

# The Flivver Flash

The Official Newsletter of the Space City T's - Houston, TX

## Aligning Model T Headlights

by Jim Davis

I found the following Tennessee T's Model T Club link on the MTCFA Forum General Discussion Page on aligning the headlight bar mounted type '26-'27 headlamp buckets and correcting incorrect '26-'27 bulb socket orientation, which is a problem on many Model Ts. On my Model T Open Express, one headlight bucket socket has the stock bulb filament horizontal and the other headlight bucket has the bulb filament vertical. If I had not converted my headlights to LEDs, I would have modified my incorrect socket like the two articles within this issue, to try and obtain proper focus.



For pre '26, adjust the lamps using a wrench on the big nut under each bucket. They swivel on the bar recess on a large cupped washer between the bolt shank and the recess. Swivel up, down or sideways, then lock the nut, and check the lamps on your marks on the 25' away vertical surface. Get the lamps to shine in the marks you made.

In any event, I thought the two following '26-'27 headlight articles from the Tennessee T's Model T Club would be good information for the Space City T's of Houston club:

<https://tennesseets.weebly.com/tech-page-3.html>.

Take care and be safe, Jim.

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## Adjusting Headlights is Easy!

By Suzi Robinson

Recently, while on a tour, our group drove our Model T's to supper and when we walked out of the restaurant darkness had settled in. Model T headlights are not as bright as modern cars, and we all know it, but sometimes we get caught out after dark and we must safely make it back to our destination.

Our car was the lead car and my husband was driving. Our headlights were so weak that he had trouble seeing the edge of the road. It took both of us to drive and locate the edge of the pavement. The reflection in the windshield did not help either. Naturally, I told him that he needs to buy some new lights. There was no comment.

When we got home I found his Model T Service manual, read the portion on headlights, and suspected the headlights might be out of focus and not properly aimed.

The results were outstanding and the fix was simple and easy. Follow these few steps and you can improve the headlight efficiency on your Model T Ford!

1. On any flat surface step off 25 feet from a wall- put down a mark.
2. On the wall, put a mark 28-32 inches from the floor. I found 2 different references in 2 different resources. Research the year model of your T and mark accordingly. Actually, the light pattern is so fuzzy that a couple of inches is irrelevant, from my point of view.
3. Mark the center on the wall indicator, then mark 14" either side of center (Fig. A).

Fig. A



Fig. C

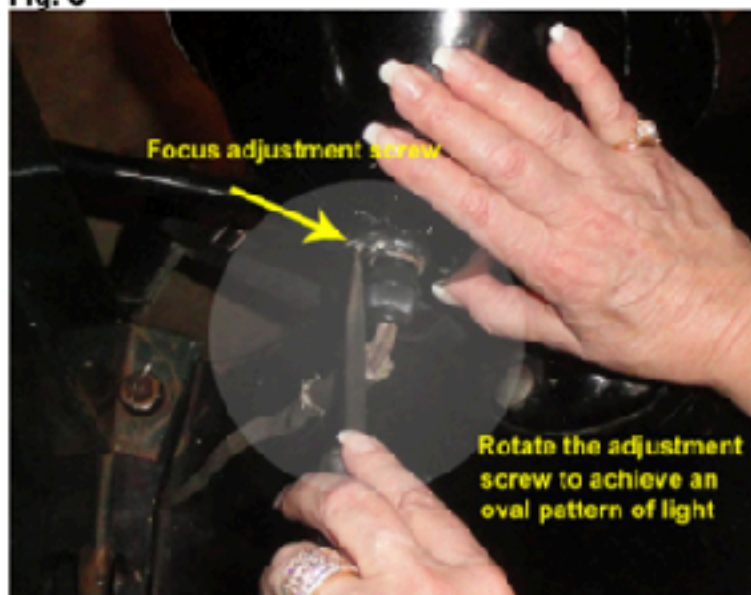


4. Next, disassemble the headlight, thoroughly clean the lens, reflector, and the socket (Fig. C). The socket must easily slide in the socket tube and the reflectors must be shiny- if not replace them.
5. Reassemble the headlight, mount on car.
6. Line the center of the T (radiator) up with the center mark on your wall. ( Fig. A.)

