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MSD 8578

MSD 8578 Small Diameter Pro-Billet Distributor, Iron Gear User Manual

Model: **8578** | Brand: **MSD**

1. Product Overview

The MSD 8578 Pro-Billet Distributor is engineered for high-performance applications, featuring a robust billet housing that is significantly smaller in diameter compared to stock Ford distributors. This design allows for improved clearance and a cleaner engine bay. It is specifically designed to be used in conjunction with an MSD Ignition Control unit for optimal performance.
Key features include:

- Billet housing with a 5/8-inch smaller diameter than stock Ford distributors.
- Requires an MSD Ignition Control for proper operation.
- Comes with a small diameter cap featuring HEI style terminals and a race rotor.
- Nylon pads integrated for smooth operation of the advance weights.
- Advance weight pins are securely staked and TIG welded to the plate for durability.





Figure 1: The MSD 8578 Pro-Billet Distributor, showcasing its compact design and red cap.

2. Setup and Installation

Proper installation of the MSD 8578 Pro-Billet Distributor is crucial for optimal engine performance and longevity. Due to the specialized nature of this component, professional installation by a qualified automotive technician is highly recommended.

Important Considerations:

- This distributor *must* be used in conjunction with an MSD Ignition Control unit. Ensure your ignition system is compatible and correctly wired.
- Verify proper fitment and clearance within your engine bay before beginning installation. Refer to the provided dimensions.
- Ensure the correct gear type is used for your camshaft. This model comes with an iron gear.

