

# Ladies "A" Driving Handbook

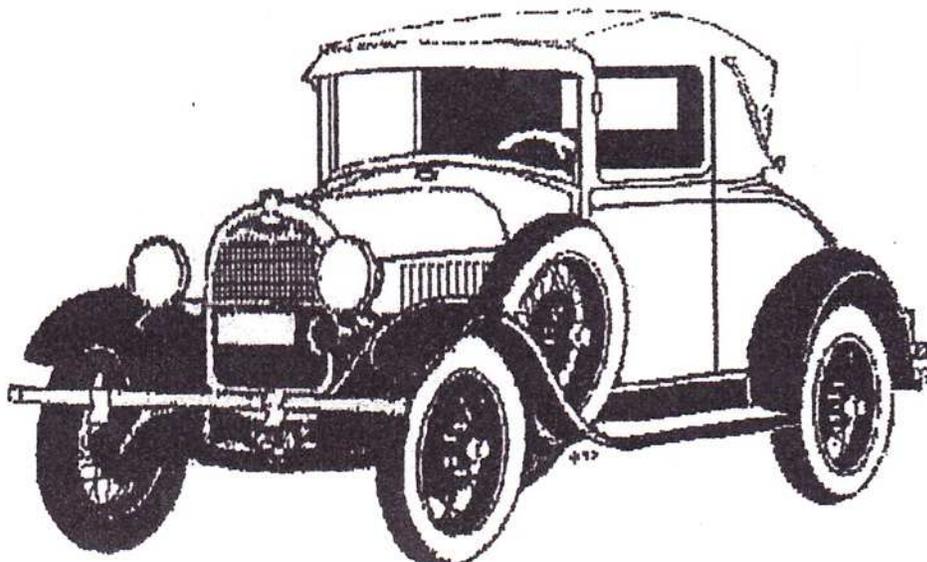
## A Special Thanks!

I would like to personally thank all those who contributed to making this ***Ladies A Driving Handbook*** - the club members extend from Orlando, Augusta, Dearborn, Bloomington and cover a span of almost 20 years. Each instructor has added a personal touch to the handbook and has continued to improve it.

With this handbook's guidance, I am certain you will all be successful, safe Model A drivers. Driving these cars is a fun experience and one that each of us can master with practice.

Carol Weckman  
San Diego CA Chapter  
MAFCA National Convention 2010  
Vancouver, BC

# Ladies "A" Driving Handbook



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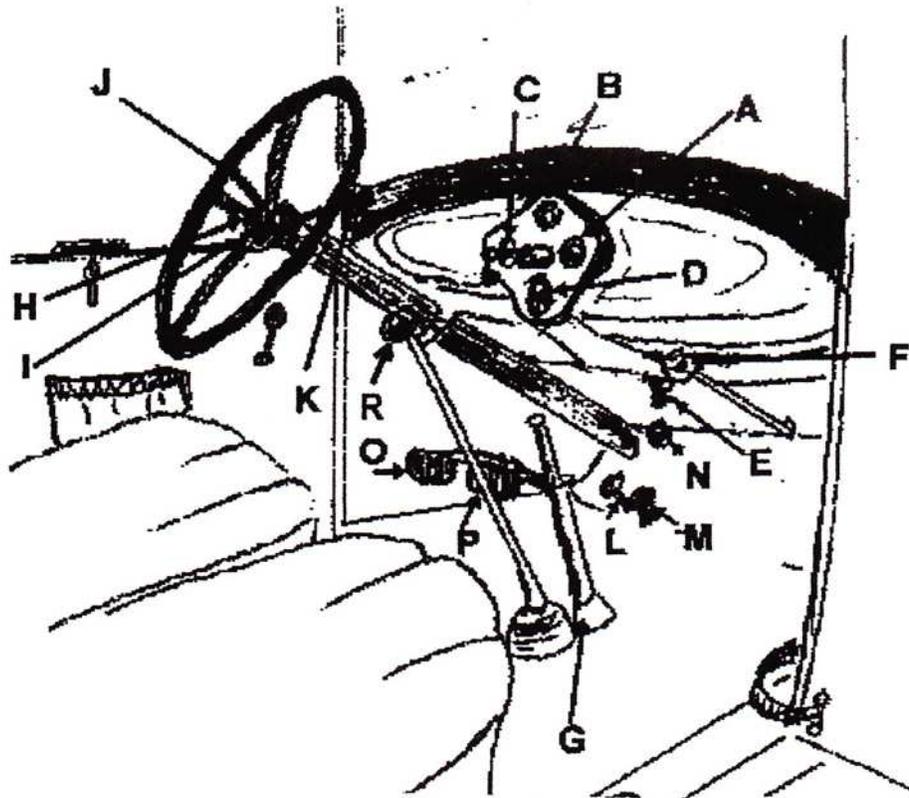
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City Driving, Night Driving, Parking

