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› Standard Motor Products Ignition Condenser - RC19 User Manual

Standard Motor Products RC19

Standard Motor Products Ignition Condenser - RC19

Model: RC19 | Brand: Standard Motor Products

INTRODUCTION

The Standard Motor Products RC19 Ignition Condenser is a critical component in the ignition system of older vehicles, particularly those equipped with a distributor and points ignition system. Its primary function is to absorb the surge of electricity that occurs when the distributor points open, preventing arcing and premature wear of the points. This action helps to ensure a strong, consistent spark at the spark plugs, which is essential for efficient engine operation. This manual provides essential information regarding the function, installation, and specifications of the RC19 Ignition Condenser.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW



Figure 1: Standard Motor Products RC19 Ignition Condenser. This image displays the black rectangular body of the condenser with its

The RC19 Ignition Condenser is designed for durability and reliable performance. It features a robust construction suitable for automotive environments. Understanding its role is key to proper vehicle maintenance and ignition system health.

INSTALLATION (SETUP)

Safety First: Always disconnect the vehicle's battery before performing any work on the ignition system to prevent electrical shock or damage to components. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, such as safety glasses and gloves.

- 1. Locate the Distributor:** Identify the distributor in your vehicle's engine bay. The condenser is typically mounted inside or on the exterior of the distributor housing.
- 2. Remove Distributor Cap and Rotor:** Carefully unclip or unscrew the distributor cap and remove the rotor to gain access to the points and condenser.
- 3. Disconnect Old Condenser:** Note the wiring connection of the existing condenser. Disconnect its wire from the points assembly and unbolt or unclip the condenser from its mounting location.
- 4. Install New Condenser:** Position the new RC19 condenser in the same location as the old one. Secure it with its mounting screw or clip.
- 5. Connect Wiring:** Connect the condenser's wire to the appropriate terminal on the points assembly. Ensure a secure connection.
- 6. Reassemble:** Reinstall the rotor and distributor cap. Ensure all clips or screws are tightened.
- 7. Reconnect Battery:** Reconnect the vehicle's battery terminals.
- 8. Test System:** Start the engine and check for proper operation.

Note: Specific installation procedures may vary depending on the vehicle make and model. Refer to your vehicle's service manual for detailed instructions.

FUNCTION AND ROLE IN IGNITION SYSTEM

The ignition condenser, also known as a capacitor, plays a vital role in the conventional ignition system by working in conjunction with the ignition points. When the points open, the magnetic field in the ignition coil collapses, inducing a high voltage. Without a condenser, this voltage would cause a significant spark (arcing) across the opening points, leading to rapid erosion and pitting of the contact surfaces.

The condenser absorbs this surge of voltage, effectively "dampening" the arc and allowing the points to open cleanly. This action not only prolongs the life of the ignition points but also contributes to a sharper collapse of the magnetic field in the coil, resulting in a higher voltage spark at the spark plugs. A strong spark is crucial for efficient combustion and engine performance.

MAINTENANCE

The Standard Motor Products RC19 Ignition Condenser is a sealed, passive component and generally requires no routine maintenance. Its lifespan is dependent on operating conditions and manufacturing quality. If the condenser fails, it typically requires replacement rather than repair.

Regular inspection of the entire ignition system, including the points (if applicable), spark plugs, and ignition wires, is recommended as part of general vehicle maintenance. If issues related to ignition performance arise, the condenser should be considered as a potential point of failure.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Symptoms of a failing or failed ignition condenser can often mimic other ignition system problems. Common indicators include:

- **Engine Misfires or Rough Idling:** An inconsistent spark can lead to incomplete combustion.
- **Engine Stalling:** Especially when hot, as condenser efficiency can decrease with temperature.
- **Difficulty Starting:** Weak spark can make starting challenging.
- **Excessive Arcing at Points:** Visible sparking across the distributor points when the engine is running, indicating the condenser is not absorbing the voltage surge.
- **Rapid Pitting or Burning of Points:** Premature wear of the contact points due to arcing.

If these symptoms are observed, it is advisable to inspect the ignition system. A faulty condenser can be diagnosed by observing the points for excessive arcing or by testing the condenser's capacitance with a multimeter (though this requires specialized knowledge and equipment).

SPECIFICATIONS

Attribute	Detail
Model Number	RC19
UPC	091769545192
Item Weight	0.8 ounces
Product Dimensions	2 x 1.44 x 3.38 inches
Exterior Finish	Machined
Material	Metal
Shape	Rectangular
Mounting Type	Snap-In Mount
Manufacturer	Auto Extra

WARRANTY INFORMATION

Specific warranty terms for the Standard Motor Products RC19 Ignition Condenser are provided by the manufacturer or the point of purchase. Please retain your proof of purchase. For detailed warranty coverage, duration, and claim procedures, refer to the documentation included with your product or contact Standard Motor Products directly via their official website or customer service channels.

SUPPORT

For technical assistance, installation queries, or troubleshooting beyond the scope of this manual, please contact the manufacturer or your automotive parts supplier. When seeking support, have your product model number (RC19) and any relevant vehicle information readily available. You may find additional resources and contact information on the official Standard Motor Products website.

ASK A QUESTION ABOUT THIS MANUAL

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