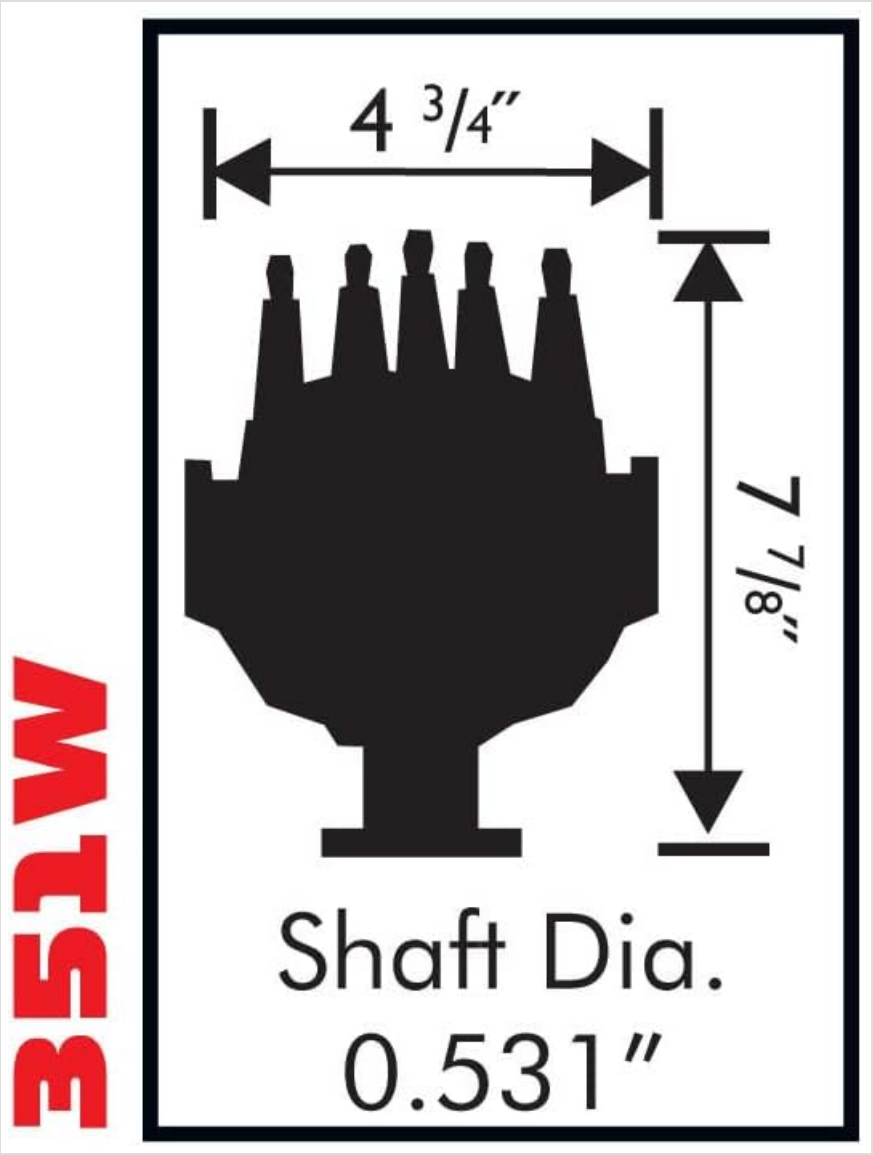


Figure 2: Dimensional diagram for the MSD 8578 Distributor, showing key measurements for fitment, including shaft diameter and overall height.

For detailed wiring diagrams and specific installation procedures, please refer to the comprehensive instructions provided with your MSD Ignition Control unit and any vehicle-specific service manuals.

3. Operation

Once correctly installed and integrated with an MSD Ignition Control, the MSD 8578 Pro-Billet Distributor operates automatically as part of your vehicle's ignition system. It precisely controls spark timing to ensure efficient combustion and optimal engine performance.
No user intervention is typically required during normal operation. Any adjustments to timing or advance curves are managed through the connected MSD Ignition Control unit, which should be configured according to your engine's specifications and tuning requirements.

4. Maintenance

The MSD 8578 Pro-Billet Distributor is designed for durability and minimal maintenance. However, periodic inspection is recommended to ensure continued optimal performance.

- **Visual Inspection:** Regularly check the distributor cap, rotor, and wiring for any signs of wear, cracks, or corrosion.

- **Gear Inspection:** Periodically inspect the distributor gear for excessive wear, especially if using a non-compatible camshaft.
- **Cleanliness:** Keep the distributor and surrounding area clean and free of oil, dirt, and debris.
- **Connections:** Ensure all electrical connections are secure and free of corrosion.

If any components show significant wear or damage, consult a qualified technician for replacement or service using genuine MSD parts.

5. Troubleshooting

If you experience issues with your ignition system after installing the MSD 8578 Pro-Billet Distributor, consider the following general troubleshooting steps. Always ensure safety precautions are followed when working on automotive electrical systems.

- **No Spark/Misfire:**
  - Verify all wiring connections are secure and correct, especially between the distributor and the MSD Ignition Control.
  - Check the condition of the distributor cap and rotor for cracks or carbon tracking.
  - Ensure the MSD Ignition Control unit is receiving proper power and ground.
- **Poor Performance/Rough Idle:**
  - Confirm that the distributor is correctly phased and timed according to your engine's specifications.
  - Inspect the advance weights and springs for proper movement and tension.
- **Unusual Noises:**
  - Check for proper gear mesh and lubrication.
  - Ensure the distributor shaft rotates freely without binding.

For complex issues or if you are unsure about any step, it is highly recommended to consult a professional automotive technician or contact MSD customer support.

6. Specifications

Attribute	Value
Brand Name	MSD
Model Name	MSD 8578 Pro-Billet Distributor
Part Number	MSD-8578
Item Weight	0.01 Ounces
Package Weight	5.1 Pounds
Item Package Dimensions L x W x H	17.9 x 6.8 x 6.8 inches
Material	Plastic (Cap), Billet (Housing)
Color	No Color (Refers to housing, cap is red)

Attribute	Value
Included Components	MSD 8578 Pro-Billet Distributor
Manufacturer	MSD Ignition
Date First Available	November 23, 2005

7. Warranty Information

This product is covered by a manufacturer's warranty. For specific details regarding the terms, conditions, and duration of the warranty, please refer to the official warranty documentation provided by MSD Ignition or visit their official website. Retain your proof of purchase for any warranty claims.

8. Customer Support

For technical assistance, installation questions, or troubleshooting beyond the scope of this manual, please contact MSD Ignition customer support directly. Their trained professionals can provide specialized guidance for your specific application.
You can typically find contact information, including phone numbers and online support resources, on the official MSD Ignition website (www.msdperformance.com).

Important Legal Information

CALIFORNIA WARNING: Cancer and Reproductive Harm -www.P65Warnings.ca.gov
This product may contain chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Please handle with care and follow all safety guidelines.

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