# Ladies "A" Driving Handbook

## Inside your Model A



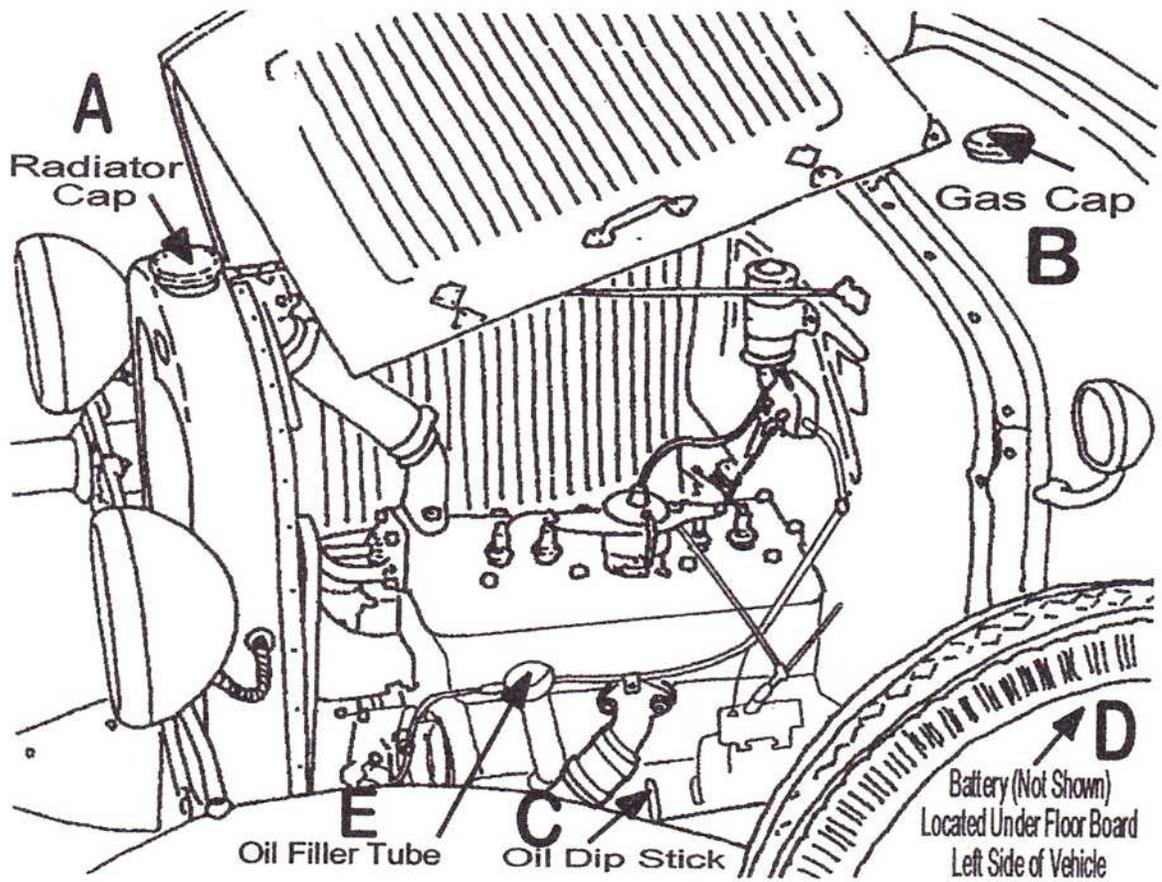
- A Ammeter - if your car has a generator, this should read 8-10 amps, if car has an alternator, about 1-2 amps
- B Gas Gauge
- C Ignition Switch - may be regular or pop-out
- D Speedometer and odometer
- E Gas Shut-off Valve - right off, left on
- F Choke - fuel mixture control
- G Emergency Brake
- H Horn
- I light Rod Switch
- J Spark level
- K Hand Throttle
- K Gas Pedal
- M Foot Rest
- N Starter Button
- O Clutch Pedal
- P Brake Pedal
- Q Windshield Wiper Switch
- R Gear Shift

