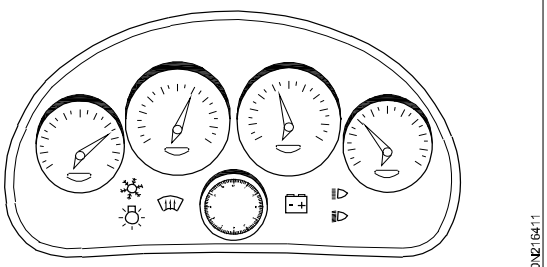
Dashboard gauges, meters and warnings lights

Objectives: At the end of this lesson you shall be able to
- **state different type of meters and their uses**
- **describe the purpose of each warning lights**
- **specify the purpose of each gauges.**

Odometer

An odometer (Fig 1) is an instrument that indicate distance travelled by a vehicle, such as motor cycle and motor vehicle automobile. The device may be electronic, mechanical, or a combination of both. It is also called as trip meter in case of short trips of every ride. The distance mentioned in the odometer generally in kms.

Fig 1



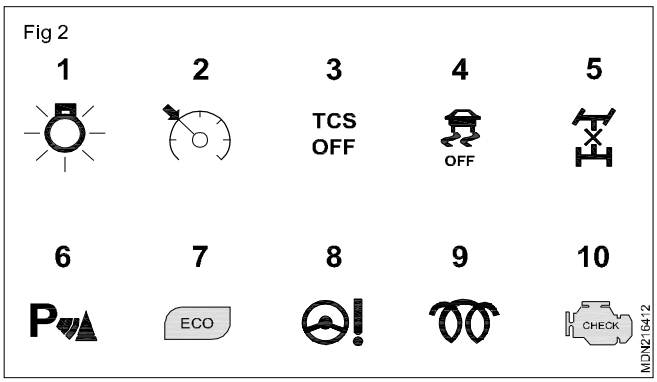
Speedometer

A speedometer or a speed meter is a gauge that measures and displays the instantaneous speed of a vehicle. The unit in which the display shown is in Km/hr. There are both analog and digital meters are available now a days.

Engine RPM meter

An engine rpm meter (Fig 2) is used to display the engine rotation in revolution per minute.

Fig 2



1 **Bulb indicator :** This shows you that you have a dead bulb. Not all cars have this, but it's a helpful warning.

2 **Cruise control indicator :** This indicator is used to display the accelerator opening level to maintain the set speed. This reminds you that cruise control is on.

3 **Traction control indicator :** This tells you the traction control is off. A blinking traction-control light indicates that the system is preventing wheel spin. In which case you should either; let off the gas a bit and drive a little slower; or let off the gas a bit and drive much slower.

4 **Stability control indicator :** This indicates that the stability control has been turned off. There's not much reason to turn it off on the road, and some cars can be dangerous in the wet without it. A blinking light indicates that the stability control system is actively preventing loss of control. If this happens, pay attention and stop trying to drive like an idiot.

5 **Centre differential lock (or 4Hi/Lo):** This indicates that the center differential on or car with part-time four-wheel drive has been engaged. We can't stress this enough; Part time all-wheel drive is not meant for on-road use, and running it on dry tarmac can cause "binding" and other problems. We've heard sob stories from dealerships where customers had to pay for costly repairs because the later didn't realize this.

6 **Proximity sensor indicator :** Some cars have proximity sensors all around instead of just the rear bumper. This helps you park your big, cumbersome vehicle in tight parking spots. It also makes for incessant buzzing as motorcyclists and pedestrians filter around you in traffic. Recognizing whether it's on or off can help prevent a nasty scrape.

7 **Econ indicator :** This can mean different things on different cars. Some cars use it to tell you that economy mode is engaged, which means that the accelerator and the transmission are in their most relaxed mode. On some cars with cylinder deactivation, this tells you that the system is turned on (typically when you're cruising or coasting), and half your cylinders are not burning gas at the moment. On other cars, this lights up when you are driving in an "economical" manner, and it can be used as a training tool for good, efficient driving. Other cars use color-changing dash lights for the same purpose. They're educational, helpful and rather cool.

