

IT'S NEVER AS EASY AS YOU THINK IT'S GOING TO BE

by Dennis Plank

Over the winter I built a new engine for our Coupe. The engine in it was fine, I just wanted a new, fresh one for our tours this year. I had a couple of spare engines, so I selected a 1926 block and spent way too much money on it. You know how it is.

I got it done and decided it was time to make the swap. I was able to get the old engine out with no problems and was sliding the new engine back on the frame rails when I noticed something that didn't look right on the front cross member. It almost looked like a shim under the front motor mount. On further inspection, I could see that the cross member had rotted completely out to the point that the spring was coming up through a nice rectangular hole in the cross member.



Not good news when you are anxious to hear your new motor. Time to replace the cross member. Ricky showed up and said he had one hanging on the wall in his barn he would give me, so I took him up on the offer. It's a job drilling all those rivets out, but I finally got it done. No, he didn't stay and help.

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Here is another shot of the damage. The hole was so clean it almost looked machined.



Here is the completed project with the new cross member and engine in place.

