



Were has all the oil pressure gone.....long time passing?

(sung to the tune of: Where have all the flowers gone?)

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Your baby has low oil pressure and it didn't used to. Where did it go? I better not drive it so much or I'll have to get it rebuilt. SHAME, SHAME ! These cars are for driving and they'll complain if they are not exercised often. Soooo.... Lets see if we can find some oil pressure without disassembling the world.

T car oil pressure loss No. One

Moss made some external oil filter assemblies (current catalog page 6, illustration number 128). These are excellent units, but if a filter cartridge assembly comes apart or a line plugs you can have reduced oil pressure or even loose oil pressure. Well you say, this can be said of any filter assembly, what's the big news here? The problem is that it has happened frequently over the years. The thing that starts it is putting the filter cartridge in upside down. You need to use the Moss filter number 435-390 and PUT IT IN GRILL END UP!!!! So if you have this type, clean out your housing and lines and change filters with every oil change.....and watch which way is up.

T car oil pressure loss No. Two

The number two cause of low oil pressure is not real. Got you thinking now doesn't ! ? The rocker assembly needs very little oil to go. In fact the early automobile engines had open valve assemblies and you got out once in a while and oiled them with your oil can. Someone decided that they should be covered and added a cover and oiling system. Enough of that, but because of this low oil need there is a restriction in the oil line to the head. The oil gauge line correctly comes off the lower banjo fitting and reads full oil pressure. If your oil pressure gauge line comes off the upper banjo fitting your oil pressure reading is 20-30% low. Simple problem, simple fixes.

T car oil pressure loss No. Three

The third cause of low oil pressure that you can deal with externally is the rocker assembly. The oil going to the rocker assembly is restricted but if there is too much clearance in the rockers then it is an open leak causing loss of oil pressure.

Lets back up a bit and consider how oil pressure

works. The oil pump sucks up oil and pumps it to the oil galley with a valve to limit oil pressure on the high end that we'll discuss later. Now we have a stream of oil with so much flow of oil (volume) and so much push (pressure). The oil enters the oil passages and goes out to do its jobs which are: 1) to provide a wedge of oil between the moving parts, 2) clean away bits of grit produced by combustion and wear and 3) cooling. The physicists' name for what we run is a "heat engine". Different engines vary but the oil can provide up to 50% of an engine's cooling in some applications.

So each bearing gets some oil. If it is loose, the oil leaks away quickly. If the bearing is clearanced well, the oil leaks through relatively slowly and restricts the amount of flow and hence loss of pressure through that bearing. Now every bearing is supposed to leak oil through which ultimately gets back to the pan and is picked up to be sent back into the engine all over again. This is as it should be, but too much wear and then we don't have enough pressure to protect the other parts. A big robber of oil pressure is the rocker assembly if it is worn. It is not a really big job to pull your rocker assembly and check the under side of the shaft. The rockers are bushed with bronze bushings and you would think they would wear first being softer material. The fact is that the bronze being softer holds grit then wears a crescent moon notch in the bottom of the steel rocker shaft. When this happens you have a BIG leak for oil pressure. Replace the rocker shaft and check the wear of the rocker bushings on the new shaft. If you still have a loose situation, the rocker bushings are worn. They must be pressed in and reamed to fit the rocker shaft.

The other causes of low oil pressure area weak spring in the oil pump, worn oil pump, worn cam bearings, rod bearings or main bearings but these are subjects for another time.....And require more extensive disassembly.

Remember to exercise your car, it will complain for attention if you don't give it a workout frequently.

Dan