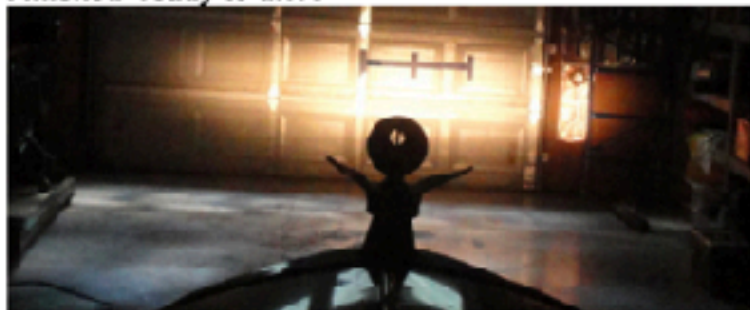
7. In darkness, turn the switch to ON (bright). Cover the driver's side headlight with your husband's raincoat like I did. The light pattern should be a concentrated oval- not a large spread out circular pattern. If your's is like the one on the right (Fig. B), you need to FOCUS the light pattern by turn the adjusting screw (Fig. C) on back of the headlamp, which adjusts the socket in and out of the tube as you turn, thus focusing the pattern to a concentrated oval (Fig. D).

8. Once both lights are properly focused the light concentration must be aligned so that the top of the oval is even with the mark on the wall and 14" off center, depending on which side is being aimed- see photo for details. The car I adjusted was a 1926 Coupe and the brackets connect to a bar that is rounded where the lamp meets the bar, which makes alignment simple. On older cars the headlamp bracket must actually be bent to align the headlamp according to Ford specifications. My husband will have to do the bending on our 1921 Depot Hack.

Fig. C



Finished- ready to drive



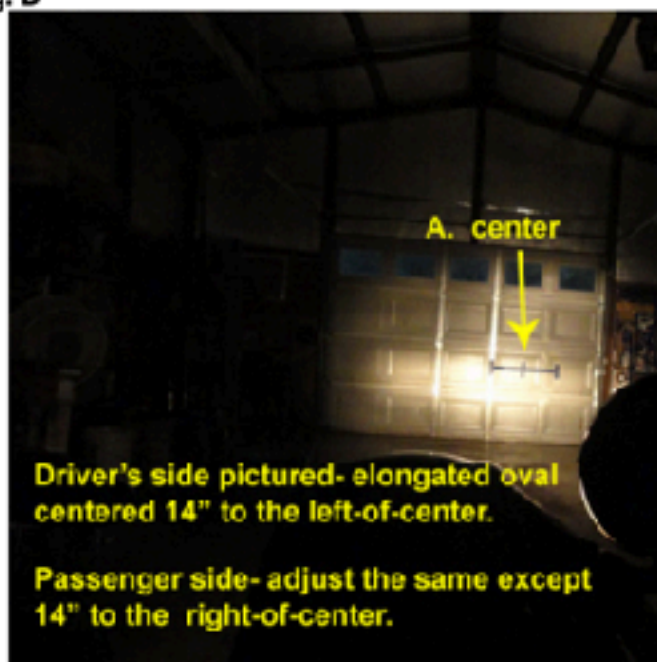
This procedure is simple and can be done in a short amount of time, thereby improving your driving vision at night.

Fig. B



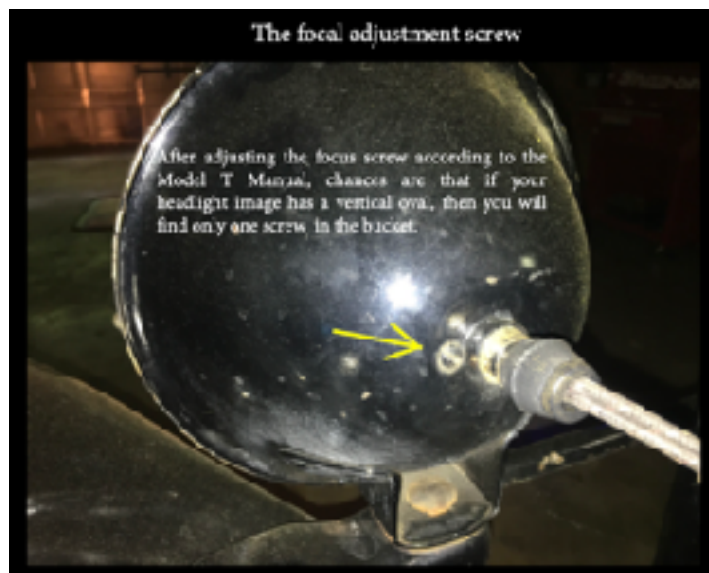
Circle of light, non-oval, headlight needs to be focused to create an oval pattern of light.

