

The Best Things Don't Cost Much (and are Priceless!)

My granddaughter Lydia and grandson Coy don't have the common "garden-variety" set of grandparents that spoil them at each possible moment. They actually have two sets that fit into that description!

Yesterday morning they came with their mom and dad to church. I crack up every time Coy sees me as he smiles and reaches for me. There is no doubt that he and I are buddies. Annette will be heart broke as I think he is going to say Grandpa and Model T before he says Grandma.

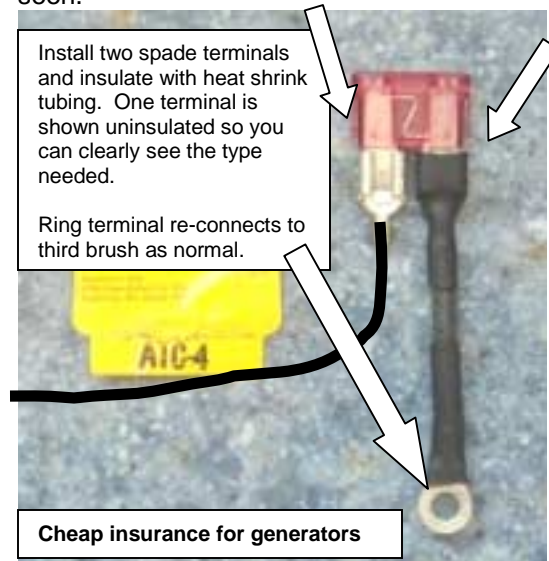
Lydia is much the same. She loves to come over and be told stories, help Annette make cookies etc. She also loves to sit in the T out in the garage and drive her dolls to go shopping and take them all over the continental 48. Sorry Ken, she just hasn't got the driving experience to tackle Alaska yet! That plus we couldn't stand not seeing her for 3 months (even if they are imaginary months). I made the mistake of leaving something lay on the seat one day and she asked my why "my junk" was in "her car".

I'm sure by now your asking what in the world this has to do with the Model T and why is it in the Newsletter? No reason really, I just wanted to brag on the grandkids and let everyone else read it! I didn't have enough of anything technical to fill up a full page and thought since I enjoy them so much, you should too.

Now for the technical side. Ron Patterson posted a super idea on the model T forum (America Club) recently. Ron rebuilds tons of T generators each year and often sees the same problems with cores coming in. Since the T generator has its output regulated by the position of the third brush, it is susceptible to self-destruction should the system go open. If the system goes open, all of the generators output is fed to the third brush causing the output to be even higher. This higher output will soon be feeding so many amps through the armature that solder begins to melt and the armature is rendered junk in no time. Electrically speaking, it is like a dog chasing its tail, the more he wants

to catch it the faster he runs, the faster he runs...well, you get the idea.

This little modification will save the generator in the event that its output enters the runaway state previously described. On the lead to the third brush, slave in a 4 or 5 amp blade type fuse. That way, should the regulating current become excessive, the fuse will fail saving the generator. The modification is undetectable. Even the purist won't mind this one since it can't be seen.



This is not absolutely necessary if you're running a voltage regulator in place of a cutout as the regulator is designed to save the generator in cases like this.

It is a good idea however with the original cutout and to a lesser degree, with the diode. While the diode can't "stick open", the ammeter certainly can go open giving the same result. Either way, with the battery load removed from the generator the result is the same and chances are, "you ain't gonna like it".

Quick review here, modification to prevent an 80 year old generator from self destruction, – **25 cents**.

Chance to brag on grandkids – **Priceless!**

Gary