

**THE FIREWALL DATE IN RELATION TO THE ENGINE STAMPING DATE**

**BY**

**STEVE C. PLUCKER**

**COPYRIGHT, 2005**

**AS OF:**

**AUGUST 26, 2009**

Have you ever wondered about the date on the firewall (A-9002 Cowl Tank Assembly) of the 1928 and 1929 vehicles? Just what did it stand for in relation to the assembly of a car or truck? Did it stand for “the day of assembly” of the vehicle? OR did it stand for “the day the gas tank was complete, before assembly” of the vehicle? However a more precise thought is that most gas tanks were stamped on the day the body was assembled and before the painting process. Many questions left to answer on this subject.

Below is a data base which may answer some of these questions.

If you can provide any additions to this study by including the frame and engine number (providing they match), assembly plant code and numbers, and firewall date, please do so by contacting me at [steve@plucks329s.org](mailto:steve@plucks329s.org)

**NOTE: *Number in parenthesis, under the heading of “FIREWALL DATE”, represents the “days before stamping of engine” or “days after stamping of engine”. The engine stamping date is the only other way of closely determining an assembly date which may be from 1 day to 8 weeks after the stamping of an engine, and in some cases, maybe more depending, on where it was assembled due to the distance from the Rouge plant in Dearborn, MI.***

**FIREWALL DATE "BEFORE" ENGINE STAMPING DATE**

<b>ENGINE #</b>	<b>STAMP DATE</b>	<b>VEHICLE TYPE</b>	<b>FIREWALL DATE</b>	<b>BODY #</b>	<b>REFERENCE</b>
0149431 (19)	05/23/28	TUDOR	NO DATE	AS 822	ORIGINAL CAR
0177037 (2)	06/07/28	PHEATON	06/04/28 (3)		MN/41/4/4 (94)
0185435(18)	06/12/28	TUDOR	06/01/28 (11)	SFA 2834	ORIGINAL CAR
0188386(41)	06/13/28	UNKNOWN	06/07/28 (6)	TC 2314	ORIGINAL CAR
0212570(1)	06/27/28	ROADSTER	06/12/28 (15)		TR/28/4/19 (83)
0224479(29)	07/02/28	BRIGS. 4DR/CV	06/26/28 (6)		ORIGINAL CAR
0234971 (33)	07/06/28	PHAETON	06/25/28 (11)		ORIGINAL CAR
0247065(22)	07/12/28	BRGS. FORDOR	07/05/28 (7)	190-970	ORIGINAL CAR
0272766(1)	07/23/28	????????????????	06/12/28 (41)		TR/30/1/18 (85)
0293324 (21)	07/31/28	TUDOR	07/28/28 (3)		ORIGINAL CAR
0301914 (21)	08/02/28	OCPU	07/26/28 (7)		ORIGINAL CAR
0352579 (52)	08/22/28	ROADSTER	08/14/28 (8)	SFA 751	ORIGINAL CAR
0397762(3)	09/06/28	SPC. COUPE	09/05/28 (1)	DO 12040	ORIGINAL CAR
0418725 (45)	09/13/28	TUDOR	08/27/28 (17)	AS 1939	ORIGINAL CAR
0430781(12)	09/17/28	SPC. COUPE	06/02/29 (105)	AS 7134	ORIGINAL CAR
0519792(21)	10/12/28	TUDOR	10/08/28 (4)		ORIGINAL CAR
0589070(21)	11/01/28	TUDOR	10/31/28 (1)		ORIGINAL CAR
0615049(4)	11/08/28	SPC. COUPE	10/31/28 (8)		ORIGINAL CAR
0621573(21)	11/09/28	TUDOR	11/07/28 (2)		ORIGINAL CAR
0623657 (2)	11/12/28	SPC. COUPE	11/07/28 (5)	DO 38992	MN/47/3/12 (00)
0726480(2)	12/07/28	SPT. COUPE	11/30/28 (7)	O 22670	MN/30/4/7 (83)
0739396(13)	12/12/28	SPC. COUPE	12/04/28 (8)		ORIGINAL CAR
0740415(21)	12/11/28	OCPU	12/06/28 (5)		ORIGINAL CAR
0756092(1)	12/14/28	PHEATON	11/30/28 (14)		TR/23/6/32 (79)
0780072(1)	12/20/28	STW M250-385	12/10/28 (10)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
0801795 (18)	12/??/28	STW M250-329	12/10/28 (??)		ORIGINAL CAR
0804628(11)	12/28/28	SPC. COUPE	12/18/28 (10)		ORIGINAL CAR
0817059 (21)	01/03/29	TAXI	12/05/28 (28)		ORIGINAL CAR
0852390 (28)	01/09/29	STD. COUPE	01/03/29 (5)	AS 2299	ORIGINAL CAR
0880313(21)	01/15/29	OCPU	01/07/29 (8)		ORIGINAL CAR
0922002(21)	01/22/29	CCPU	01/18/29 (4)		ORIGINAL CAR
0924113 (1)	01/23/29	????????????????	01/17/29 (6)		TR/23/6/16 (79)
0926848(21)	01/23/29	TUDOR	01/21/29 (2)	CHESTER, PA	ORIGINAL CAR
0932223(21)	01/24/29	COUPE	01/18/29 (6)		ORIGINAL CAR
0959743(21)	01/28/29	TUDOR	01/26/29 (2)		ORIGINAL CAR
0980987(21)	01/31/29	OCPU	01/29/29 (2)	NK 1377	ORIGINAL CAR
0994624 (2)	02/02/29	FORDOR	01/26/29 (6)		MN/22/5/2 (75)
1019128(1)	02/07/29	STW M250-519	01/11/29 (26)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
1022596 (10)	02/09/29	UNKNOWN	01/20/29 (19)	LE 13885 2-29	ORIGINAL CAR
1044691 (1)	02/13/29	STW M250-525	01/11/29 (32)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
1049564(2)	02/14/29	SPT. COUPE	02/04/29 (10)		MN/21/5/2 (74)
1058471 (1)	02/16/29	STW M250-???	01/11/29 (35)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
1101082(1)	03/08/29	STW M250-668	01/11/29 (57)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
1104834(2)	02/25/29	SPC. COUPE	02/20/29 (5)		MN/29/1/13 (82)
1157956(51)	03/06/29	TUDOR	03/05/29 (1)	F 72223	ORIGINAL CAR
1170243(1)	03/08/29	STW M250-793	01/11/29 (55)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
1171705 (40)	03/08/29	BUS. COUPE	02/28/29 (10)		ORIGINAL CAR
1173075(1)	03/08/29	STW M250-928	02/08/29 (30)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
1196027(21)	03/13/29	TUDOR	03/11/29 (2)		ORIGINAL CAR
1228831 (5)	03/19/29	SPC. COUPE	03/09/29 (10)	SFA 5631	ORIGINAL CAR
1235369(10)	03/20/29	TUDOR	03/19/29 (1)	F 76275	ORIGINAL CAR