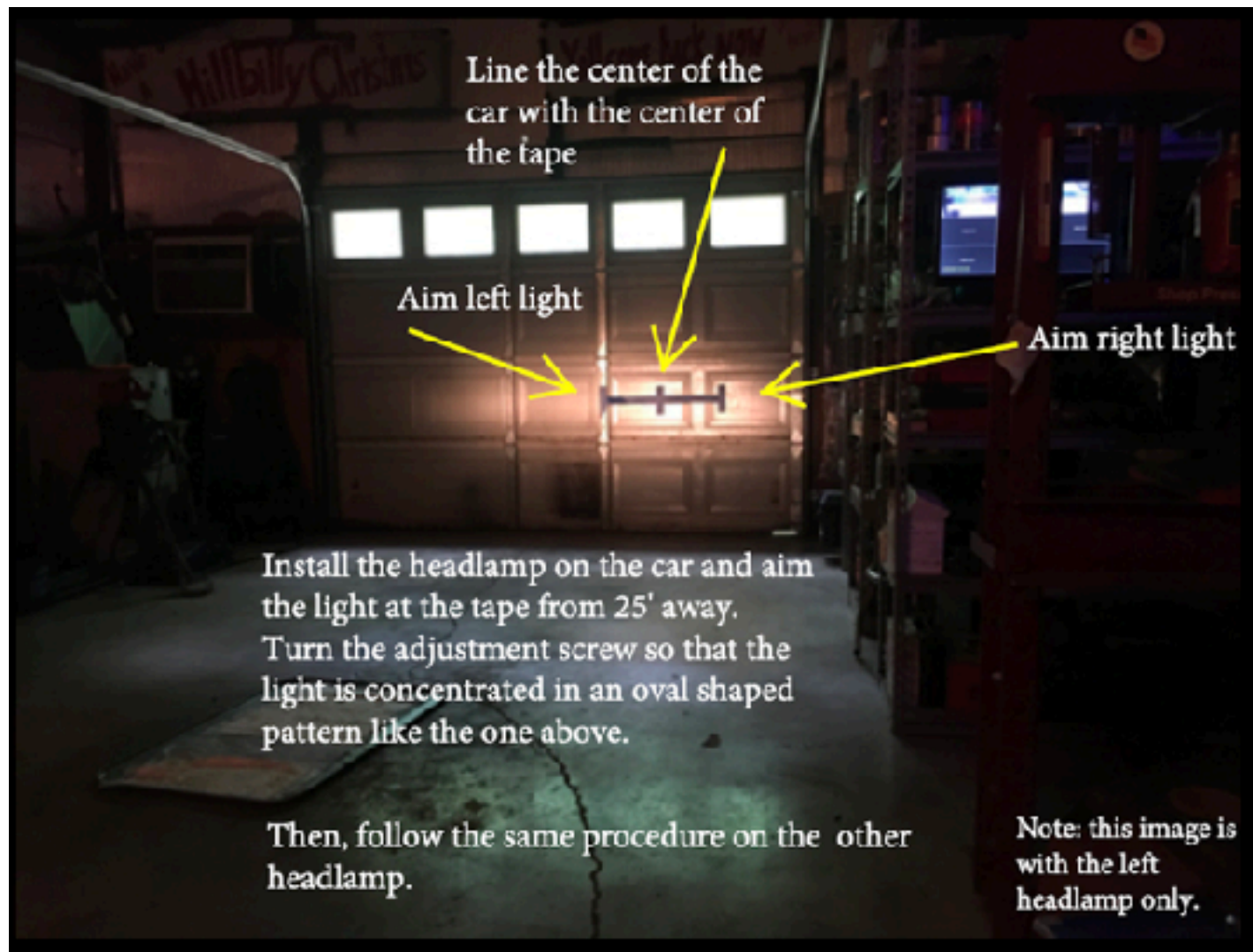
Fig. D



Driver's side pictured- elongated oval centered 14" to the left-of-center.

