

Suggested Placement of Thermostat in your Model A Ford's Engine cooling system

If you want to use a modern thermostat in your Model A Ford's engine cooling system, I recommend purchasing a standard modern flat bodied thermostat. Then place the thermostat where the upper rubber hose attaches to the engine's goose neck. On my A the thermostat is the same diameter as the outlet of the engine's goose neck. Attach the upper rubber radiator hose as normal. It will slide over the thermostat mounted on the goose neck. Then to hold the thermostat in place when the motor is running, place a third standard hose clamp on the outside of the radiator hose just above the thermostat. Tighten the hose clamp slightly to squeeze the hose just above the thermostat. This will hold the thermostat in place with the motor running. Why do all this special work?

Thermostats can fail after a long period. If you are driving your A on a tour and the motor starts overheating and you suspect the thermostat has failed shut, then loosen or remove the hose clamp holding the thermostat in place. The water pressure from the water pump will push the thermostat out of the way allowing the water to flow past the thermostat to the radiator AS REQUIRED FOR COOLING.

Do not use a thermostat that has been provided with a supporting cylinder. If the thermostat develops a problem, you have to stop your motor to let it cool before you can remove the radiator hose. Then remove the thermostat. This can add hours to your repair, compared to just loosening the extra hose clamp on the outside of your upper radiator hose.