

Broken Bolt

by John "Big John" Ohlrogge (edited by Bonnie)

Several years ago, is when I first built my 1920 Depot Hack.

I had many bugs to work out in the engine.

On one of our outings it started with Babbitt's wearing out, which caused the Engine to knock. So then I managed to limp it home.

As it turned out I decided it was the Rod that was being the problem. When I started to remove the head ...Oh no something happened and I heard a SNAP! The head bolt broke! I thought oh boy how am I going to get it out now?

To my surprise I managed to get the head off. I was able to unscrew it with my fingers. Then I began to look for possible causes. I noticed that just below the head, on the bolt, there is a shoulder. On the shoulder was quite a bit of rust. So I brushed the bolts with a wire wheel on the bench grinder. Then I decided to coat them with Anti - Seize compound. This eliminated the problem then and for the future.

I learned through this experience not to use oil or grease. If it gets beneath the bolt it will cause problems. There won't be any room for it to compress. It will be difficult to get out of the block.



Broken head bolt. The threaded portion stayed in the block.



1920 Depot Hack



Coated with a good lathering of Anti-Seize Lubricant



Note from the editor:
Special thanks to
"Big John"
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