

Technical Notes

Alternative License Plate Bracket for the 1928 or 1929 Model A

By Lynn Sondenaa Sandy, Oregon

I have a 1929 Model A and I wanted better air flow thru the radiator so I removed the license plate and bracket from the headlight bar. Now the problem was where to relocate it. After trial and error I found that a 1939 to 1941 Ford deluxe front license plate bracket will work just fine. The part number is 91A-5034-B. It will require drilling two $\frac{1}{4}$ inch holes in the right front passenger side bumper bracket. The 1939 to 1941 Ford deluxe license plate bracket has the correct curve to hold the license plate straight with the front bumper. It is also the correct height so the license plate will be parallel to the bumper. Note, I have tried other years of the early V-8 Fords and they do not fit the curve of the bumper bracket and they are not the height needed to place the license plate above the bumper. Please note that the 1939 to 1941 standard license plate bracket also does not fit correctly, so use the deluxe bracket from a passenger car.

A note on how to drill the bumper bar: It is made of spring steel which is hard. You should drill pilot holes of 1/8 inch diameter first, and then drill the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch diameter holes. You have a choice of the following five types of twist drill bits. These go from will work ok to work the best. Their price ranges from average to very high.

- Titanium nitrate coated
- Cobalt
- Carbide
- Tungsten
- Diamond

I drilled my pilot holes using a cobalt twist bit and then a carbide twist bit for the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch holes. Use a low speed of 600 rpm for the pilot holes and a speed of 300 to 400 rpm for the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch diameter holes. Use very light pressure and a drop or two of cutting oil. Not motor oil, it will smoke. If the drill bit starts to get hot let it cool down, otherwise you will ruin the bit. The drilling process can be completed on the car using a hand drill. It will take about 30 minutes.

