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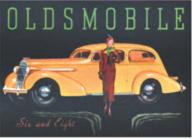
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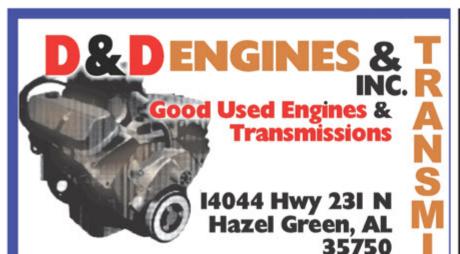
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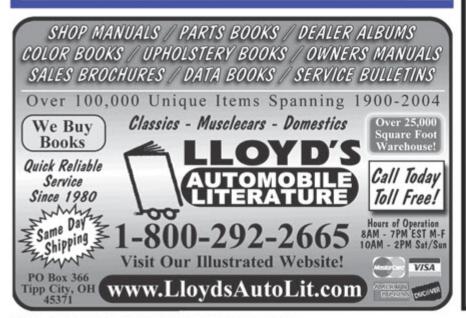
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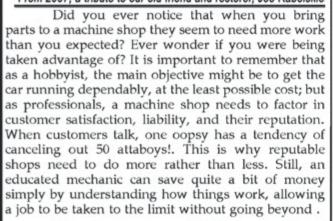
Hi Dave. I just bought a 1948 Olds Series 78 Straight 8. 257 Cl eng with a 4-speed Hydramatic. It's the Dynamic 2-door Club Sedan "Fastback." Could you give me some tune-up facts on my car? It has the OEM ignition system and is 6-volt negative ground. Thanks, Rick

Hi Rick, I also like the '48 Olds Dynamic Fastback, and almost bought one in 1970. It has the '40's look inside and out, with that unique multichrome-bar, down-turned "frowning" grill. The OEM Delco Remy ignition system has 14mm AC Delco (nonresistor) spark plugs. A modern cross over is Auto-Lite 295. They gap to .028-.033, points set at .015 and the firing order s 1-6-2-5-8-3-7-4 (distributor turns counterclockwise). Condenser capacity is .18-.23 mfds, the timing is set at 2 degrees BTDC. There is a mark on the flywheel (left side) that should align with the pointer. Valves (engine warm) Intake: .008; Exhaust: .011. with octane selector set at normal.

#### CHECKING CRANKSHAFTS

My Experience Is...
by Joe Rabelskie





When I remove a crankshaft, the first thing I do is to clean and check it. This will give a good indication of how much work is required to recondition it and how long it will take. To begin with, a quick visual inspection will turn up many obvious problems such as spun bearings or other major damage. If all looks well, then, the condition of the journals can be checked. Mike At Three Positions For Roundness

Checking journal size entails miking them in two or three positions to check for size and roundness. This needs to be done on both sides of the journal to check for taper. Once the journals are miked, a decision can be made as

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MIKING ROD JOURNALS

to whether the shaft should be ground or just polished. On an old engine, we like to keep a shaft standard whenever possible, rather than grind it down to an undersize. Here at Southern Wheels, this is not always a cut and dried call. Naturally, if a journal is tapered, it needs to be ground straight. As far as size goes, if a journal is a bit small, we look at other factors. How many miles are we going to put on that car in the future? How hard are we going to drive it? How fast? How often? What kind of oil are we going to run? But, most important, just how small is it? There is a lot to consider if one is going to break the rules! Remembering that a crankshaft does not run on a bearing, but rather on a film of oil between the shaft and the bearing, one can usually get away with a little extra clearance if there is adequate oil pressure. On an engine like a Packard, there is an external oil pump, with an easy to get to pressure was relief valve. If necessary a shim can be put under the on spring, to raise the pressure a little. On engines like jobs.

our late model Pick-up, there are high volume oil pumps available that provide a little extra pressure. In addition, bearings are usually available in .001" or .002" undersize in order to take up extra clearance; although, sometimes they



(BEARING INSTALLED)

are hard to find for older engines.

Another important factor to keep in mind, if breaking rules, is that size is not everything. But rather, how does the size affect the clearance? The shaft has a factory specification. So does the main bearing housing and the connecting rod. All have a high side and a low side. For example, a rod journal might have a specification of 1.999"/2.000" (low side/high side) and the connecting rod bore has a specification of 2.1242"/2.1252". If the shaft is on the low side and the rod is on the high side, there will be more clearance than if it were visa versa. So, it would stand to reason that if the rod was on the low side, one could get away with a shaft being a bit smaller. No matter how one decides to go, the housing with

the bearing in it should be miked and compared to the shaft size before final assembly, to determine the actual clearance.

