



J2 TECHNICAL ARTICLE

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From Octagon Heaven

OIL FILTER NEEDED?

This is one of the few times I have taken the liberty to write and express my opinion on some subject. One of our fellow owners is in the process of trying to fit an oil filter onto his J2 because he believes it is needed to protect the engine.

I may be totally wrong but I do not think that a modern oil filter is needed if the owner takes proper care of the engine. To make my point, let me discuss the situation.

Why oil gets dirty ---- Oil gets dirty because of carbon picked up on the cylinder walls. That is one reason why oil gets black. That carbon in suspension does not get filter out and most of it goes on though the modern oil filter with the oil. Oil also gets dirty because of dust which gets into the engine with the air from the air intake. Some of this dirt if left on the cylinder walls and gets picked up by the oil with the carbon. Some of the dirt does get trapped by modern oil filters yet the size of the modern oil filter (micron filter specifications) will allow many particles to pass through. The only other foreign material in the engine oil is small pieces of metal from any part of the engine which is going bad. It has been proven that any piece of metal of any size will just lay in the bottom of the sump. Small metal particles light enough to float will be pump through the system. Again it is the very small pieces (about 10 to 15 microns in size that will pass through even the modern oil filters is what might cause oil to do abrasive wear to engine parts. This will happen with even an modern filter.

What a J2 owner should do ---

1. Change oil frequently
2. Pull the oil filter tube in the sump at every oil change.
3. Drop the sump from time to time and clean it out. This is easy to do --- 12 bolts and make a new gasket. If you have not dropped your sump in a few years, you would be shocked to see what is laying on the bottom, too heavy to bother the gauze strainer! That stuff does move and start limiting the effectiveness of the oil filter and eventually it will start getting pulled through or will effect you oil flow and oil pressure.

If you want to engineer a modern oil filter onto your car, be my guest, but if you do, it will have to be placed between the sump and the oil pump somehow connected to the suction tube as that is the only place that all oil passes through. That is the wrong side of the oil pump for a modern oil filter. I question if the modern oil filter will properly function without pressure. Maybe my problem is I'm a purist!