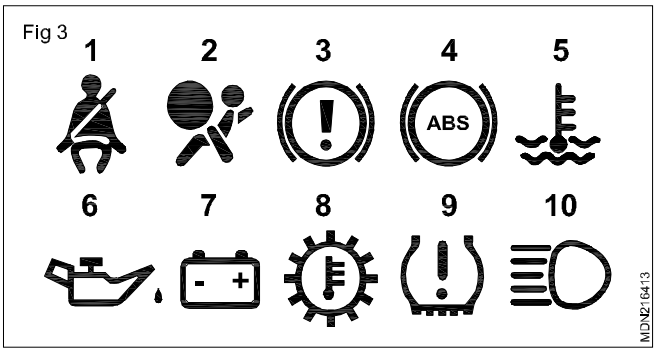
8 **Electric power steering indicator :** This indicates a fault in the EPS system. It could mean temporary overheating of the assist motor or a major fault in the system. Electric steering motors are usually compact, and violent sawing at the wheel can sometimes overtax them. This can happen when you're doing a 30-point turn in a tight garage, or when you're banging comes on a tight autocross. Best let things cool down and see if the problem goes away; otherwise, it's time for a checkup.

9 **Glow plug indicator :** Lacking spark plugs, diesels rely on pressure and heat to burn their fuel. As there's little heat in the motor when you first start it in the morning, glow plugs heat up the fuel coming out of the injectors to give the motor a better chance of starting. The light should turn on briefly after you switch the ignition to the 'on' position. Once it's off, the plugs are hot enough to start the car. A flashing light may indicate busted plugs, but some cars use the glow plug light as a catch-all indicator for problems ranging from bad injectors to exhaust gas recirculation valve issues. Get it checked as soon as possible.

10 **Check engine light :** We've saved the most crucial indicator for last. This is a confusing and often maddening-warning light. It can signal any number of issues or faults with the sensors and electronic equipment on the engine, some of which are serious, some of which are not. The most common cause is a busted exhaust oxygen sensor, which is bad for emissions but won't prevent your car from running. Other common causes include ignition coil and spark plug problems on gasoline cars, or an issue with any of the dozen-odd sensors that keep your engine happy. Even if you think it's nothing serious, don't ignore it. Have your car subjected to a diagnostic scan as soon as possible.

Mechanic motor vehicle/mechanic diesel

Fig 3



1 **Seatbelt indicator :** This one is easy. This indicates that the driver is not wearing the seatbelt. On newer vehicles, weight sensors in the seat tell the car if someone is sitting there, and warnings will appear for passengers, too. If the driver or passengers remain unbelted, a warning chime will sound. Don't ignore it. Studies show that seatbelt use reduces the chance of injury in a crash by 50%. Worse yet, being hit by an air bag with out your seat belt on can be fatal.

2 **Airbag indictor :** This signals a malfunction with the airbags or air bag sensor. This means that they may not go off in a crash. On some cars, there's also a passenger. Airbag off light that means the car has detected a small person in the front seat and has deactivated the front passenger airbag. This ensures that the (presumably short) front passenger doesn't suffocate or suffer a broken neck when the airbag goes off.

3 **Brake indicator :** This signals several things (Fig 3)

a Your parking brake is engaged, so disengage it;

b The parking brake sensor is out of alignment, so have it fixed;

c The brake fluid level is low

d The hydraulic pressure between the two braking circuits are mismatched. The last two are potentially dangerous, and could mean a possible fluid leak, as well as reduced or even completely absent braking performance.

Don't wait for the light to go off; check your fluid every morning before you go out, because sometimes the warning light comes on too late. Some newer cars also have a brake pad warning light that goes off if the pads need to be replaced.

4 **ABS indicator :** Some cars have a separate ABS light that signals a problem with the ABS system. If this goes off, that means that the Antilock Braking System has malfunctioned and the brakes may lock up under hard braking. Bring the car in for servicing immediately.

5 **Temperature warning :** Some older cars with temperature gauges merely have a red light, but many modern cars have this symbol. This indicates that your engine is overheating or is about to overheat. Best to pull over immediately to cool down, to avoid potentially expensive engine repair bills.

6 **Oil level/Pressure warning :** There's no genie in this lamp. Just the magic slippery stuff that keeps your engine lubricated. This typically signals your oil level is low by about two liters. No lasting damage should occur if you top off the oil the moment you see this warning. But if you ignore it, your motor could end up looking like a frying pen that's been left on the burner for a few hours. Not a pretty sight and a new engine is much more expensive than a new frying pan.

