

# Model T Safety Checklist

*Remember to check your car before strolls and tours.*

## Steering

- Steering wheel has minimal to no play. . . . .
- Acceptable wear and minimal to no play in: . . . . . 
  - Radius rod (wish bone) to crankcase . . . . .
  - Ball arm (pitman arm) to steering gear connecting rod (drag link) . . . . .
  - Steering gear connecting rod (tie rod) to yoke ball
  - Spindle bolts (king pins) . . . . .
  - Spindle connecting rod bolts . . . . .
- Cotter keys* (or lock washers, if holes not drilled) installed:
  - Radius rod (wish bone) to front axle [2 required] . .
  - Steering gear bracket to frame [3 required]. . . . .
  - Ball arm (pitman arm) to steering post [1 required]
  - Steering gear connecting rod (tie rod) to yoke ball [2 required]. . . . .
  - Steering gear connecting rod (tie rod) to steering gear ball [2 required]. . . . .
  - Spindle connecting rod to spindles [2 (1 per spindle)] . . . . .
  - Spindle bolts (king pins) [2 (1 per spindle)] . . . . .
  - Spindle arms [2 (1 per spindle)]. . . . .
  - Spindle arms [2 (1 per spindle)]. . . . .
  - Front spring hangers (shackles) [4 (2 per side)] . . .
  - Front spring to frame [2 or 4 required, depending on year]. . . . .
  - Yoke ball [1 required] . . . . .
- Safety-wire crankcase studs holding radius rod ball cap . . . . .
- Grease in steering gear case and steering gear bracket (also check gear post and pinion gears for wear) . . .
- Check for play in steering gear case to steering column (check rivets/taper pins) . . . . .

## Brakes

- Brake pedal (and, reverse pedal) should bottom out before reaching floorboards. . . . .
- Both rear wheels should lock up under hard braking
- Auxiliary brakes are highly recommended for stock cars and should be installed if car has an auxiliary transmission . . . . .

## Emergency Brakes

- Hand brake sets securely before limit of its travel (check pawl and spring). . . . .
- Both rear wheels should lock. . . . .
- Cotter keys* (or lock washers, if holes not drilled) installed:
  - Control shaft assembly to frame [4 required]. . . . .
  - Brake shoe bolt [2 (1 per side)]. . . . .
  - Brake rods [4 (1 per end)]. . . . .

## Engine/Power Train

- Oil leaks - within acceptable limits. . . . .
- Gasoline leaks - none, when parked (in-line shutoff valve recommended) . . . . .
- Cotter pins* installed:
  - Carburetor rod [2 (1 per end)] . . . . .
  - Choke/carburetor adjustment rod [1 at carburetor]
  - Commutator rod [2 (1 per end)]. . . . .
  - Crankcase arm to frame [4 (2 per side)] . . . . .
  - Low speed connector [2 (1 per end)]. . . . .
  - Universal ball cap [2 (top bolts)] - bottom two cap screws safety-wired together . . .
  - Fan bolt (on earlier cars) . . . . .

## Wheels

- Spokes (and felloes on earlier cars) should be tight .
- Front wheel bearings - no play, good condition and greased. . . . .
- All wheels tight and axle/spindle nuts cotter-keyed .
- Lug nuts tight on demountable rims . . . . .
- Check tires for wear, weather cracks, rim cuts, etc .

## Rear Axle

- No oil leaks at outer seals . . . . .
- Differential gearcase oil level . . . . .
- Cotter keys* (or lock washers, if holes not drilled) installed:
  - Rear spring to frame [4 required] . . . . .
  - Rear spring hangers (shackles) [4 (2 per side)] . . .
  - Rear spring perches to wheel flanges (backing plates) [2 (1 per side)] . . . . .

## Other

- Lights function, no shorts in electrical system . . . . .
- Brake light (may not be original equipment, but recommended) . . . . .
- Safety glass. . . . .
- Rear view mirror(s). . . . .
- Fire extinguisher . . . . .
- First Aid kit . . . . .
- Insurance Papers . . . . .

## Vehicle Data

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Body Style \_\_\_\_\_ Identification # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Inspection \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

This checklist has been designed by the Model T Ford Club of America to assist owners in inspecting their Model T Fords for possible safety-related problem. This checklist is a guide only and should not be interpreted as a guarantee of a vehicle's safety or roadworthiness.