

## On the Level: All About Oil in Your Airflow

By Jon Clulow

Traveling across the United States, I had great concerns about our C10 consuming too much oil. I was dumping a ton of oil in the engine. At the Seattle meet, I talked with the foremost Airflow experts of our time, both national and international. Phil Putnam, our fine Californian, said, "Dude!" (I made that up) and our Down Under master restorer, John Spinks, quipped, "Aye mate!" Then, they both explained, "Airflows were notorious for having inaccurate oil indicators. You are overfilling the engine!"

How did they know that? Well, these two are never wrong . . . I'm going to explain how they knew I was overfilling the engine. All Airflow engines, Chrysler or DeSoto, take six quarts of oil.

I have three, six-quart oil indicators that I imaged. The

variances in length are considerable. My three indicators in the

picture below, measure  $12\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $13\frac{7}{8}$ , and  $13\frac{1}{8}$  inches, from the cap to the fill line. From studying this image on the left, you can easily see that the three oil level indicators are stamped "FULL" at different lengths from the point.

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Another variance is clear when you consider how far the oil indicator tube threads into the block. With the differences in oil indicator lengths and the oil indicator tubes, the ac-

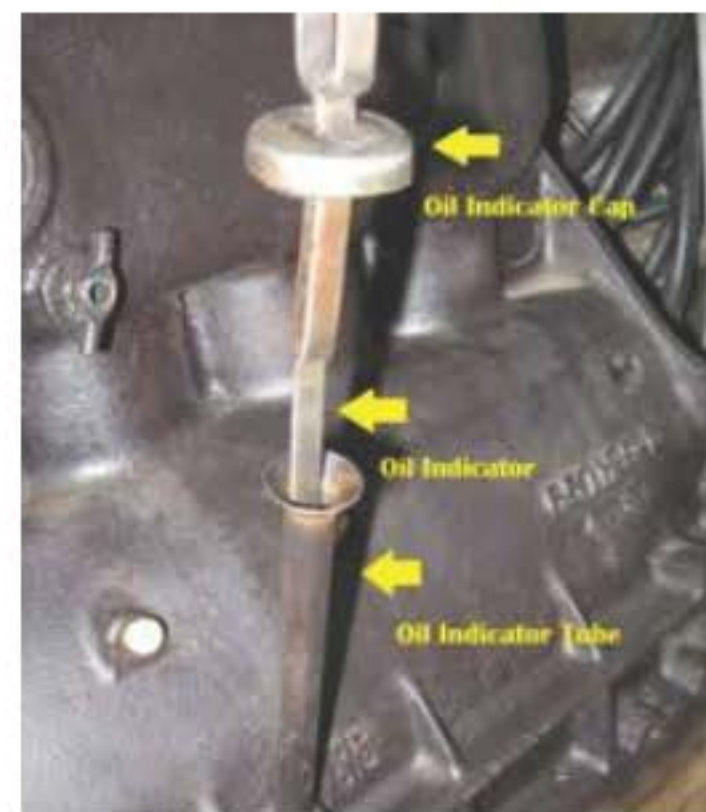
curacy of the oil level measurement could be out the window!

I know you are thinking, "I don't drive my Airflow across the continent like that oil-consuming Clulow. Why should I care about accurate oil level measurement?" Well, my correct use of the oil level indicator resulted in oil gushing out my fuel pump breather hole; I had oil all over the side of my engine. Nobody likes an oil leaking Airflow, no matter if you're an Airflow hauler or an Airflow driver. If your oil level indica-

tor is like mine, you will have to deal with this problem.

The accuracy of your oil level indicator is easy to check. When you next change your oil, add six quarts exactly and read your oil indicator. Buy, beg or borrow an electric etcher or awl and make your mark at the true oil level. In

this image, you can see how far my indicator was off. The accurate measurement line is to the right of the blue V.



You can help prevent driveway soil by not overfilling oil. This is not as complicated a toil as a case from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

## TECHNICAL

