

This radiator item ran in the Feb. 2001 newsletter...after talking with Rex, this article now contains revised 2005 pricing...so if your radiator is shot...read on...

Eureka! I found a craftsman who can build an Airflow radiator!

Like many other Airflow owners, my 1936 Imperial suffered chronic overheating problems. The overheating was always attributed to the radiator and the buildup of junk within. My efforts to find a radiator shop to "fix the problem" resulted in a lot of "we can't work on a radiator like that one." Or "if that radiator holds water, it won't after it is boiled out." In frustration, I contacted a friend who knew a friend who knew a friend...The result was my meeting the owner of an antique radiator manufacturing plant. He looked at my radiator and saw it as a challenge that he could solve. He said that it would be worked on as time permitted with priority given to his regular business. As the guineapig, it took six months to make my radiator and solve all of the associated problems with the Airflow radiator design. Unequal length cooling tubes and an unusually thick core means that each radiator core must be hand made.

The second one took less than three months and now he is working on the third. He assures me that they have it all figured out now and that it won't take much time to make more - especially this time of year.

My original radiator held water but was very heavy with deposits. The brackets for the lower cowl were missing and the lower outlet tube and drain were shot. The finished product replicates the correct overall dimensions with increased cooling provided by



more cooling tubes. The only piece of the old radiator that is used is the top "can", the top part where the water goes in. They were even able to maintain the rolled over edge at the base of the top can. The cost to reproduce the top can would be prohibitive. All problems which could not be seen with the top can, until it is taken off the radiator, were fixed before reassembly. ALL of the rest of the radiator is newly manufactured. The newly made radiator weighs noticeably less without all the deposits. The radiator company has agreed to make more radiators if I handle all transactions.

As an Airflow man who likes to see them on the road, I have agreed to their terms. I have been told by another east coast club member that he was quoted a price of \$3,500.00 for a new radiator. The price was prohibitive. The radiator described above will cost \$1,000.00 post paid (*Chrysler - the DeSoto radiator is \$100.00 less*)(more for a CW). The top can must be in serviceable condition.

We've made and shipped about 15 of them so far. The most recent ones were shipped in December '04 and January '05. If anyone else wants a newly made 1935-37 Airflow radiator or further information you can contact me at: **REX BARRETT**, 604 Rosedale

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