It is also important to know that when checking the main journals, the thrust should be checked for

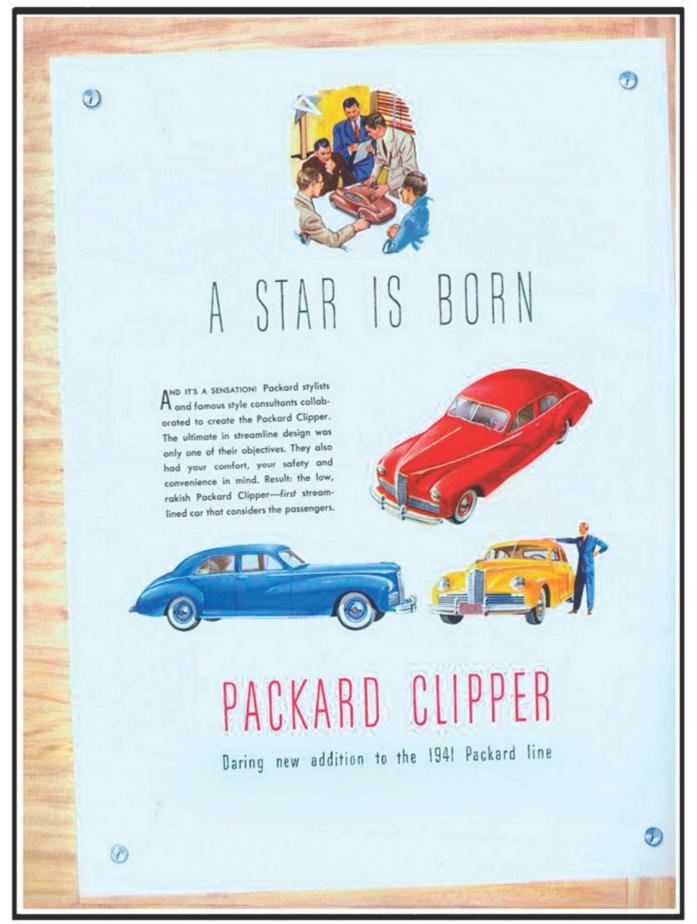


size. Too much thrust clearance can allow a shaft to move forward or back excessively, permitting such problems as counterweights rubbing on the block, balancers rubbing on front covers, or torque converters wiping out transmission pumps. If there is too much thrust, some engines have oversized thrust bearings available. If they do, the shaft just needs to be ground to accommodate them. If not, the shaft might need to be welded and ground back to standard.

This is not to advocate skimping on an engine rebuild. Likewise, I would not recommend trying to get away without doing work that needs to be done. But, an educated mechanic can save quite a bit of money over a period of time simply by understanding how things work and making precise and calculated decisions. However, along with making money-saving decisions comes the responsibility of liability. So, one must understand how each choice is going to affect the operation of the engine. This is not really cheating, just knowing how to take an engine to the safe limit. Otherwise, one bad call could cost more