7 **Electrical system warning :** This one looks like a battery, which means battery problems. It could also mean alternator problems, so simply buying a new battery may not be enough. Thankfully, many shops can test the alternator's charging capacity when you go in for a battery replacement.

8 **Transmission warning light :** This comes in many different forms, and can indicate a malfunction with the transmission itself, the gearshift or transmission fluid overheating. You most often see this on trucks when you're hauling heavy loads, or in high performance cars with automatic transmission if you drive them a little too hard. Needless to say, pulling over to let the transmission cool down is a good idea.

9 **Tire pressure monitoring system :** This indicates either an issue with the TPMS itself or low pressure in one of your tires. Check immediately, Low pressure carry increased risk of blowout on the highway due to tire overheating.Not to mention the danger of hydroplaning in the rain, as wider tires slide over the water more easily than narrower ones.

10 **High beam indicator :** While not a warning light per se, this bright icon represents a big danger to other motorists, and is one of the most ignored indicators in the Philippines. Leaving your high beams on will blind other motorists and can lead to nasty accidents. Remember to turn them off when there's oncoming traffic or when driving behind another car.

You don't need to see the road 2km ahead when you can simply follow the other guy ahead of you.

You don't need to be a "car whisperer" to know something's wrong when your dashboard lights up like a Christmas tree. But knowing what these lights denote can mean the difference between a quick fix and a long walk home.

Gauges used in automobiles

Objectives: At the end of this lesson you shall be able to
- **explain the location of various gauges in a vehicle**
- **explain the purpose of a fuel gauge**
- **explain the working of a fuel gauge**
- **explain the purpose of a temperature gauge**
- **explain the working of a temperature gauge**
- **explain the purpose of an oil pressure gauge**
- **explain the working of an oil pressure gauge.**

The gauges indicate to the driver the working of the particular system to which they are connected. These gauges are located on the dashboard of the vehicle.

Some of the electrically operated gauges are the following.

- Fuel gauge (Balancing coil type)
- Temperature gauge (Balancing coil type)
- Oil pressure gauge (Balancing coil type)

Fuel gauge

Purpose

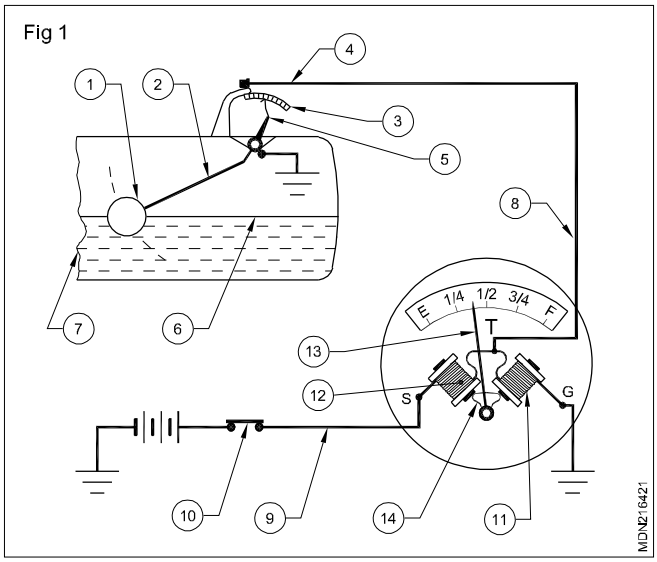
It is used to know the quantity of fuel available in the fuel tank.

Tank unit

It consists of a tank unit and the indicator unit (Fig 1). The two units are connected in series by a single wire to the battery through the Ignition switch. When the ignition switch is turned on, current passes through both the units.

The tank unit is fitted on the fuel tank and the indicator unit on the dashboard. The tank unit consists of a hinged arm with a float fitted at one end and a sliding contact at the other end and also a variable resistance. The sliding contact moves along the resistance. The float arm moves up and down as the level of fuel in the tank changes. The movement of the float arm changes the electrical resistance in the circuit.

Fig 1



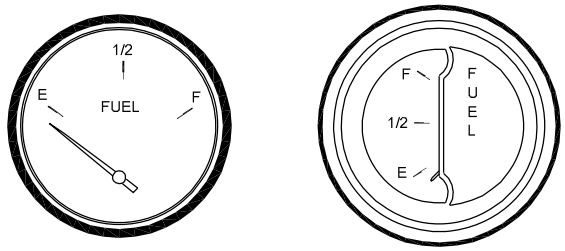
Gauge unit (Dash unit)

It is fitted on the panel board.

