

A lot has happened since my last update, which I see has been almost 4 weeks. Besides trying to test engines each day, I also need to make test stands. The stack of wood that you see in picture #1 will be for the bases and gauge/battery box. This is not just a simple matter of cutting some wood, and gluing everything together. The gauge plate must be formed and machined to accept the gauges in pictures #2 & #8. Prior to installing the finished, sanded, stained, and exterior sealing gauge/battery box the base plate must go through the same operations, plus be drill for everything to attach and routing of wires. Keep in mind this was a³/₄thick piece of Oak plywood which needed to have an exterior trim applied before anything could be done! The new test stands have all the wire routed below the base which cleans up the exterior significantly. When I made the first test stand, I thought it looked pretty good until one of my customers voiced his concerns. The only thing I can say is that‘he was absolutely correct’. Sometimes you cannot see the forest, because the trees are in the way! Once the gauges have been installed, then a tremendous amount of time is spent just connecting and wiring everything. What my look insignificant is the addition of a panel mounted fuse holder located in the upper right hand side of the gauge panel. Although, there was always a fuse installed, it was only accessible by removing the gauge panel.

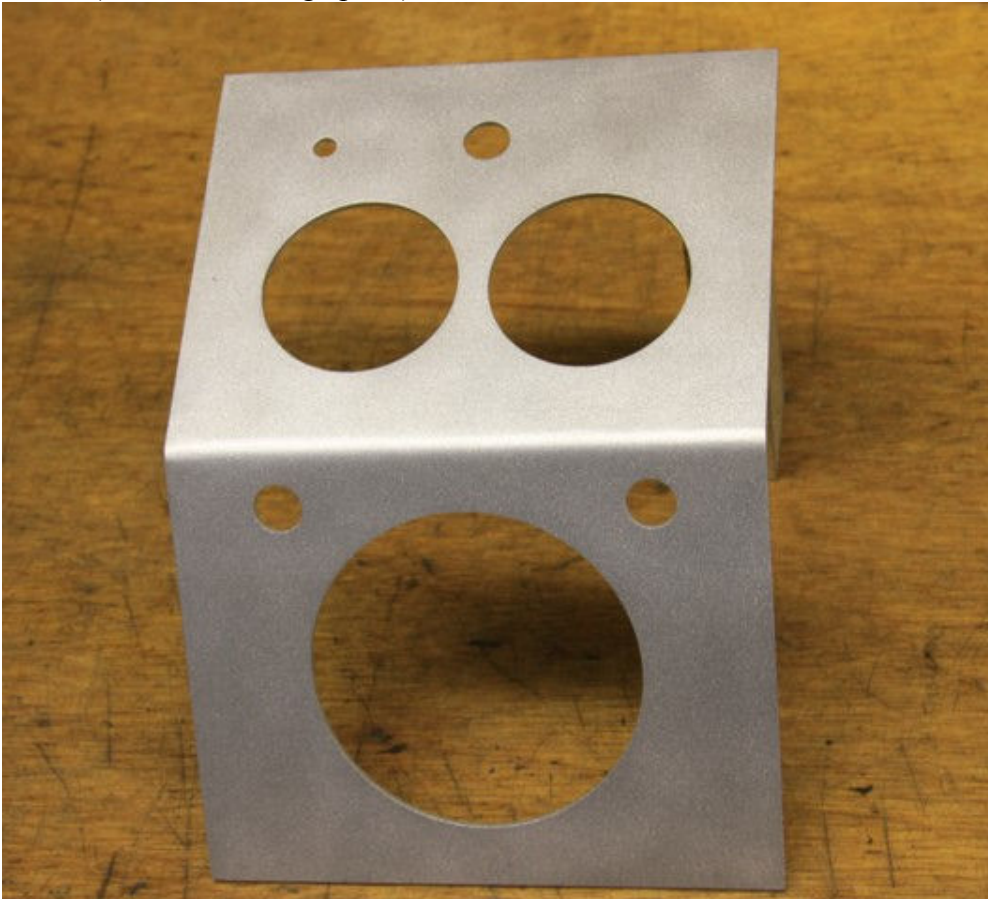
The water tanks must also be fabricated. They start with a piece of rectangle tubing (Pic. #3) then the top is cut and both pieces must be, drill, tapped, and then welded. The base is then cut and welded. Next, each is tested for leaks then the bottom attach plates must be welded in place. Once each is rechecked for leaks, each tank is then glass beaded. The heat sensor and two quick-disconnects are installed and the ground hole is tapped. I'm getting tired just thinking of all the work which is needed.

While spending an inordinate amount of time on the test stands, new castings continue to arrive. Picture # 15 shows the rocker arm pivots which are attached to a common casing runner or‘tree’. Each individual piece must be removed then drilled. I can unequivocally say, being self employed is not for the‘faint of heart’.