1285858(1)	03/29/29	STW M250-???	02/21/29 (38)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
1385415(1)	04/15/29	STW M250-1559	04/10/29 (5)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
1386931(21)	04/15/29	OCPU	04/10/29 (5)		ORIGINAL CAR
1410153(1)	04/19/29	STW M250-6396	02/06/29 (47)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
1453589 (26)	04/26/29	MURRY TS.	02/16/29 (70)	M 601 77	ORIGINAL CAR
1488887 (23)	05/02/29	ROADSTER	05/01/29 (1)	OC 32??	ORIGINAL CAR
1498469(1)	05/03/29	STW M250-2037	05/01/29 (2)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
1550140(1)	04/13/29	“A” SP. DE.	05/10/29 (27)		TR/49/6/29 (05)
1614747(1)	05/23/29	STW M250-2547	05/11/29 (12)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
1625031 (27)	05/24/29	MURRY 4DR	05/14/29 (10)	M 601 9157	ORIGINAL CAR
1722670(1)	06/11/29	STW M250-3284	04/04/29 (67)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
1733297 (34)	06/12/29	PHAETON	06/08/29 (4)	NK 3040	ORIGINAL CAR
1814366 (44)	06/24/29	UNKNOWN	05/10/29 (44)		UNKNOWN
1818700 (37)	06/24/29	COUPE	06/17/29 (7)		ORIGINAL CAR
1851183 (35)	06/29/29	TOWN SEDAN	06/10/29 (19)	M 601 16403	ORIGINAL CAR
1887700 (14)	07/06/29	STD. COUPE	07/02/29 (4)		ORIGINAL CAR
1910415(1)	07/10/29	STW M250-4076	07/08/29 (2)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
1935462(1)	07/13/29	STW M250-4160	07/12/29 (31)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
1988894 (50)	07/23/29	CCPU	06/03/29 (51)	TC????	ORIGINAL CAR
2003674 (47)	07/25/29	STD. COUPE	07/23/29 (2)	1138 D	ORIGINAL CAR
2013074 (4)	07/26/29	STD. COUPE	07/23/29 (3)		ORIGINAL CAR
2019398(1)	07/27/29	STW M250-4387	07/03/29 (24)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
2047920(1)	08/01/29	STW M250-4369	07/17/29 (13)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
2048355(1)	08/01/29	STW M250-4618	07/24/29 (6)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
2105212 (20)	08/09/29	STD. COUPE	08/01/29 (8)	AS 9378	ORIGINAL CAR
2158954(15)	08/17/29	STD. COUPE	08/09/29 (8)		ORIGINAL CAR
2165602 (42)	08/19/29	TUDOR SEDAN	NO DATE	SFA 8640	ORIGINAL CAR
2165840(1)	08/19/29	STW M250-1741	06/01/29 (79)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
2218910(1)	08/27/29	STW M250-4167	02/18/29 (187)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
2365968 (54)	09/24/29	STD. COUPE	NO DATE	LA 9240 10-29	ORIGINAL CAR

