

Phone App Makes Finding Parts Easy

Locating unusual bolts, screws, nuts and fasteners just got a little bit easier thanks to marketing giant Amazon and its new Part Finder phone app. Just open the Amazon Part Finder app on your phone, snap a picture of the fastener you're looking for next to a penny, then hit send and wait for an answer. In seconds you will have an answer, complete with availability, cost per unit, and shipping information.

Part Finder uses visual-based identity software that's sophisticated enough to tell the difference between items such as a wood screw and a connector screw or a hex head and a wing nut. Carefully tilting and angling the phone camera as you take the part picture allows the recognition software to analyze the part and produce a cross-hair bulls-eye once the part is identified. After you snap the picture and send it, Amazon's data search system does the rest and provides a product

answer right on your phone.

If this all sounds a little too good to be true, you're partially right, because there's currently no universal data base for every fastener known to man. However, every idea has to start someplace, and Amazon says the new app knows the whereabouts of several hundred different types of fasteners now, and hundreds more are being added as you read this.

The fore-runner of this clever idea was a business called PartPic, launched in 2013 as a San Francisco-based startup. The idea grew from the mind of Jewel Burks out of frustration and necessity. Burks managed a sales staff for an industrial parts distributor that often had problems locating parts. Burks says that if customers didn't have a part number, supplier name, or couldn't accurately describe what they needed, finding an item was like searching for a needle in



Open the Amazon Part Finder app on your phone and snap a picture of the part you're looking for next to a penny. Amazon will then deliver an exact match from its product catalog.

a haystack. Looking for a solution, Burks hired two PhDs to build an image-recognition system to scan her company's parts bins for item numbers and styles based on pictures. Amazon saw its potential and acquired the

business in 2016 and has since been adding hundreds of technical recognition features that continuously expand the parts database.

To use, just search for Amazon Part Finder at www.amazon.com.



By fitting 3-pt. mounting brackets on a shop engine hoist, Rickie Stich can mount it on back of his Kubota 23 hp. tractor.

Shop Engine Hoist Converted To 3-Pt. Mount

Rickie Stich, Portersville, Penn., converted a shop engine hoist to mount on the back of his Kubota 23 hp. tractor, by fitting it with 3-pt. mounting brackets. He can quickly convert the hoist back to a stand-alone unit by removing 3 pins.

"It makes the hoist much more versatile. I can take it with me down the highway or use it in my barnyard or shop," says Stich. "I've used it to pick up car and pickup engines as well as big shop tools such as a heavy milling machine."

He welded a couple short lengths of rectangular tubing onto the base, drilling holes in them to mount pins for the tractor's lower lift arm. He also welded a pair of strap

irons onto the hoist upright to mount the 3-pt. top link.

"Mounting the hoist behind the tractor has made my life much easier whenever I want to move something heavy, because with the 3-pt. I can use the hoist anywhere," says Stich. "As a stand-alone unit, the hoist's front legs were sometimes in the way of what I wanted to lift, such as an engine. Now if I want to lift the engine out of a car I can get a lot closer, and I can use the hoist's hydraulic jack to control the lifting motion."

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Hoist's hydraulic jack can still be used to control the lifting motion.



Each of these GM breaker-point sets were run the same number of hours. The points on the left used a Transdenser II.



Got Points & Condensers? Then You Need To Read This

By Mark Newhall, Editor

I got a call the other day from Dale Colvert, an electronics wizard who was featured in our last issue with an after-market ignition module for older Tecumseh engines. He wanted to tell me about another product he makes that anyone running older engines with points and condensers should know about.

The Transdenser II works on conventional ignition systems, basically reducing current to the points so that both points and condenser will last indefinitely instead of wearing out every 10,000 miles or so.

"Newer engines with electronic ignition only have to be tuned up every 100,000 miles or so but if you're running older equipment, you need to keep them tuned because the points degrade. The problem is that parts are expensive and often hard to find. Once you install the Transdenser II, points will not wear down anymore and engines will start and run better because it virtually doubles the voltage to the spark plugs," Colvert says.

"There are typically 3 amps or more of current across breaker points, resulting in arcing, which causes degradation of points. The Transdenser reduces current across points to about 160 mA so contacts show little wear and never need adjustment. It essentially works like a relay and has a built-in static timing light LED which allows the installer to get a precise indication of when the points open. On small engines with a timing mark on the flywheel, the light helps set the timing for optimal performance. In other engines, it can tell you if the points are actually switching."



Transdenser II reduces current to the points so that they and the condenser will last indefinitely.

The Transdenser looks like a conventional condenser and mounts on the coil, where many condensers are already mounted. If your condenser is in the distributor, it is moved to the coil. The Transdenser has two wires that connect to the coil negative and coil positive. The 3/16-in. quick-connect tab connects to the breaker points. An 18-in. breaker point lead is supplied.

"I have one installed on my 1961 Ford Power Master tractor and it starts flawlessly. The Transdenser can be ordered for 12 or 6-volt systems. It is, however, only suitable for negative ground engines."

They sell for \$42.25, shipping included. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dale Colvert, Overnight Solutions LLC, P.O. Box 3004, Merton, Wis. 53056 (ph 262 391-6670; www.overnight-solutions.com).