

Cub Carburetors Restored To “Better Than New”

Mike Finch doesn't just rebuild Farmall Cub and Cub Lo-Boy carburetors. He restores them to “better than new” condition. He uses only original design and OEM parts that he has collected.

“Anybody can claim to rebuild a carburetor by replacing some gaskets, seals and a few other parts and try to reset the float,” says Finch. “I use new, original design parts and some that are very hard to find.”

Finch is retired from the automotive industry. He collects Farmall Cubs and describes himself as a Cub carburetor fanatic. He refers to Cub carburetors as “delicate little jewels” and treats them accordingly.

“I have 7 special jigs designed and machined to my specifications for use restoring carburetors,” says Finch. “I even have a special tool kit manufactured in England that is designed to replace the 4-48 threads for the idle pickup tube.”

Finch says at least 70 percent of the carburetors he receives have the idle pickup tubes broken off at the top. “It's a very delicate process to remove the broken off tubes, especially after people try to dig them out of the carburetor top,” he says.

When Finch finishes, nearly every part of the carburetor has been replaced with original parts. Only the bowl and the top remain. The cover and bowl mating surfaces are machined flat for a perfect fit and connected with four new stainless steel Fillister screws and lock washers. The manifold mounting surface is also machined flat and level with

correct-sized studs to mount the carburetor to the manifold.

A one-of-a-kind jig is used to level carburetor tops where they meet the intake manifold. Finch had it milled out of a 45-lb. solid metal block to be within 0.001-in. of flat and perfectly square.

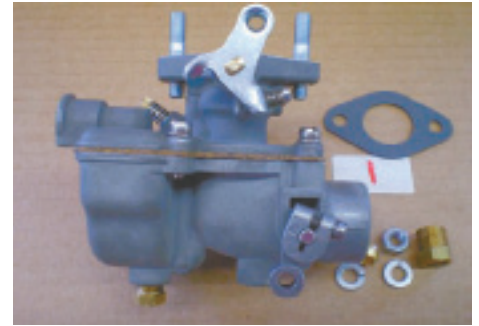
Finch explains that the mounting surface on a carburetor warps into a U-shape over time and sucks air in between the carburetor and gasket. This causes a severely incorrect fuel/air ratio, equating to hard starting, loss of power, improper idling and more.

“The carburetor mounting surface must be level and parallel to the engine,” he says. “After leveling the top-to-bowl surface, I then put the carburetor top into the jig to mill it.”

“I have another jig that lets me drill, tap and Heli-Coil the carburetor mounting stud threads,” he says. “Then the jig rotates 90°, and I use a special drill and tap for new threads of the fuel inlet port.”

All threads are replaced with Heli-Coil stainless steel replacement threads. Finch says he has a one-of-a-kind drill and tap to Heli-Coil the fuel inlet threads and bring them back to absolute standard thread without hitting the ferrule boss down inside the fuel inlet port.

“About the only things that can't be fixed are the bowl bottom drain plug threads,” says Finch. “These are ‘pipe-plug’ threads, and there are no known replacement Heli-Coil



Mike Finch restores Farmall Cub and Cub Lo-Boy carburetors to “better than new” condition. Photo shows new choke shaft and lever with cork top-to-bowl gasket.

threads.”

He warns against jigs offered on the internet that claim to flatten the carburetor. He says that suggesting washers and C-clamps can be used to bend a carburetor simply won't work. Warped surfaces need to be machined to specifications.

Finch promises to have carburetors from Cub owners back in the mail within two to three days of receipt. Postage and insurance run \$13.45 with no handling fees. Restoration runs from \$168.88 to \$188.72.

“I get carburetors shipped to me from all over the U.S.,” says Finch. “It's mostly word of mouth from one Cub collector to another.”

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Reader Inquiry No. 109

“Foolproof” Live Catch Mousetrap

“You can catch mice like crazy with very little expense and no poison,” says Dave Cassens, Grafton, Ill., about his new live mousetrap. “This trap is practically foolproof. You can catch one mouse after another in it.”

The “Best Mouse Trap Ever” consists of an 11-in. long, 8-in. dia. cone made from ABS plastic covered by mesh screen. The top of the trap is solid plastic with an entrance hole in the middle. The rest of the trap is all wire mesh, which allows mice to smell and see the bait. A removable plastic tray at the bottom has a divided bait cup for feed and water.

The mouse climbs up the mesh and jumps through the hole. To release the mouse you simply remove the bottom tray.

“There's no doubt that this trap will catch lots of mice. One farmer put 3 of my traps in his barn a few weeks ago and has already caught 126 mice,” says Cassens. “The hole

is big enough for young rats, and we've even caught a chipmunk in it. You can dunk the mice in a bucket of water and kill them in seconds.

“There are no moving parts so there's nothing to break on it, and there's no poison. The built-in food and water system allows mice to live for weeks in the trap, so if you're not home for several days you don't have to worry about the odor from dead mice. Every so often you can just hose off the trap, or put it in a deep sink with bleach and it will clean up like new.”

According to Cassens, the plastic at the top of the trap is so smooth that once mice get in they can't crawl back out. It's also hard enough that they can't chew through it.

The trap sells online for \$19.99, 2 for \$35.99, or 4 for \$64.99 including S&H and is also available in some stores.

You can watch mice getting caught in the trap on youtube by going to [www.best-](http://www.best-mousetrapever.com)



Mouse climbs up trap's mesh sides and jumps through an entrance hole at top. To release the mouse you remove a plastic tray at bottom.

mousetrapever.com.

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