**SAME DAY STAMPING**

<b>ENGINE #</b>	<b>STAMP DATE</b>	<b>VEHICLE TYPE</b>	<b>FIREWALL DATE</b>	<b>BODY #</b>	<b>REFERENCE</b>
0149431 (19)	05/23/28	TUDOR	NO DATE	AS 822	ORIGINAL CAR
0155566 (49)	05/28/28	FORDOR	05/28/28 (0)		ORIGINAL CAR
0229116 (1)	07/03/28	TUDOR	07/03/28 (0)		TR/19/2/28 (74)
0430688 (53)	09/17/28	ROADSTER	09/17/28 (0)	TC150	ORIGINAL CAR
0608074 (21)	11/07/28	CHASSIS	11/07/28 (0)		ORIGINAL CAR
0663186 (21)	11/21/28	TUDOR	11/21/28 (0)		ORIGINAL CAR
0897405 (21)	01/18/29	TUDOR	01/18/29 (0)		ORIGINAL CAR
2165602 (42)	08/19/29	TUDOR SEDAN	NO DATE	SFA 8640	ORIGINAL CAR

**FIREWALL DATE "AFTER" ENGINE STAMPING DATE**

ENGINE #	STAMP DATE	VEHICLE TYPE	FIREWALL DATE	BODY #	REFERENCE
0149431 (19)	05/23/28	TUDOR	NO DATE	AS 822	ORIGINAL CAR
0154739 (39)	05/25/28	ROADSTER PU	05/31/28 (6)		ORIGINAL CAR
0211730 (10)	06/25/28	SPC. COUPE	07/11/28 (16)	DO 00313	ORIGINAL CAR
0271198(6)	07/20/28	TUDOR	08/02/28 (12)		ORIGINAL CAR
0285040(2)	07/26/28	PHEATON	07/27/28 (1)		MN/39/4/5 (92)
0298349 (16)	08/01/28	TUDOR	09/05/28 (36)	SFA 3740	ORIGINAL CAR
0304789 (17)	08/03/28	SPC. COUPE	08/05/28 (2)	DO 04330	ORIGINAL CAR
0320264 (38)	08/10/28	PHAETON	08/24/28 (14)		ORIGINAL CAR
0351345(1)	08/22/28	STW M250-???	11/09/29 (77)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
0404378 (41)	09/10/28	PHAETON	09/27/28 (17)	TC 467	ORIGINAL CAR
0434991 (7)	09/18/28	SPC. COUPE	09/19/28 (1)	DO 15077	TR/49/6/23 (04)
0435819(21)	09/18/28	TUDOR	09/20/28 (2)	?? 7435	ORIGINAL CAR
0442821(21)	09/20/28	BUS. COUPE	10/05/28 (15)		ORIGINAL CAR
0457821(21)	09/25/28	TUDOR	09/29/28 (4)		ORIGINAL CAR
0495764(2)	10/05/28	ROADSTER	10/08/28 (3)		MN/38/2/6 (91)
0501557 (43)	10/08/28	TUDOR SEDAN	12/06/28 (58)	TC 8654	ORIGINAL CAR
0522441(21)	10/15/28	UNKNOWN	11/09/28 (24)		UNKNOWN
0524418(21)	10/15/28	TUDOR	11/09/28 (24)		ORIGINAL CAR
0550620(2)	10/23/28	TUDOR	12/16/28 (53)		MN/48/1/8 (01)
0561429 (31)	10/25/28	TUDOR	11/27/28 (32)		ORIGINAL CAR
0575685 (48)	10/30/28	PHAETON	10/31/28 (1)	SOMERVILLE	ORIGINAL CAR
0616116(8)	11/08/28	SPC. COUPE	11/22/28 (14)		ORIGINAL CAR
0814534(1)	01/02/29	SPC. COUPE	06/21/29 (169)		TR/20/4/32 (75)
0917263 (21)	01/22/29	AACCPU	01/29/29 (7)		ORIGINAL CAR
0962922(2)	01/28/29	FORDOR	08/05/29 (187)		MN/30/2/7 (83)
0994137 (21)	02/02/29	TUDOR	02/04/29 (2)		ORIGINAL CAR
1085181 (21)	02/21/29	COUPE	02/26/29 (5)		ORIGINAL CAR
1150417(2)	03/05/29	STW M250-1780	04/16/29 (41)		MN/46/5/10 (99)
1199843(21)	03/13/29	BUS. COUPE OW	03/15/29 (2)		ORIGINAL CAR
1259337(1)	03/25/29	STW M250-5136	07/30/29 (125)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
1261825 (32)	03/25/29	OCPU	03/27/29 (2)		ORIGINAL CAR
1380113(21)	04/13/29	OCPU	04/20/29 (7)	CHESTER, PA	ORIGINAL CAR
1472251 (1)	04/30/29	STW M250-2700	09/20/29 (140)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
1488887(23)	05/02/29	STD. ROADSTER	05/01/20 (1)	OC 32??	ORIGINAL CAR
1494017 (16)	05/03/29	TUDOR	05/10/29 (7)	AS 8675	ORIGINAL CAR
1620446(1)	05/23/29	STW M250-2951	05/26/29 (3)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
1658435 (24)	05/30/29	SPEC. COUPE	06/07/29 (7)		ORIGINAL CAR
1901596(17)	07/09/29		07/28/29 (17)		ORIGINAL CAR
2093673(9)	08/08/29	T. SED. (155-B)	08/19/29 (11)		TR/49/2/21/(04)
2165602 (42)	08/19/29	TUDOR SEDAN	NO DATE	SFA 8640	ORIGINAL CAR
2168535(1)	08/20/29	STW M250-????	12/06/29 (106)		TR/26/5/16 (82)
2188817(25)	08/22/29	STD. COUPE	08/23/29 (1)	LA 9574 9-29	ORIGINAL CAR
2365968 (54)	09/24/29	STD. COUPE	NO DATE	LA 9240 10-29	ORIGINAL CAR