Two terminals (8) & (9) are connected to the tank unit's terminal (4) and ignition switch (10) respectively.

It consists of two coils (11) & (12) and a pointer (13) with the magnet (14) attached to it.

Fig 2



FUEL GAUGES

MDN216422

Working

When the ignition switch (10) (Fig 2) is on, current from the battery flows to the coils and a magnetic field is produced. When the tank (7) is full, the float (1) raises above and moves the sliding contact (5) to the high resistance position on the resistance coil (3). The current flowing through the coil (12) also flows through the coil (11). The magnetism of the coil (12) becomes weaker. The magnetism of the coil (11) thus becomes stronger and pulls the armature (14) and the pointer (13) to the full side of the dial. When the fuel level (6) comes down the float in the tank falls down and resistance also becomes less, thereby strengthening the magnetic field around coil (12) and forcing the armature and pointer towards the empty side of the dial.

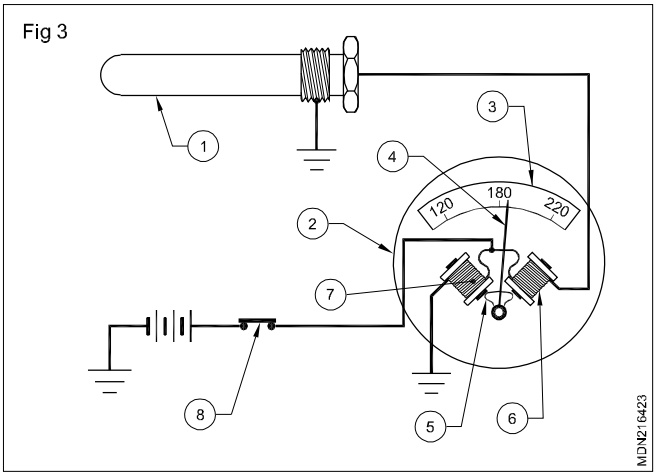
Temperature gauge

Purpose

It is used to know the temperature of water in the cooling system of engine at all times. It cautions the driver against overheating of the engine.

- It consists of an engine unit (1) immersed in the engine coolant in the cylinder head or cylinder block in the form of a pellet. (Fig 3)

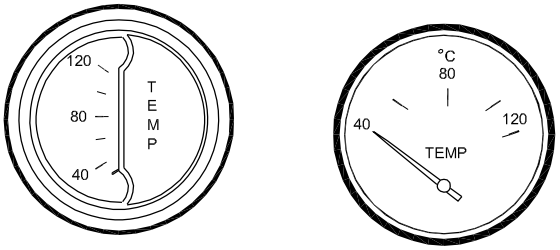
Fig 3



MDN216423

- It is made of special material whose electrical resistance increases when temperature is lowered and it reduces when the temperature is increased.
- The resistance unit is provided with the dash unit (2) and it is fitted on the panel board.
- The dash unit consists of a dial (3) pointer (4), a magnet (5) and coil (6) and (7). (Fig 4)
- The two terminals of gauge are connected to the ignition switch (8) and the engine unit (1). The operating current is supplied from the battery through the ignition switch.

Fig 4



TEMPERATURE GAUGES

MDN216424

Working

When the coolant temperature rises, the engine unit becomes hot. When the engine unit temperature is high the resistance is less and more current passes to the right coil of the indicating units.

The difference in the strength of the magnetic field between the two coils increases and the armature and pointer move towards the right to indicate a high temperature.

When the engine coolant temperature falls down, the resistance becomes high. This results in less current flowing through the left coil, and the magnetic field becomes less and causes the armature and pointer to move towards the left to indicate lower temperature.

Oil pressure gauge

Purpose

This device is used to know the pressure of lubricating oil during the working of the engine and serves as a warning signal to the driver against any sudden failure of the lubrication system.

