

Avanti Repair

Is Your 58 Year Old Distributor, Trustworthy & Reliable?

The Original 1963-64 Avanti dual point distributor, Illustration #0601-1 has probably served it's owners well, over the last 58 plus years. The question is; How much longer will it continue to be reliable and trustworthy?

In these 58 plus years, how many times has someone put oil in the little oiler base Illustration #0602-21. The oiler base is located on the front of the distributor, just below and in front of the distributor cap, Illustration #0601-11

It has a little spring loaded cap, on the top. When you lift the cap and put oil in the base, it flows to a wick Illustration# 0601-26-1, which in turn keeps the main shaft and bushing lubed. This of course keeps wear of the main shaft and bushing to a minimum.

If you have wear, in the main shaft and/or bushing, your dual points may not open and close to the proper gaps consistently. The rotor Illustration #0601-15 may not be making correct contact with the distributor cap contacts Illustration #0601-11

Other parts in the 58-plus yea-old distributor can have wear or starting to wear out. This could cause the engine to not start and perform as it once did.

You can do as others have done, and replace your dual points with an aftermarket electronic module, which eliminated only the dual points. It does not address any other unknown issues that your distributor may have like wear.

About two to three years ago, I started selling a new reproduction, fully electronic, complete distributor kit. The kit is a complete drop in, with no extra parts to purchase. I assigned the part umber 1557897R. The kit contains; one new complete distributor, one new 45,000 volt coil with a bracket for a hotter charge and better burn. Lastly, one set of spark plugs wires, see picture, this page.

This kit 1557897R will also fit all Studebaker V-8 engines, with 12 volt electrical systems.

The advantages of installing this kit, in your 1963-1964 Avanti, are many! One of the best, is that with the original Avanti stainless ignition shielding covers in place, you or somebody else can't see the new non-stock parts.

By Dan Booth
Nostalgic Motor Cars

Dan Booth has over 46 years of exclusive, hands on Avanti sales, service, collision and parts, not Studebaker cars or trucks, just 1963-1985 Avantis.



Next, Its totally reversible. If you want to sell or trade your Studebaker Avanti for a different car, with any of the Studebaker V-8 engines, it will fit.

I have had only great and positive feedback from the people that have purchased and installed this distributor kit in their Studebaker Avanti or Studebakers. If you are somewhat of a novice, and want to install this yourself, just call me and of course I will assist you.

One of the most important things is to mark your old distributor housing base and block surfaces with a chisel or pick punch. This will allow you to simply drop your old distributor back in the hole, line up your marks and the engine should fire right up.

I have not had the time to install this outstanding kit in an Avanti yet. What I have told everybody that has purchased this kit is; The new 45,000 volt, high voltage coils are about ½-inch longer than your old coil. The new coil may bottom out against the ignition shielding right bracket Illustration #0603-30 part #1557221 which may keep you from installing the stainless cover (dog house) illustration #0601-62, Part #1556936 Its very close. You may have to install a relief in this bracket, that will allow the coil to slide down just a little. This is an outstanding buy at \$270, for a complete kit that may help restore your Studebaker V-8 engine back its original performance it once had.