**NOTES:**

- 1) TR = THE RESTORER

- 2) MN = MODEL A NEWS
- 3) ORIGINAL CAR = INFORMATION FROM THE CONTRIBUTOR
- 4) STW = STATION WAGON

### SOME THOUGHTS TO PONDER

At this point in the production of the tank, there comes some controversy and one of the most interesting concepts concerning the "date" on the lower left front portion of that part of the 1928-1929 tank assembly which forms the upper part of the firewall (A-35327: Dash Upper Assembly). This "date", which is stamped there, may be right side up, such as "7 6 28", upside down, or not there at all. The size of these numbers were.....

The questions are, just **when** did the stamping process start and end; **where** (besides on the tank) was the date stamped; and **why** was it put there in the first place. Some claim it was put there on the day the body was assembled, but was it? Maybe, maybe not. Over the course of the past four years, I have been collecting these dates in conjunction with engine/frame numbers on various original Model A's. The research data from which I have gathered indicates vehicles with dates on the tank which were stamped **before** engine stamping; vehicles with dates on the tank which were stamped **the same day** as engine stamping; and vehicles with dates on the tank which were stamped **after** engine stamping.

Of the many original Model A and AA vehicles, which many of you were so kind in submitting data, there were only two known vehicles which have given us some great clues. These cars originated from the Louisville and Los Angeles assembly plants where they not only stamped the assembly plant code and body number on the subfloor cross sill, but also stamped the month and year the body was produced. With that, and knowing when the engine and gas tank were stamped, might give us some clues as to what happened.

The first is a 1929 Tudor Sedan. The gas tank was stamped on January 20, 1929, and the engine was stamped at Dearborn on February 9, 1929 making the tank stamped 19 days BEFORE the engine stamping date. The body has an assembly plant code of LE 13885 2-29 which stands for the Louisville, KY Ford assembly plant. The 2-29 designation was the month and year the body was assembled and stamped at Louisville...February 1929. It took about 1 week or so to get the parts sent from Dearborn to Louisville by train thus the February stamping date on the body.

The second is a 1929 Standard Coupe. The engine was stamped at Dearborn on August 22, 1929 and the gas tank was stamped on August 23, 1929, 1 day AFTER the engine stamping date. The body has an assembly plant code of LA 9574 9-29 which stands for the Los Angeles, CA Ford assembly plant. The 9-29 designation was the month and year the body was assembled and stamped at Los Angeles...September 1929. It took about 3 weeks or so to get the parts sent from Dearborn to Los Angeles by ship thus the September stamping date on the body.

