

FAIRMONT TRANSMISSION VENT VS. DIPSTICK

BY ED LEE

The vent for a Fairmont transmission is located in the aluminum top cover. The purpose of the vent is to exhaust any positive pressure that may be created by the normal motion of the oil in the transmission or any heat created during normal operation. The top cover is held on with six (6) symmetrically spaced 3/6" X 16 bolts. When the vent is in the correct position, it is located over a cavity in the inner support wall in the transmission. This cavity shields the vent from any direct spray of oil that may be thrown from the moving parts.

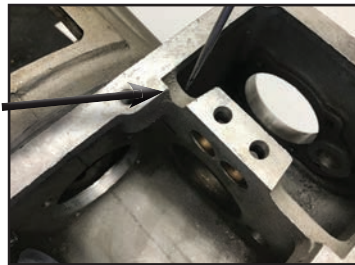


Fig. I Arrow indicates cavity

Since the bolt pattern in the cover is symmetrical, there is one way to install the cover correctly (Fig. II) and one way to install the cover incorrectly, (Fig. III).

When the aluminum top cover is installed correctly the vent is near the front (bell housing end) of the transmission.



Fig. II Vent location with correct cover orientation

When the aluminum top cover is installed incorrectly the vent is near the opposite end of the transmission. In the incorrect location there is no cavity to shield the vent from spray oil, causing the oil to leak out of the vent.



Fig. III Incorrect orientation

In its original design form, all of the aluminum top covers had vents, and none had dipsticks. Dipsticks were not needed at

the time because the top pipe plug (of the two (2) at the back of the transmission) was at the same level as the transmission full mark. The operator could fill the transmission through the top pipe plug and know that the transmission was full when the oil ran out of the fill hole. The dipstick was added to the aluminum top cover when turntables were added to the cars. The turntables block the access to the two pipe plugs and create the need for the dipstick.

The correct location for the dipstick is a point that is 3" from the left side (shift lever side) of the transmission and 1 3/4" from the rear of the transmission. This is the only location that will have clearance from the moving parts. (Fig. IV)

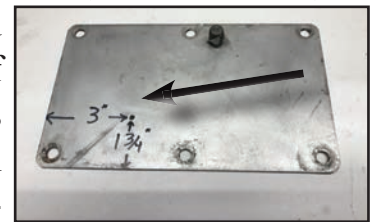


Fig. IV

The dipstick in Fig. V was installed with the vent in the wrong location and made it impossible to install the top with the vent in the correct location.



Fig. V The vent will leak from this ruined cover.



This transmission has both the vent and dipstick in the correct locations. The vent will function as designed as will the dipstick