Pic. #1 (Rough cut Oak plywood for test stands)



Pic #2 (Aluminum Gauge plate)



Pic #3 (Water tank before welding)



Pic #4 (Water tanks after welding)



Pic #5 (Semi-finished battery/gauge housing)



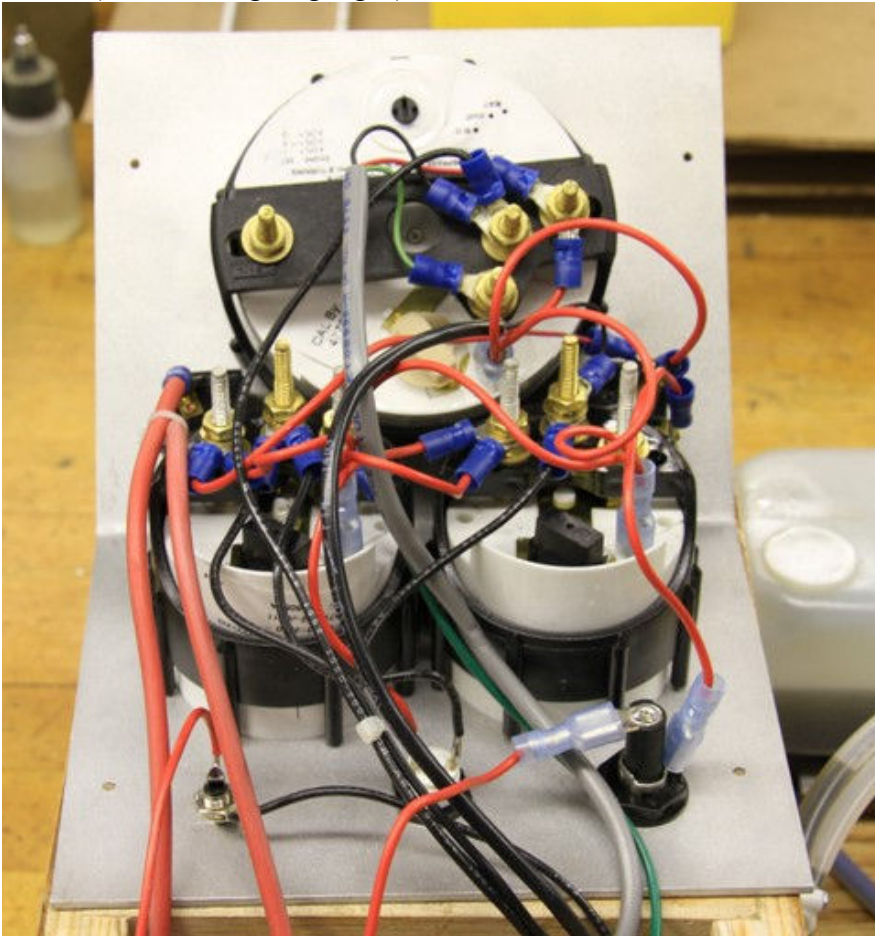
Pic #6 (Temperature and Volt meters)



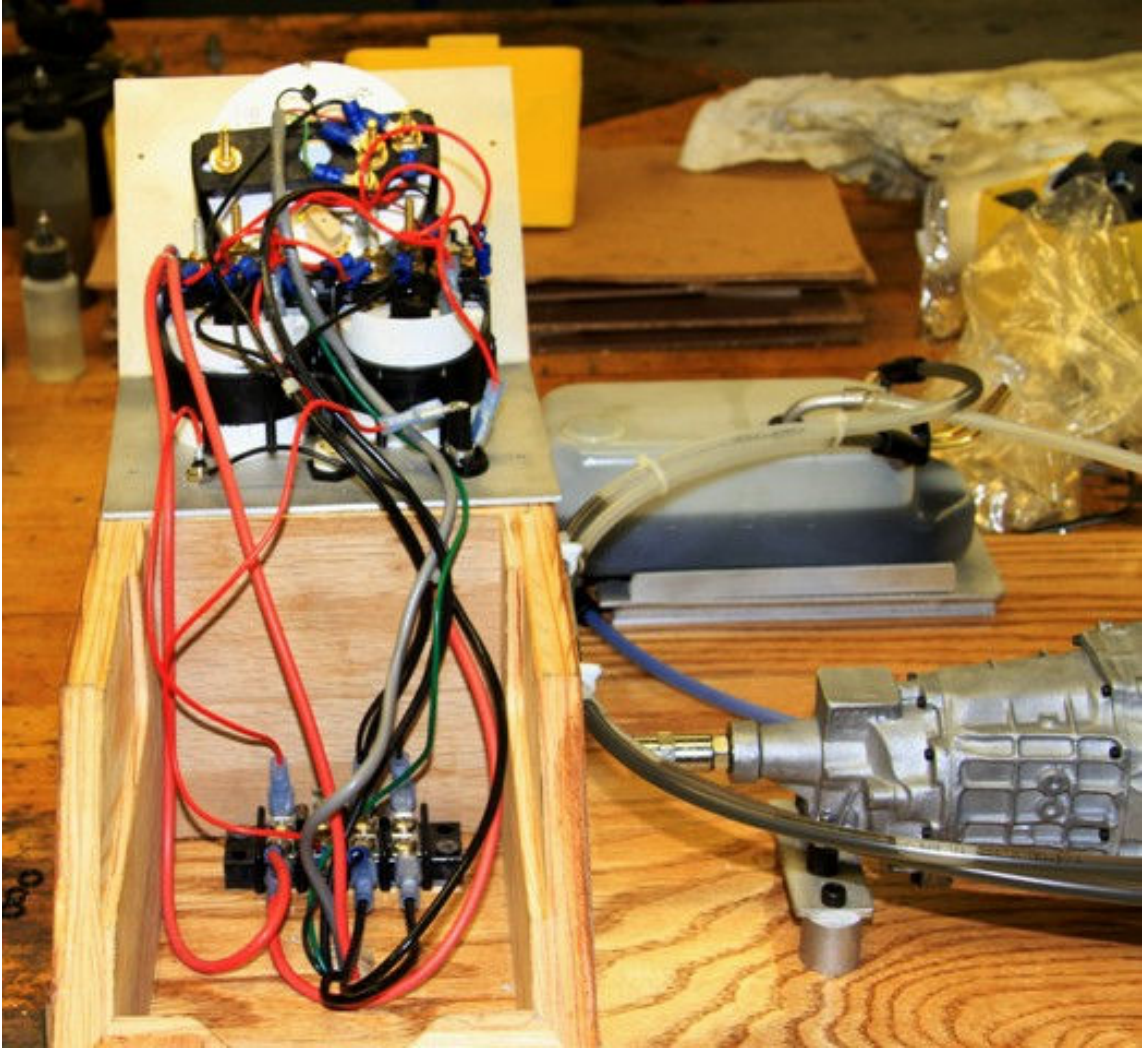
Pic #7 (Tachometers)



