

Technical Notes

Carburetor Leaking Gas

By Lynn Sondenaa

If the carburetor is leaking gas where the gas line enters and attaches to the upper housing there are two items to check. First look to see that the brass ferrule is smooth and seating properly. Second check the ferrule seat on the carburetor housing. It should be smooth and not pitted. If it has problem, use a tapered stone in a drill to smooth it or very carefully use a countersink bit to true and smooth the seat. If both of these items are ok and the leak is coming from the choke butterfly area, then first check the following: (1) Check to see that the float valve is not stuck. (A very quick method is to lightly tap the carburetor lower housing with a dead blow hammer) If ethanol gasoline sits in the carburetor for more than two weeks without a gas stabilizer it starts to deteriorate and becomes sticky. Clean the float valve and it should work. If the float valve works then next check the float level. An incorrect float level will allow gasoline to escape from the bowl causing the leak.

Here is some useful information to know when working with Zenith carburetors. Plumbers white Teflon tape is not gasoline resistant. It will dissolve and fall apart plugging the carburetor jets. So do not use this product on gas line fittings. Another good piece of information is about the float needle valves. There are currently three styles available for your use.

Original needle style	Very poor quality - Sticks often	\$6.00
Original needle style with Vitron tip	Ok quality	\$12.00
Grose-Jet style (Uses two ball bearings)	Superior quality (easy to clean)	\$16.00

(Grose-Jet needle valves usually have GJZ following the part number).

This is just another case of you get what you pay for!