Passenger side- adjust the same except 14" to the right-of-center.





## OBITUARY

### Robert M. Kirk

**JUNE 2, 1924 – APRIL 26, 2020**

Robert Kirk, Bob to his friends, died August 26th at the age of 95. He was born in Treece, Kansas and grew up during The Great Depression. With limited education and hard work, he became a successful businessman. He came to the Houston area in 1953 and soon put down roots in Webster, Texas.

He had two antique Ford cars that he loved working on. For many years, Bob and his wife Eva enjoyed taking driving trips around the country with their antique car club friends.

After his wife of 68 years died, his friends rallied around him and he had many more happy active years. We will all miss his smile and stories.



# Texas T Party 2020

## Temple, Texas

### September 30 - October 3



Welcome to the [2020 Texas T Party website](#), the 4 day event will be held in Temple, Texas. Click on the following link to fill out and mail your [Registration Form](#).

Like all good T parties there will be plenty of tours and activities. We look forward to providing all the details including an overview of daily activities in due course. One thing we are definitely planning to do is attend the Texas Early Day Tractor and Engine Show on Saturday October 3.

The 2020 Texas T party will be based at the **Hilton Garden Inn**, located in the medical center area of the Temple Medical Center. A special "T Party Tour Rate" of **\$100** per night has been negotiated for tour participants. The hotel is committed to providing 80 of their 130 rooms at this rate. It may go over this quota depending on demand from other customers, so act quickly. The hotel is pet friendly but does require a \$50 non-refundable deposit.

**Hilton Garden Inn**  
**1749 Scott Blvd.**  
**Temple, TX 76504**  
**(254) 773-0200**

**Please Note** that the hotel parking lot only has room for our Model Ts and modern cars but not trucks and trailers. We are working diligently to obtain permission to use space close to the hotel. Information on this topic will be provided as soon as possible. No secondary hotel has been reserved at this time. Information on a second hotel may be added at a later date, depending on the need. Information about places to park an RV will be provided.

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The Flivver Flash is published by the Space City T's chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America in Houston, Texas twelve times per year. This newsletter is produced for the education and enjoyment of members and those expressing interest in joining the Space City T's. Said education and enjoyment is as it pertains to the Model T Ford automobile. The Flash is also shared with other antique auto clubs. Other clubs may use articles from this publication with credit to this newsletter or the original source. News, articles, ads or anything of interest to the club must be submitted to the editor by the 20th of the month preceding the month of publication. Emailing takes place the last week of the month. Annual dues are \$25 per year.

#### 2020 Space City Club Officers and Board Members

President	Dave Lucas	281-388-0761
Vice President	Rick McCracken	281-351-0701
Secretary	Rosemarie Stokley	281-574-7850
Treasurer	Jerry Smith	281-461-9906
Board Member	Nancy Carter	713-580-3368
Board Member	Bobby Wright	409-771-5548
Board Member	Bill Severn	936-273-3592

### THE FLIVVER FLASH

Anthony J. Marino  
302 Torrey Court  
League City, TX 77573  
281-482-4156

email: [modelt@spacecityts.org](mailto:modelt@spacecityts.org)

## New Members Wanted

Please visit our [Space City T's of Houston Texas web site](#) and view our club future and past Model T Ford events and activities.

If interested, please provide your name, address, mobile phone, & email, and make a \$25 check payable to:

**Space City T's**

Please mail your information and check to the Treasurer at:

**Jerry Smith**  
**13723 Llano Lake Court**  
**Houston, Texas 77059**

The Space City T's Club is the Houston, Texas chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America. All questions concerning membership, The Vintage Ford magazine, the MTFCA library, chapter insurance, purchase of manuals, back magazine issues, or store items can be directed to the following:

