



1908 Ford Concept Test Engine

Manufacturing Information

Manufactured By	Ford Motor Company
Assembled At	Ford Piquette Avenue Plant, Detroit, Michigan
Horsepower	Unknown, though this was a running engine!
Weight	Unknown
1908 Cost	Unknown

Innovations

- All four cylinders within same casting
- Removable head
- More complex in design, but much more serviceable than the Model N engine

Removable Engine Head

This concept engine demonstrates an important evolutionary step in engine design leading to the Model T engine. Early automotive design practice suggested that engine blocks be manufactured with their cylinders closed at one end. A closed cylinder was much more difficult to manufacture and service than a removable cover. On the other hand, a removable head could introduce a possible leak for high pressure combustion gases and coolant to escape. Given the number of cars Henry Ford envisioned producing, the ease of manufacturing a removable cylinder head ultimately persuaded Henry Ford to implement the change. Note that the flywheel in this concept engine sits exposed, in front of the engine – just as it did in the former Model N engine. The Model T flywheel/magneto will eventually be enclosed between the engine block and transmission.

Jerry VanOoteghem & Norman/Donna Bolz

On loan from Jerry VanOoteghem and Norman/Donna Bolz. Jerry, Norm and Donna are all very active members of the Piquette T's – a Model T club hosted at this museum. Thanks to early collectors Cecil Ralston and Les Schuchardt that this engine is available for visitors of Piquette to view today.



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