(See appendix for definitions of each of these controls)

# Ladies "A" Driving Handbook

## Basic Car Servicing

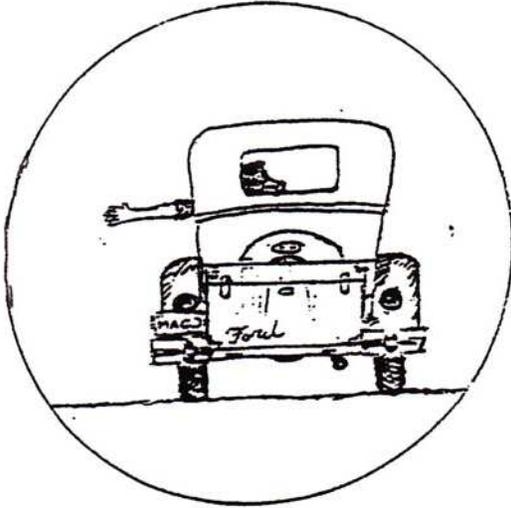
- A. Water - if engine is hot, remove cap slowly with a rag
- B. Filling the Gas Tank  
Do not put nozzle all the way in  
Use regular gas (non-Ethanol preferred)  
1928 - 1929 10 gallon tank  
1930 -1931 11 gallon tank
- C. Dip Stick is used to check engine oil level- car holds about 4.5 quarts
- D. Battery - keep posts clean
- E. Oil Filler Tube
- F. Tire Pressure - 35 PSI ( pounds per square inch)



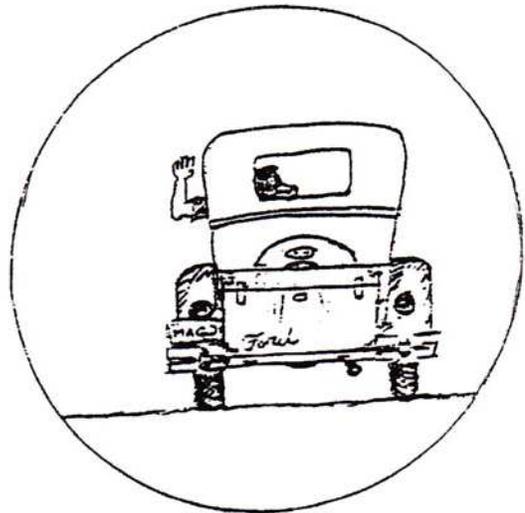
# Ladies "A" Driving Handbook

## Turning Hand Signals

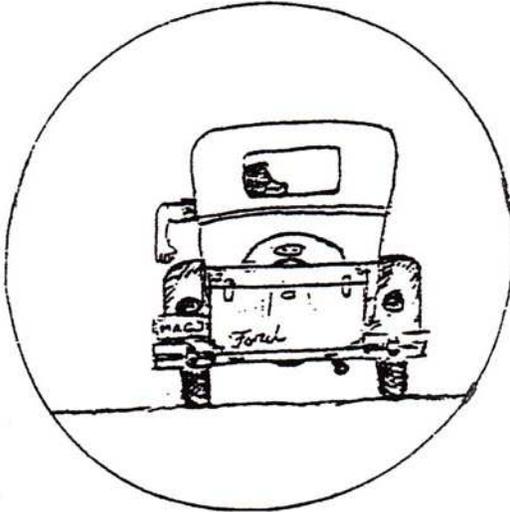
Left Turn



Right Turn

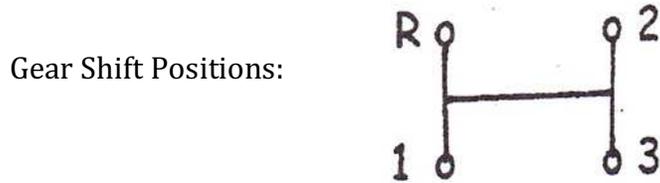


Slow or Stop



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## Gear Shifting



Shifting gears by hand is a matter of timing. In most Model A's, the shifting will be smoother if you double-clutch.

With right foot on brake pedal and left foot depressing the clutch pedal, put car in 1st gear.

Slowly lift your left foot off the clutch and with right foot on gas pedal, depress gas pedal slowly until you start moving. If car 'bucks', depress your left foot on the clutch and start over.

