



# *From the Garage*

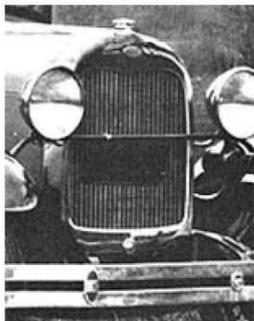
*by Paul Hunter*

If you are like me I am always trying to tell the difference between 1928 and 1929 as well as 1930 and 1931. Below is a description by MAFCA Webmaster Rick Black that offers an easy way to determine which is what.

**Quick Identification:** (Source: <http://www.mafca.com/whatyear.html>)

The first thing to look at to identify the year of a Model A Ford is the area of the **radiator shell, headlights, and bumpers**. If the car is original or accurately restored, you can quickly assess the correct year of the car. Remember though that there were many variations, and the Model A Restoration Guidelines and Judging Standards are the final word on what is correct for each year.

Take a look at the following pictures, from left to right, of 1928, 1929, 1930, and 1931 cars:



It's easy to determine whether the Model A is an "early" or 1928-1929 year model or a "late" 1930-1931 model by looking at the **shape of the radiator shell**. On the early cars, the shell is shorter and lacks the painted lower section. It's also pretty easy to tell a 1930 from a 1931 - notice that the 1930 shell has a smooth top section, while the 1931 shell has a painted top section. However, the 1928 and 1929 shell and radiator look identical.

Instead of looking there, look closely at the **headlights and center bumper clamp**. It's hard to tell in the photographs above, but the 1928 headlights had vertical fluted lenses and round center bumper clamps. 1929 cars (and 1930-1931 cars too) had Twolite lenses and an oval center clamp on the bumper. The 1928-1929 headlights were "acorn" shaped, while the later 1930-1931 lights were "cup" shaped. Sharp eyes will also note that the early headlight bar was straight between the headlights while the later one had a slight upward bow. Compare the headlights in the 1929 and 1931 photographs and see if you can spot the differences.

Finally, **front bumpers** on 1928-1929 vehicles had a reverse bend at the ends where the later 1930-1931 cars had gently curved ends. Compare the center two photos - the 1929 and 1930 cars - and you'll see the difference. Once you learn how to put all these things together, you'll be able to identify the year of a Model A quickly with a high degree of accuracy. But don't forget, there are some exceptions to these general guidelines, so you may not want to bet a lot of money on your identification!

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*After many outings and the constant showing of books (Model A) being read at night time, my wife can tell a 28-29 from a 30-31 - progress at last Kerrie now understands and knows what I regularly burble on about - PH*