what saved several









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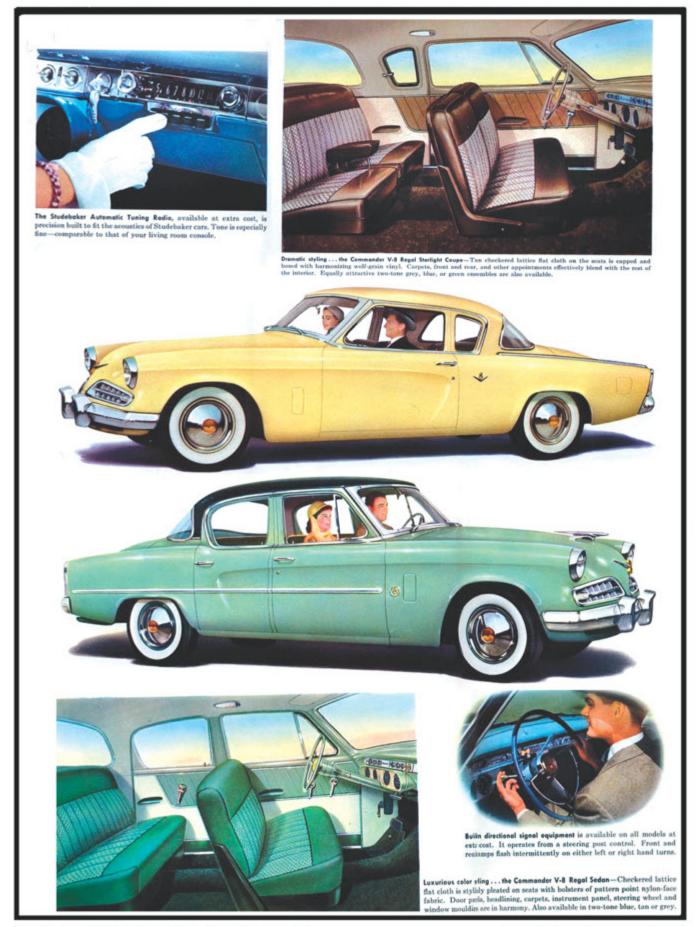
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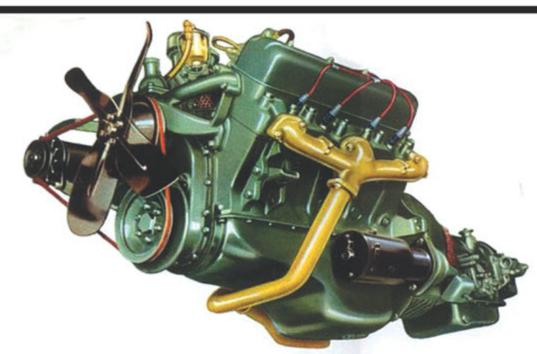
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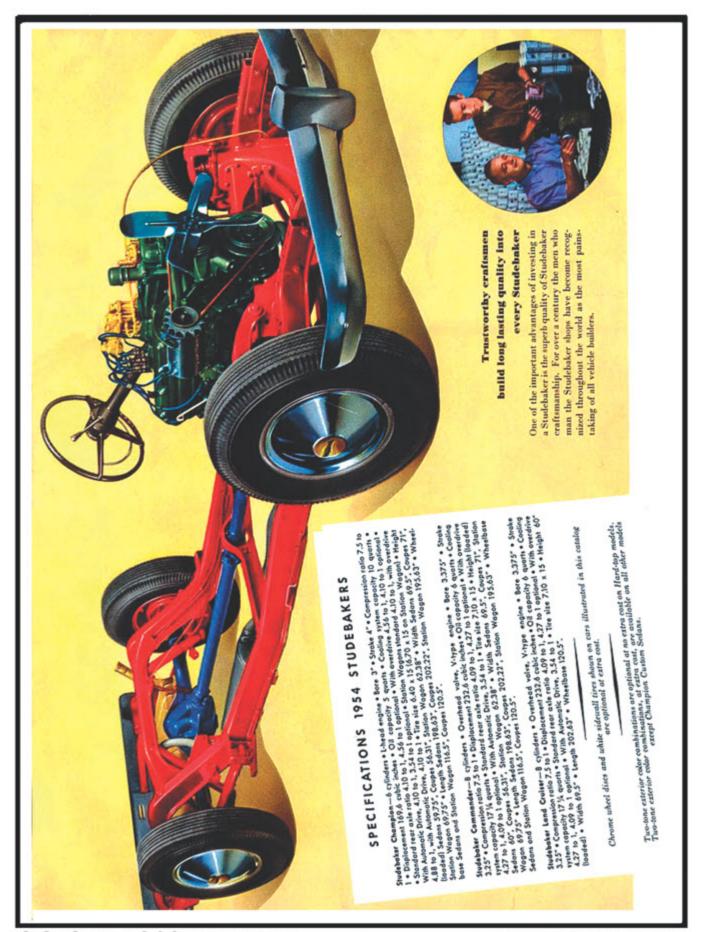
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# Southern Wheels Shop Safety Tips ...with Wayne Smith



from Dependo Rent-all

## **INSTRUCTIONS!**











Warning and safety instructions come with any tool you purchase but nobody reads them because they are so ridiculous. Electric tools that say "do not use under water" Do we really need that? Some lawyer thinks so, I guess. We dismiss the first four pages of instructions because they are common sense statements. Lost in all that legal mumbo-jumbo are real directions for safe use of the tool. I know no one wants to read all that but somewhere in those pages might be something to save your life. I know "real men don't read instructions" but there are plenty of men in the emergency room that didn't read them.

God gave us two eyes, ten fingers, four limbs and common sense so we could keep all those parts in working order

Some of the useful information:

"Do not use this electrical tool near flammable liquids." (sometimes we could forget that)

"Do not use this tool with loose fitting clothing that could get caught up in tool." (I've been guilty of that.)

On a push along lawn mower: "Not to be used as a hedge trimmer." Really?

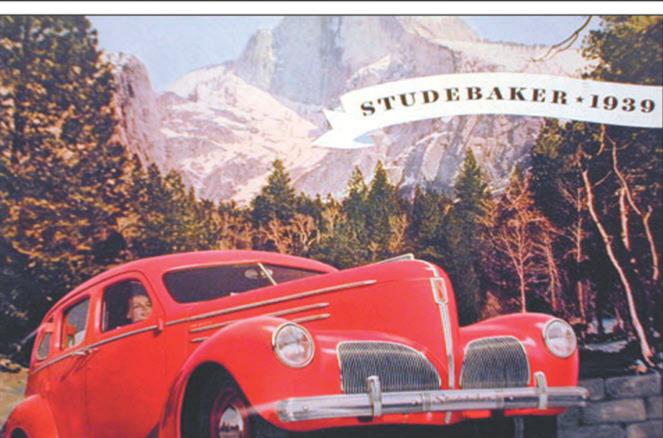
Useless information: "Do not use this tool unless you can read and understand the safety warnings" (If I can't read how would I know?)

