

Stevens Speed Up Tools

Reproduction Catalog T-106

by Paul R. Duncan

Catalog Review

At a recent Tin Lizzie meeting, Mark Wing discussed a Steven's tool used to align the bushings and threads on the front axle spindle holes. Mark has recently been searching for a Stevens tool. Larry has used his milling machine to do a similar repair on my 1927 Roadster pickup. I noticed a reproduction of the Steven's catalog in Lang's and ordered a copy. Here is what I learned about Stevens tools.

Stevens and Company was founded in 1899 and was located at 375 Broadway, New York City. They were tool smiths. Their "Speed up" collection was the largest line of special tools for Ford and Fordson (tractors). The introduction to the catalog explains "From the beginning it has been our firm's policy to establish the most reasonable prices possible on Stevens Speed Up Tools to allow only a fair profit on the manufacturing cost rather than to inflate prices according to the probable worth of a tool to the user."

The third listing in the alphabetical index is what Mark was discussing, the Stevens **Axle Bushing** outfit (page 28). Spindle bolt holes on a Model T wear and replacing spindle bolts and spindle body bushings does not correct that problem. This is likely a more common problem in many of our Tin Lizzie T's than we realize. The "fix" on the milling machine in Larry's shop is time consuming because the whole front axle needs to be removed from the T and placed on the milling machine. The

repair can be done with the Stevens tool while the axle is left on the T.

Another Stevens tool that caught my attention is the Stevens **Hub Cap Rethreader for Ford**. If one is not careful, it is easy to cross thread hub caps on a Model T, especially on those made of soft brass. The Hub Cap Rethreader tool is hinged so the steel jaws

close on the entire length of the thread and will straighten out any threads that are damaged.

I have learned working in Larry's shop that there are some operations in the restoration of Model T parts that require the proper tool. For instance, the appropriate gear puller is required to disassemble a Model T transmission. There are multiple bushings used in the T and replacing them requires many special drivers.

In Bruce McCalley's book- "*Model T Ford, the Car that Changed the World*" (1994 pages 591-605) there is a complete listing of the tools provided by Ford Motor Company

for the Model T. The more specialized Stevens tools complement the basic Ford tools for certain tasks in restoring Model Ts. Mark Wing is now watching for a usable Stevens Axle Bushing tool set to come up for sale.