Yes, there are all sorts of other variables. The tank could of sat around for a number of days; the engine could of sat around for a number of days; the individual assembly plants, or just Dearborn, could have had a special machine which stamped the dates before or after the assembly to the vehicle; or the tank could have been changed at some point during the past 80 plus years since the original assembly of the vehicle thus giving us a different date as was originally was there or no date at all.

Other possibilites could have been that A-35327: Dash Upper Assembly could have got stamped before or after assembly to the tank. Or once the tank was complete and before assembly to the body, it got stamped. Or the tank was stamped after the assembly to the body and before painting. Who knows for sure?

The one thing we do know is that the date was on the tank prior to the painting of the body for which many a tank has proven that fact.

To date, there has been no known Ford data, no known absolute proof that has been found indicating that Ford stamped the gas tank on the date that the body was assembled or anything else as far as that goes.

Again, thoughts as to **why** they were they stamped; **when** did the stamping of dates on the tank start and end; and **where** was it done are still questions to be answered.

As to **why** it was done, again, there is no known Ford data, that I know of, telling us just **why** the tanks were stamped in the first place. We can only guess.

As far as **when** the dating originally started and ended, or in what sequence, that is a good question also. The earliest date for which I have collected is May 31, 1928 and the latest is August 23, 1929. I am almost sure that there might be earlier and later dates out there. If so, I would like to know.

In an other independent study by Roger Kauffman, our prestigious Technical Chairman, as he has recorded some early tanks with the dates on them. One of which is a car that has "10 12 27" stamped on the tank and has an engine number of A390, which was stamped on November 7, 1927 and was one of twenty-two stamped engines sent to the final assembly line at Fordson (the Rouge) on that day also. Three other dated tanks for which he has seen are a December 1927; an early January 1928 and a March 1928.

As far as **where** were they stamped, specifically at Dearborn or elsewhere, that to remains a big question.

If anyone knows the answers to these three questions and can come up with positive proof as to **why, when** and **where**, these tanks were stamped, I, along with quite a few other people in this hobby would like to know. I am sure that stuck away in some obscure file at The Henry Ford/Benson Ford Research Center in Dearborn are the answers.

Once the tank was complete, it was then sent on to be assembled onto the Model A/AA body at The Rouge (or put on a train or ship) followed by the painting of the body itself unless the tanks were shipped to the various assembly plants throughout the USA and abroad, then they were installed and painted there. Since Ford's policy at the time was to "manufacture near the source of supply and assemble near the point of distribution", and since the tank had to go through a series of complex steps to manufacture, I doubt very much that the tank was built anywhere else besides the Fordson plant in Dearborn.

(From Model A News, Vol. 56, No. 1, Page 14-17, Jan/Feb. 2009)

**I WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND PUBLICATIONS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE ABOVE FIREWALL DATE STUDY:**

1. *The Restorer (MAFCA)*
2. *Model A News (MARC)*
3. *Larry Rucker*
4. *Don Turley*
5. *Steve Plucker*
6. *John Blair*
7. *Jim Morris*
8. *Terry Oberer*
9. *Lief Rust*
10. *Dave Sturges*
11. *Dick Alexander*
12. *Phil Russell*
13. *Wendell Miller*
14. *Don Barns*
15. *Todd Smith*
16. *Ron Rude*
17. *Dave Lopes*
18. *Glenn Johnson (Peter Noyes)*
19. *George Wale*
20. *Bill Reeser*
21. *Tom Umholtz*
22. *Jon Lisota*
23. *Ned Cockey*
24. *Jim Miller*
25. *John Wing*
26. *Dennis Smith*
27. *Charles Pavlu*
28. *Fred Gooding*
29. *Jim Ford*
30. *Harvey Ross*
31. *Richard Mullally*
32. *Ebay*
33. *Phred Hollister*
34. *Sam Nixon*
35. *John Earnst*
36. *Jow Way*
37. *Barry Blake*
38. *Denny Sprecher*
39. *Rowdy (Rod's Antique Cars)*
40. *Timothy Gibbons*
41. *Tom Wesenburg*
42. *John Ward*
43. *Rand Rigg*
44. *Jerry Anderson*
45. *Arln Bieber*
46. *John Kinney*
47. *Don Turley*
48. *Mark Zacchio*
49. *Jack Richard*
50. *Ed Gross*

51. *Greg Fish*
52. *Dudley Moore*
53. *Jeff Crummy*
54. *Jacob Meganck*