (1) if the cap gets damaged or doesn't seal, the cup gets full of dust and dirt. (2) The kingpins and tie rod pins have a channel in the bolt that gets clogged and you need to clear that channel or replace the bolt. If the seat for the oiler becomes full of dusty/dirty oil, you need to clean out the dirt but don't ream the seat over-sized or the oiler won't stay in the chassis. The newer oiler is a push-in design. Everyone has old drill bits and I found that the base of a bit is great to install the oiler as it doesn't damage the cap and helps give you a straight start for the oiler. The guide below gives you bit diameters to clean the seat and then a drill bit size to use to install the oilers. Flip up the lid and insert the proper size bit base-first and you can drive the oiler into the seat with a hammer. When you remove the old oiler it is best to replace it with a new oiler. If you need to salvage an old oiler, by using a proper size bit you can grip the oiler with pliers without damage when removing it.

The early T's used a screw in oiler and if your base has threads, that is the proper oiler although the push-in style will work.



Don't mistake the dope cup or grease cup which uses chassis grease (I use bearing grease) for an oiler. Clean out the old grease and then use one brand so each application is compatible. Fill the cover, then screw down two or three times refilling each time to get a compressed complete fill of new grease.



Flip up cap and insert drill bit. (Hint) Grind the drill bit tip flat to clean the oiler seat to the bottom.

Small Oiler: Drill bit size to install = 17/64 or 0.265 inch
Drill bit size to clean out base = 5/16 or 0.312 inch



Large Oiler: Drill bit size to install = 3/8 or 0.375 inch
Drill bit size to clean out base = 23/64 or 0.359 inch



Line-up the oiler and drill bit with the fitting, then drive the oiler home.