Types

- Bourdon tube type gauge (non-electric)
- Balancing coil type (electric)

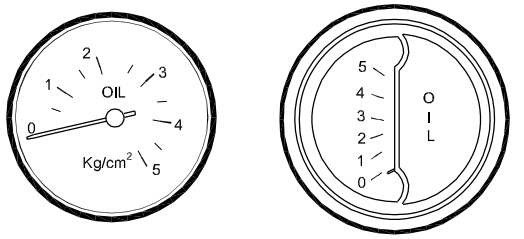
The Bourdon tube gauge is not widely used nowadays, as it has certain drawbacks i.e. the connecting tube leaks at joints.

In modern vehicles balancing coil type (electric) oil pressure gauges are used.

Working

It consists of two units (i.e) engine unit and the dash unit. (Figs 5 & 6)

Fig 5



OIL PRESSURE GAUGES

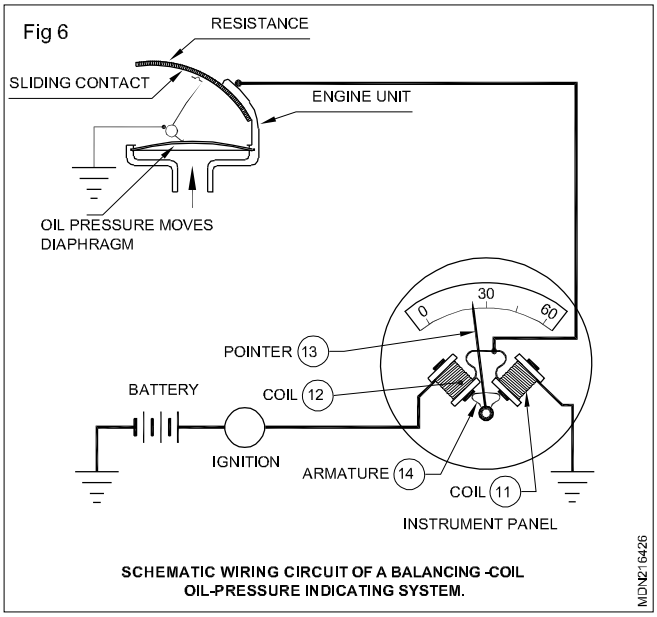
MDN216425

The engine unit consists of a diaphragm, sliding contact, variable resistance.

The dash unit consists of two coils (11) & (12) and a pointer (13) with a magnet (14) attached to it. Both coils are connected in series with battery through ignition switch.

The increase in oil pressure pushes the diaphragm outward. This action results in increase in the resistance at the engine unit.

Fig 6



SCHEMATIC WIRING CIRCUIT OF A BALANCING -COIL OIL-PRESSURE INDICATING SYSTEM.

MDN216426

The right hand coil of the dash unit becomes magnetically stronger than the left hand coil.

Consequently the armature and the pointer swing towards the right side in indicate higher oil pressure.

Starting and stopping methods of engine

Objectives: At the end of this lesson you shall be able to
- **list out different ypes of engine cranking methods**
- **explain the different types of starting methods of diesel engine**
- **explain method of stopping the diesel engines.**

For starting the engine the following different methods are used.

1 Hand cranking

2 Electric Motor cranking

3 Hydraulic cranking motors

4 Compressed air cranking

5 Gasoline engine starting

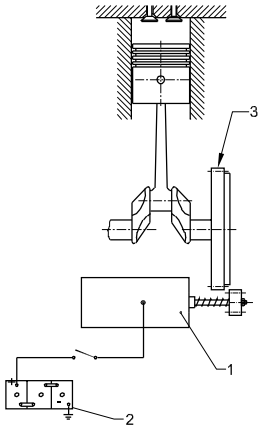
Hand cranking

Usually small diesel engines are being started using crank handle or rope.

Electric motor cranking

In this system a starter motor (1) is used to rotate flywheel (3) of the engine. A battery (2) is used to supply power to the starter motor. (Fig 1)

Fig 1



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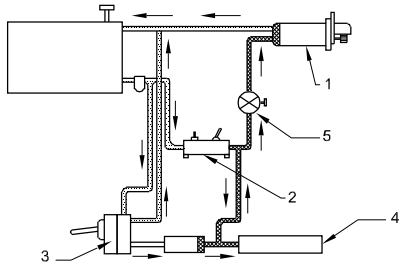
Hydraulic cranking motors