Pic #8 (Basic wiring of gauges)



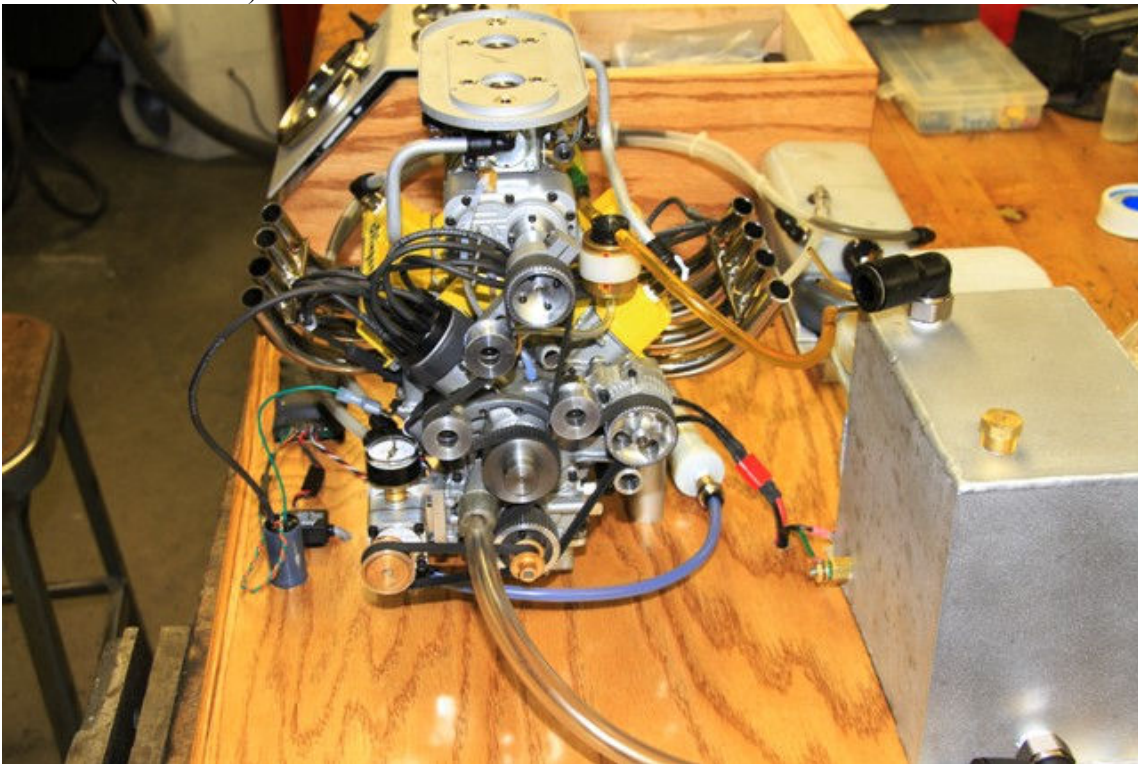
Pic #9



Pic 10 (Gauge panel)



Pic #11 (Test stand)



Pic #12



Pic #13 (Pans)



Pic #14 (Rocker arms)



Pic #15 (Rocker arm pivots)



Pic #16 (Camshafts)

