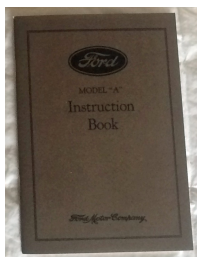


First Books for your Model A Library

By Rick Black, Medford Oregon

Whether you're an experienced Model A collector, restorer, owner or just getting into the hobby, you will appreciate how much literature there is about Model A Fords. Most Model A suppliers stock books on the Model A, and you'll also find a great sample of them on the MAFCA STORE page of the MAFCA website.

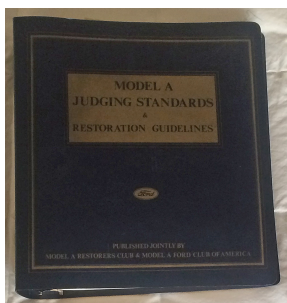
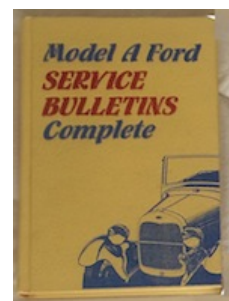
I've selected 5 books that I think are "must haves" in anyone's Model A Library. Each of these provides excellent information that every owner/driver should be aware of.



The first book is a "must have" – the Model A Instruction Book. It's the owner's manual that was supplied by Ford with every new Model A Ford. It has information on starting the car, shifting, capacities of gas tank, radiator, engine oil, etc. There are photos and diagrams that allow the new owner to take care of their car for many years of service.

There were at least 13 different versions of this book, as Ford would update them as features of the Model A evolved over the years. You should try to find a version that's close to the month and year of your Model A. There is a helpful article on the MAFCA website that describes all 13 of the books and when they were used. You can use that information to determine which book comes closest to the original manual that came with your car. Original copies of these manuals are getting harder to find, but fortunately, every year's book is reprinted, and the price of those is about \$15. Find them at your Model A parts supplier, on eBay, or at local swap meets.

The second book I'd recommend that everyone should have is the Model A Ford Service Bulletins. Ford published a monthly bulletin every month of Model A production and supplied them to all Ford service departments. These bulletins gave information on mechanical procedures (timing, brake overhauls, etc), parts changes, and they included great illustrations of parts and directions for service personnel to follow with their customer's cars. If you do the mechanical work on your car, this is the first book to check for service procedures.



Model A Restoration Guidelines and Judging Standards is published jointly by the two major Model A clubs, MAFCA and MARC. It's evolved over the years as more information becomes available. Over 20 chapters cover every facet of the Model A, showing how the parts changed over the years, detailing the finishes of the items, etc. This is "the bible" for restorers, whether you want to restore the car to 100% originality or just make sure you have the right parts for your car.

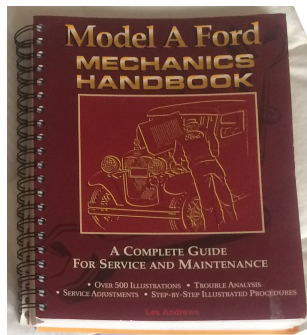
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The fourth book may surprise you. The Parts List was published periodically by Ford during the Model A run. The current reprint covers 1928-1932 Model A and B vehicles. It lists nearly every mechanical part used on all Model A's by Ford's part numbering system (which is still used today!)



Not only are the parts listed, but the fasteners used with the parts are also listed, and a list in the back of the book shows the size and the finish of most of those fasteners. This is great information for restorers, whether you are working on a show car or a "driver." Knowing what the right size nuts and bolts are really makes the job of reassembling parts easier and faster.



The last of the 5 books is the Model A Mechanic's Handbook, written by Les Andrews. "Mr. Model A", Les has been involved with Model A's his whole life, and he has been the Technical Director of MAFCA and its president. He not only knows his stuff but he knows how to explain how things work and how to maintain and overhaul nearly all of the systems in the Model A, from the engine, transmission, driveline, brakes, body blocks. The book is organized in alphabetical order by topic. At the end of the book there are charts covering things like the sizes and locations of cotter pins, body block locations, capacities and much more.

There are lots more, but these five cover the majority of topics on the Model A Ford. If you're looking for something, chances are good you'll find it in one of these books.

Don't think that you have to buy these books new. They show up all the time at swap meets, eBay, and even used book stores. You can also watch Craigslist and the MAFCA website's classified pages. You don't have to get them all at once, but I recommend you get them in the order I've described them. Read through them – more than just once. Digest the information. You'll find that you'll gain a lot more knowledge about your Model A and that will help you diagnose any problems that might come up and give you the confidence that you can get it fixed and back on the road for many more miles of enjoyment.

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