"Do not use this electrical tool standing in water"

Well, you get the picture. Read the instructions anyway. That includes me.

"Remember, Keep it Safe Keep it Fun"





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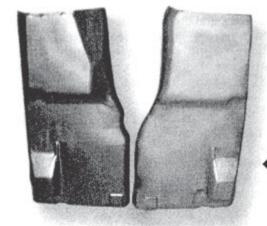
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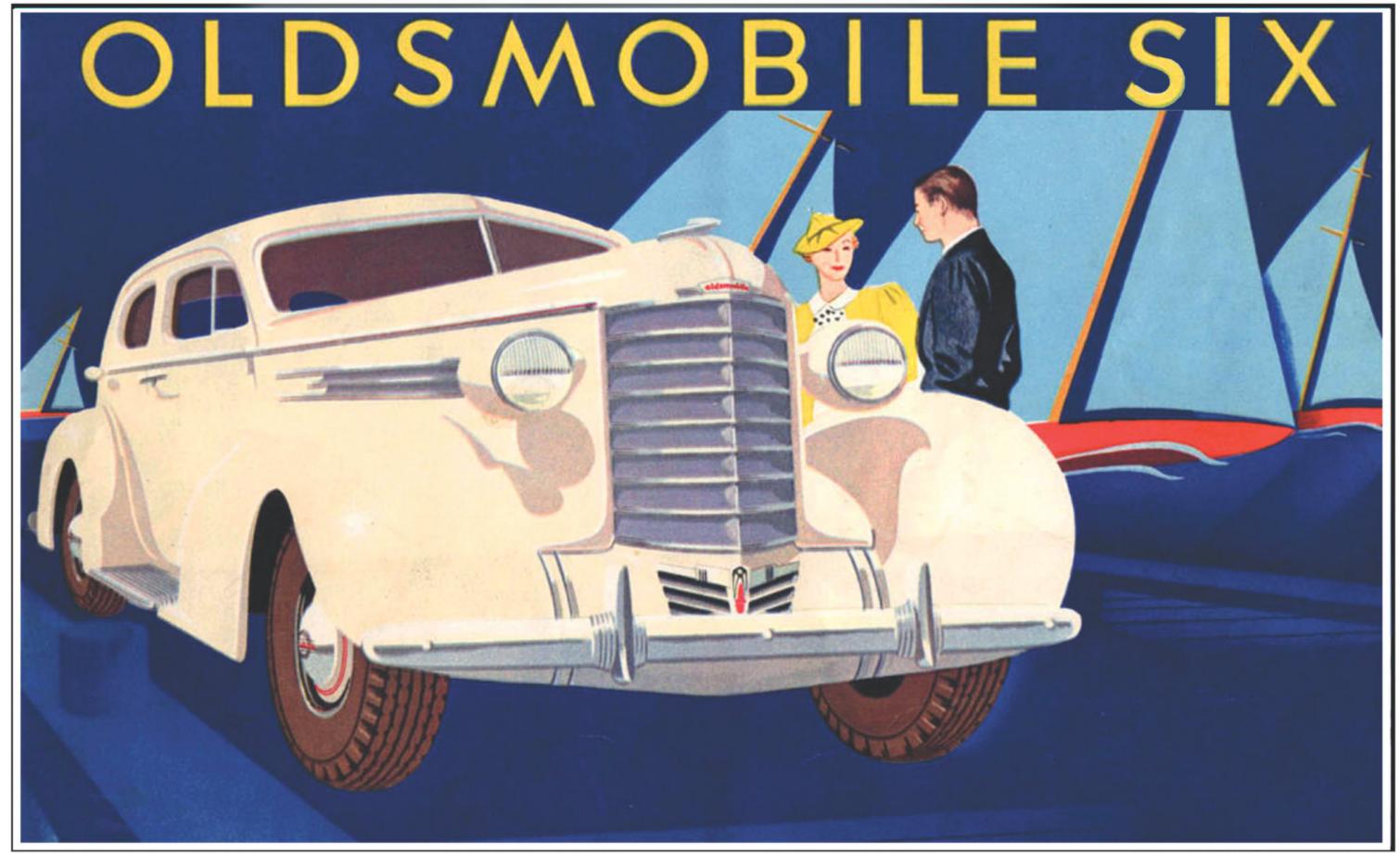


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