In this system hydraulic fluid under pressures passes through hydraulic starter motor (1) to rotate the engine flywheel. A hand pump (2) or an engine driven pump (3) is provided to create and develop pressure of fluid. This fluid under pressure accumulates in the accumulator (4). After pressing the starting lever, control valve (5) allows the hydraulic fluid under pressure to pass through the hydraulic starter motor. (Fig 2)

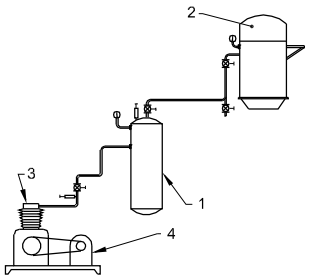
Fig 2



Compressed air cranking

In this method compressed air from the reservoir (1) is admitted through an automatic starting valve in the engine cylinder head when the piston is at the top dead centre at the beginning of the power stroke, at a pressure capable of cranking the engine (2). When the engine is turning fast enough, the injected fuel ignites and the engine runs on its own power, whereupon the air supply is cut off. An air compressor (3) is used to create air pressure. Air compressor (3) is driven by the engine or electric motor (4). (Fig 3)

Fig 3



Gasoline engine starting

This is used to start the heavy duty earth moving engines. Starting of the gasoline engine is done either by hand cranking or by an electric motor. The gasoline engine then cranks the heavy engine.

Generally diesel engines are stopped by cutting the fuel supply after reducing the engine speed to the minimum level.

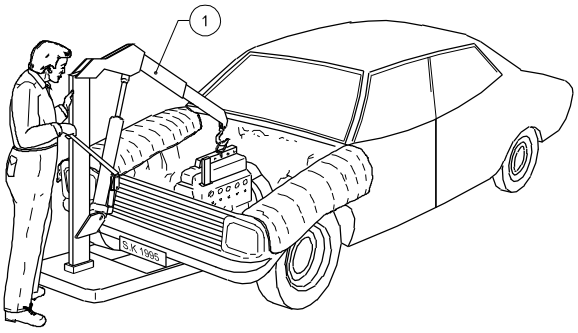
Procedure for dismantling of diesel engine from the vehicle

Objective: At the end of this lesson you shall be able to
- **remove the engine from the vehicle.**

Remove the engine from the vehicle

- Park the vehicle on a level surface.
- Choke all the four wheels with wooden blocks.
- Unscrew the bonnet mountings and remove it along with the grill.
- Disconnect the battery connections and take out the battery.
- Drain the radiator.
- Drain the engine oil.
- Remove the air cleaner.
- Remove the lower and upper hoses of the radiator.
- Remove the radiator mounting bolts/bracket bolts and remove the radiator without damaging the radiator core.
- Disconnect the wire connections of the starting motor, generator/alternator and heater plugs, oil pressure unit and other electrical connections to the dashboard instruments.
- Remove athe oil pipe to oil pressure gauge conenctions (if provided).
- Remove the exhaust pipe from the exhaust manifold. (The pipe hole to be covered by a cardboard to prevent foreign material getting into it.)
- Disconnect the fuel supply pipes at the feed pump, filter connectuons, fuel return lines to the tank.
- Disconnect the oil pressure and air pressure gauge connections.
- Disconnect the temperature gauge connections.
- Disconnect the accelerator connections.
- Remove the accelerator control shaft.
- Disconnect the engine stop connections.
- Remove the air compressor and its connections.
- Remove the clutch and gear linkages.
- Disconnect the propeller shaft at the gearbox end and support it at a convenient point on the chassis.
- Support the engine at the rear by wooden blocks.
- Disconnect gearbox mounting bolts and remove the gearbox with flywheel housing.
- Remove the dip stick.
- Fit a suitable engine lifting bracket.
- Align the left hook of the crane with engine lifting bracket.
- Support the engine at the front with wooden blocks.
- Remove the engine's mounting brackets and bolts and nuts.
- Attach the engine lifting bracket to the engine hoist (1).Fig 1

Fig 1



- Lift the engine slightly.
- Pull the engine forward until it comes out from the gearbox side.
- Lift the engine. Avoid oscillations and jerks. Ensure that the engine hoist does not shift/oscillate while removing it from the vehicle and does not hit the body of the vehicle or any accessories.
- Place it on a suitable workbench/engine stand. If placed on the floor, provide sufficient support below the front and rear brackets so that the engine does notmrest on the oil sump.