

INSTALLING GREASE CAPS/DUST COVERS

Keep the grease in and the dust out.

By Lynn Sondena

ORIGINALLY, THE MODEL A did not have factory-installed grease cap/dust covers on the front hubs (Figure 1). This metal dome fits over the front spindle nut by a press-type fit to keep the grease in the wheel bearing housing and the dust out of the hub and wheel bearings (Figure 2). But I have never come across detailed instruction on how to complete the task. My hope is that Model A owners will make this modification to their A's and enjoy the benefits.

Installation

1. Remove the flat bearing retainer washer [A-1195] and clean thoroughly (Figure 3).
2. Paint each washer with layout dye or flat black paint (Figure 4). This is so you can scribe a line on the



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 7

circumference to grind to the correct diameter. The outside is usually 1.872" and needs to be reduced to 1.812" so the cap will fit between the hub and washer (Figure 5).

3. Deburr and test fit the washer inside the grease cap/dust cap cover (Figure 6). These caps [A-1138] are readily available at most parts store or Model A vendors. Their outside diameter will vary from 1.937" to 1.941" as they are a steel stamping. The caps should be painted chassis black.

4. To install the caps, do not hit the center. That will leave a dent! Use a 3/16 or 1/4 straight blade screwdriver. Gently tap the screwdriver using the cap's rib (Figure 7). It does not take much pressure to install the caps. Place the screwdriver every 90 degrees until the cap fits snug.

THESE GREASE CAPS/dust caps will keep the grease inside the hub — and the wheel and hub cap will remain free of grease. ☹

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NEWER HUBS

Late in October 1931, Ford redesigned the front hub [A-1105-B2]. The new hub is threaded internally, with a new threaded grease cap [A-1139]. These grease caps will not fit the old-style hubs, as they are not the same diameter. A new retainer washer [A-1195-B] measures 1.885" to 1.887". This article and measurements refers to the old-style washer [A-1195].