When it is time to shift to 2nd gear (about 10 MPH), depress clutch and shift from 1st to neutral, release and depress clutch again, and shift to 2nd (this is the double clutch technique). Repeat the same procedure to go from 2nd to 3rd.

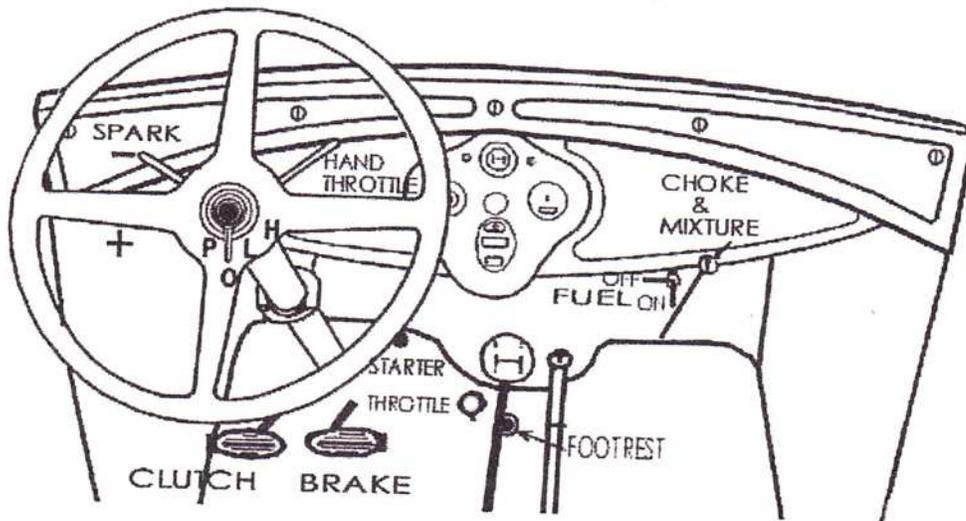
Each car shifts slightly differently so learn the feel of your car.

Down-shifting can be used to help brake, but it is not recommended for new drivers. If you cannot stop in time, use the emergency brake.

When approaching a stop sign or red light, depress the left foot on the clutch and right foot on the brake.

Shift to neutral and then 1st gear and start over again.

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## **Model A Starting**

Turn gas lever located under dash on passenger side until it's pointing at 12 o'clock

Spark lever on left side of steering wheel should be all the way up

Gas lever on right side of steering wheel should be at 2 o'clock position

Hand brake should be on

Gear shift should be in neutral

Turn the key on

If car is cold, pull out choke rod located in front of passenger seat

Press starter button on floor to left of the gas pedal

When the engine starts, release choke rod and pull spark lever down

Gently release hand brake while pressing or squeezing top of hand brake and then push forward to release

## **Shutting off the Engine**

Put the car in neutral and pull on the hand brake

Shut off the ignition switch and shut gas off

# Ladies "A" Driving Handbook

## **City Driving**

Make sure you always use hand signals

Allow yourself more time to get up to speed since the Model A does not have the same acceleration as the modern cars

Allow yourself extra time to stop; remember the Model A cannot stop on a dime. You have a horn - use it!!

Drive in the right lane so faster cars can easily pass

Drive with a safe distance between cars

## **Night Driving**

Light switch is below the horn button - 6 o'clock is off position

Low beam is first position to the right from off position

High beam is second position to the right from off position

Parking lights are first position to the left from off position

## **Parallel Parking**

Flats: Park your Model A as you would a modern car

Hills: Turn the wheels toward the curb if you're facing downhill. Turn the wheels toward the center of the road if you're facing uphill and make sure the right front tire is touching the curb.

# Ladies "A" Driving Handbook

## **Basic Car Servicing**

**Radiator** - ensures proper cooling of the engine

If engine is hot remove cap slowly, using a rag; it is HOT.

If water is rusty, it is time to flush the radiator.

Fill with antifreeze solution, or whatever the car owner uses

### **Gas tank**

Do not put nozzle all the way in - there is a screen type filter to collect crud.

The 1928-29 tank holds 10 gallons; the 30-31 holds 11 gallons of regular gas.

Shake the gas tank nozzle after removing from pump to get rid of residual gas

Have a rag handy to wipe up any gas spills

### **Oil dip stick**

Check oil level - pull it out - wipe off- reinsert and read

If the oil only reaches to the bottom line or E, add more oil but do not overfill

### **Battery**

Located under the floor board on the driver's side of the car.

Lift the mat or rug and you'll see a metal cover in the floorboard. Pull it out.

