

## Air Filter Technical Tip

By Lynn Sondena

This article is about the Model A and air filters for the carburetor. Is it a good idea? Henry Ford sent his Model A's off the assembly line with no filters on the carburetors. Here is my take on the subject, I recently purchased a 29 Tudor sedan and in the process of trying to get it to run I discovered that a mason bee had build its tiny mud nest in the idle jet which screws into the upper carburetor housing. This car had only been setting for 3 months without running. Is an air filter a good idea? No it's a great idea!

Another good reason to have an air filter is backfiring out of the carburetor. The sediment bowl is sitting with gasoline inside of it just above the carburetor. The backfire could in a rare occasion ignite. The air cleaner works as a flame arrester stopping the backfire from leaving the carburetor.

I am a believer of air filters. I purchased a Zenith carburetor at a swap meet and it had a mouse nest in the choking housing. I placed an air maze air filter assembly on my roadster pickup. One day my wife and I drove the pickup to the post office (17 miles one way) and on the way home just before our last intersection I saw some aluminum laying in the middle of the road. I roared past it and then though, boy that looks familiar, so I turned around and went back and pick it up off the road. That familiar looking item was my air maze air filter that had fallen off my Model A.

The air maze air filter is aluminum and the carburetor is cast steel. Metal on metal is not the best combination for a set screw to be kept tight. This is another reason to purchase the new style of air filter available for the Model A. Air filters also filter out dust and grit from entering the carburetor and plugging the jets or float needle valve.

I have done some research and found that you can purchase paper elements for the air maze, but better yet is a new type of lifetime air filter. The brand is K&N. It is rubber with a fine mesh wire and paper element. It is an oilable filter system that can be re-oiled and last forever. Mice don't like to chew on oil. The oil needs to be cleaned every 50,000 miles. These filters have a life time warranty. The US military is currently using these filters on there equipment in Iraq.

The K&N air filter will fit the Model A, both Zenith and Tillotsen carburetors. It is a flexible rubber air filter that is held on with a hose clamp. It is a very tight fit. I have found these filters at NAPA, Car Quest, and Thrifty Auto supply. It is a filter designed for ATV's and snowmobiles. The cheapest price I found was \$29.00.

Part number #RU-3350

Number cast on air filter #B030A4

There are also two other K&N air filters that will fit, they are #E-3050 & #E9257.

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