Electric Starter for an RKB

By Rob Bauer

An electric starter for a popper is discussed often enough, and some of us would like the convenience of getting going with the push of a button. My starter project started when a friend gave me a flex-plate from a 60's 327 Chevy with an automatic transmission. I set it next to my RKB flywheel and it looked like it might work. The gear root was even with the ID of the thick part of the flywheel. I had the flex

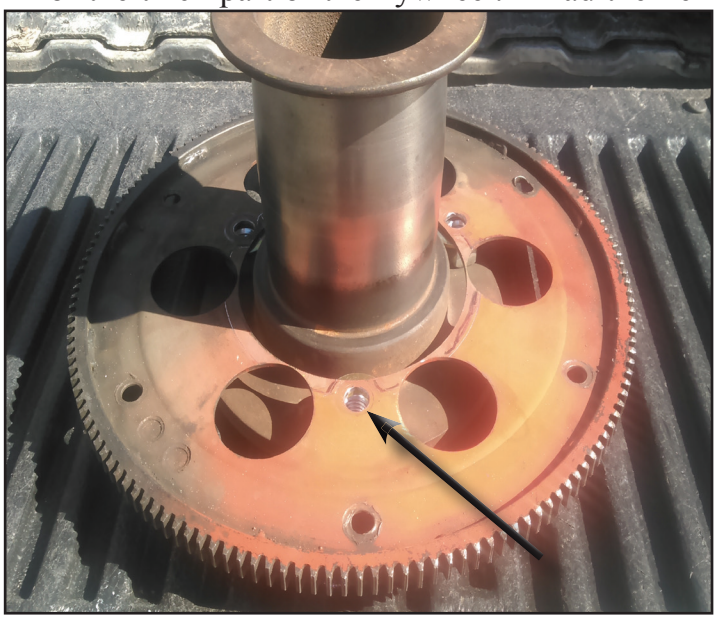
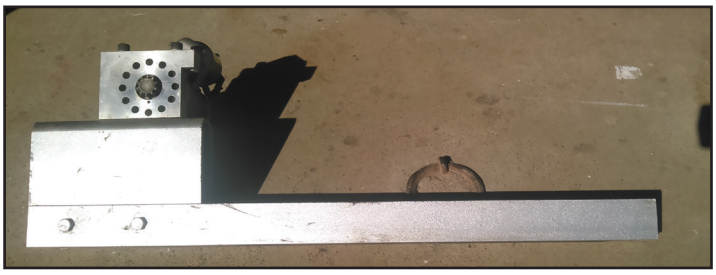


plate bored out and drilled to match pulley inside diameter and the mounting holes. When installed, it moved the pulley over the thickness of the flex plate. I looked at many starters and tried a few. The starter gear had to project out to engage, but there could not be a "nose" sticking out. The starter gear must match the spacing and size of teeth on the flex plate. The mounting bolts holes also had to be right.

I selected a Powermax Mini 9100 starter. The starter was mounted on 2X6 steel tubing and since the bolt holes had to be close to the edge where a nut would not fit, I tapped the holes. A piece of 2 inch angle iron is bolted to the front and middle



cross member and the 2x6 tubing. A hole in the side of the doghouse provides access for the starter. The hard part is obtaining the correct fit (mesh) between the two sets of teeth. You can't get a gauge there to measure the mesh so I disconnected the solenoid and pushed the starter gear out and rotated the flywheel checking for a close, but freely moving fit. I then clamped them into position and drilled holes through the frame rails to secure them. Elongated holes and a threaded bolt adjuster could be added to allow for adjustment of the mesh. A bit of wiring and it was done. The starter kicks the RKB over nicely and allows me to shut the engine off rather than idling when stopped.