Check water levels every two weeks according to Model A instruction book.

Use distilled water to fill.

If you have a modern battery, they are sealed and all you have to do is watch for corrosion around the terminals

### **Oil filler tube**

This is where oil is added.

The type of oil used depends on the owner; it is suggested a straight 40 weight be used in colder climates and a lighter weight oil works better in summers

### **Tire pressure**

Check for 35 pounds per square inch in each tire and spare

Check tread for wear and the sidewalls for cracking or damage

### **Lubrication is very important maintenance on the Model A**

It includes wheel bearings, front end, rear end, some brake parts, generator to name a few. Check the general lube chart to ensure you do all necessary parts

# Ladies "A" Driving Handbook

## Definitions

- A. **Ammeter** registers the amount of charge produced by the generator. The center of the gauge is a 0; if the needle is to the right then the system is **charging**; to the left of 0 it is **discharging**. A constant discharge will drain the battery
- B. **Gas gauge** - shows how full the tank is - Model A holds approx 10-11 gallons. You should double check the accuracy of the gauge by filling the tank and seeing where the gauge reads. It should register full.
- C. **Ignition switch** - where one inserts the key. There are 2 types of switches; one is similar to the modern car where you turn the key on and off. The second is most commonly called a 'popout'. Ford used to call this the Electolock. When you turn the key on, the switch pops out. When you turn the car off, push in on the switch so it pops in and remove the key. Otherwise current will continue to run through the system and discharge the battery.
- D. **Speedometer/Odometer** The speedometer indicates the speed at which a car is traveling. The odometer measures how many miles you have traveled. 1928-1929 Model A's have a trip odometer which can be reset each time the car is driven. The accuracy should be checked once a year.
- E1 **Gas shut off valve** (before April/May 1931) - pointing the valve at 3 o'clock turns off the gas; pointing 12 o'clock turns gas on. When working properly, the valve will not let gas flow to the carburetor when the valve is closed. Gas leaks can be a dangerous situation in an enclosed garage
- E2 **Gas Shut Off Valve** (after April/May 1931) - open right side of hood. The shut off valve is indented in the firewall. When lever is pointing forward, gas flow is off. When lever is pointing at right side of car, gas flow is on.
- F. **Choke rod** has two jobs. Pull it out when starting the car and push in immediately after engine starts. You can adjust the air/fuel mixture in the carburetor by turning the choke rod. Clockwise limits fuel; counter-clockwise increases fuel. Start with the control about  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  open. Be careful not to turn the rod too far clockwise which can damage the valve that goes into the carburetor.
- G. **Emergency brake** - connected to the rear brakes and should be used when the car is parked or in emergency situations. Make sure it's completely released when driving so the brake drums will not be damaged.
- H. **Horn** - the button is in the middle of steering wheel - 'ah-oo-gah' sound. The horn is near the left headlight and needs frequent lubrication to continue sounding great
- I. **Light switch** is located in the center of steering wheel. Right one click = low beam; right two clicks = high beam; left one click = park or cowl lights
- J. **Spark lever** is located on the left side of the steering column; it regulates the time of the spark which explodes gas in the cylinders. It should be all the way up when starting the engine then pulled down at least half way for city driving and all the way down for high speeds

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- K **Hand throttle** is located on the right side of the steering column and is connected to the foot pedal and the carburetor. Normally it is only used when starting the car. The gas pedal is located on the floor next to the brake pedal and is used to control the speed of the car
- L **Gas pedal** is located on the floor to the right of the brake pedal; it is used to control the speed of the car
- M **Foot rest** is located just to the right of the gas pedal in most cars; it allows the driver to relax the foot and between control the pressure on the gas pedal.
- N **Starter button** - located on floor above and to the left of the gas pedal is used to start the engine. Foot pressure on the button activates the starter motor.
- O **Clutch pedal** located to the left of the brake pedal. It is depressed when shifting from one gear to another. Be careful not to rest your foot on the clutch pedal while driving as this may cause damage to the clutch disc.
- P **Brake pedal** is located between the clutch and gas pedals; a properly adjusted brake pedal should not depress more than 2 inches from a rest position
- R **Gear shift** located on the floor is used to shift between 3 forward gears and reverse gears. One should be able to shift without grinding the gears
- Q **Windshield wiper switch** - located atop windshield on the inside of the car. The wiper motor is mounted on the outside or outside of the windshield, depending on the car model. Check your wiper blade before using the wiper.

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