

Care of Tires

Nine-tenths of the tires are run improperly inflated, that is, they are not pumped up hard enough. Tires run improperly inflated rim-cut and in a short time blow out standing still. Tires on the Messenger Runabout should contain not less than 60 pounds air pressure and on the Special, Mercury and Mascotte about 75 pounds. The Ajax-Grieb Rubber Co. supply a tire gauge which shows the exact amount of air in each tire. If you inflate your tires so that they carry 65 to 70 pounds of air it is safe to say that your tire bills will be reduced full one-third. Keep tires free from oil. Oil has no respect for rubber.

Keeping a Car Clean

The man who thinks well of his car sees that the vehicle is washed every time it has been in use, and unless one has the fullest confidence in the man who is doing this work, it is well to watch him until one knows just what he does to it. There are many ways of washing motor cars, but one wants to have the finish preserved and not damaged by the ignorance of the hired man. Washing is an exceedingly simple matter, but no end of damage can be done by carelessness. Warm water, not hot, a soft carriage sponge, and a chamois skin are necessary. It is well to avoid the use of soap so far as possible, as all of these contain alkali to a greater or less extent, and the alkali, if the use is continued, will attack the varnish and cause it to become dull.

By applying the water where the mud has accumulated, this will become softened, and carried off, which will prevent the grinding of the mud into the polished surface and making scratches and dulling the finish. If a hose be used, the full pressure of the water should not be allowed, because of the grinding effect of the water and mud, and care should be taken to prevent the wiring, the batteries, the coil, and especially the magneto from becoming wet, as this may cause serious ignition trouble. After the vehicle has been made free from mud and rinsed clean, the car should be wiped dry with the chamois skin, and when thoroughly dry it can be given a brilliant polish by using a mixture of one part of turpentine and two parts of boiled linseed oil, a small quantity being placed on a piece of waste and applied. Then the polish can be given by means of a piece of dry waste which will remove all vestige of the mixture and leave the car handsome and shining.

The Points of the Spark Plug

Should not be more than one thirty-second of an inch apart. We have found quite often, in looking over motors brought to us for lack of power, that the points of the spark plug were so far apart that while a fine spark jumped across the points when the plug was out of the cylinder or at atmospheric pressure, the spark would not be strong enough to jump the same distance when the plug was in the motor and under approximately sixty pounds compression, or about four atmospheres.