#### Model T Ford Club of America

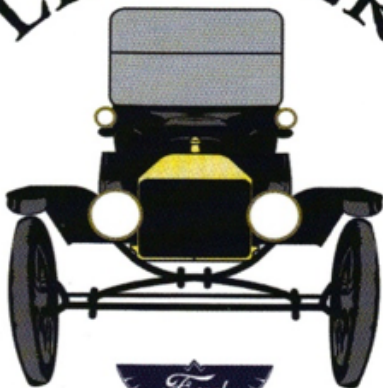
309 N. 8th Street, PO BOX 996  
Richmond, IN 47375-0996  
Phone: 765-855-5248

Email: [susan@mtfca.com](mailto:susan@mtfca.com)

\$40 annual dues includes six issues of the Vintage Ford

Join MTFCA at: [www.mtfca.com](http://www.mtfca.com)

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**WWW.MRMODELT.COM**

#### For Sale: Bubble Room



2 year old complete, custom made, tall, self supporting bubble room for storing your Model T clean and dry. 8 inch tubes have a pump to keep a constant pressure to support the structure as needed. A fan provides low contact pressure constant flow of filtered air.. Note: Too tall for an 8 foot ceiling room.

Original price \$1,800.  
Price for 2 year old complete system \$1,000.

Call/text Bobby Wright at 409-771-5548 or email [bcw54800@gmail.com](mailto:bcw54800@gmail.com)

## FLIVVER FLASH INPUTS NEEDED

Do you have something to share? A barn find, funny or not so funny Model T stories? Tour photos, or articles about Model T's? Your Model T acquisition stories, restoration photos or swap meet finds? A special interest article?

Please email ads, articles, photos, stories, etc. etc. to: [topkick7@outlook.com](mailto:topkick7@outlook.com)

## Next Meeting Cancelled

**June 10, 2020**



**Dine with Friends at  
Demeris BBQ at 6:00 P.M.**

**located at**

**1702 West Loop North,  
Suite A, Houston, TX 77008**

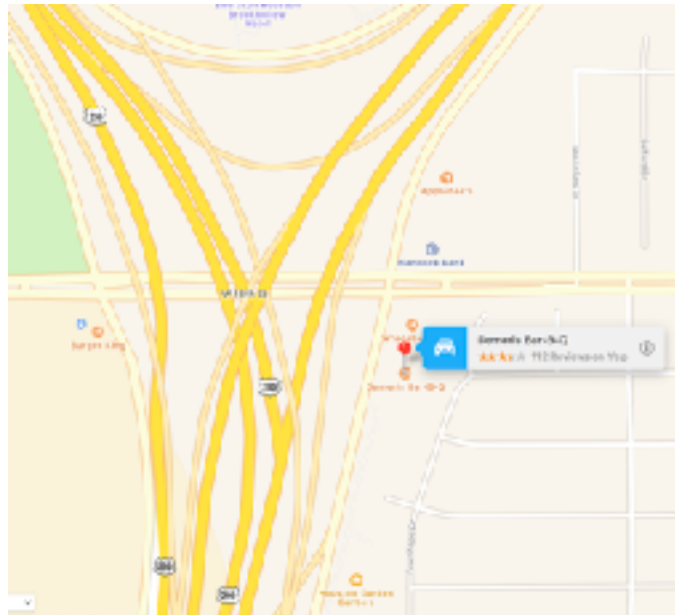
**Then attend the  
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.**

**Place:**

**Lazy Brook Baptist Church  
—1822 West 18th Street in the  
Heights**

**Website: [www.spacecityts.org](http://www.spacecityts.org)**

**Email: [modelt@spacecityts.org](mailto:modelt@spacecityts.org)**



### Directions to Demeris BBQ

From the east or west on I-10 or the south side of downtown, take the I-610 West Loop North and get off at the 18th Street Exit. Demeris BBQ will be immediately on the right after Houston Garden Nursery.

From the west on Highway 290, exit at Mangum and turn right to 18th Street. At 18th, turn left, cross under West Loop and turn into the Whataburger parking lot on the right. Proceed to Demeris BBQ after the Whataburger.

From the north on I-45, take the 610 North Loop West around to the I-610 West Loop South to the Hempstead Highway exit. Make a U-turn under I-610 and proceed north on the frontage road to just before 18th Street, Demeris BBQ will be on your right after Houston Garden Center.



**First Class Mail**



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League City, Texas 77573

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