

O&R TUNING TIP # 24

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Newsletter, Bob Angel, Editor

Proper Mounting of an O&R Engine: I recently had my own O&R problem when an old pressed steel engine mount cracked. In order to duck any blame, I'll mention that it was on a ship I'd won some time ago at a Schmidt Ranch event. It came complete with and O&R 60 that needed a little help itself before I ran it. But that's another story.

The mount was a pair of those pressed steel ones that were sold as aftermarket items specifically for Super Cyclone engines. The mounting holes came drilled specifically to fit the Cyke. They don't fit the O&R without modification. But in this case there had been too much modification. There were oversize holes, plus extra holes not needed for either engine, as if other engines had used these mounts. This produced weakness at the point of breakage.

Another contributing factor was that the O&R engines do not have a flat mounting surface on their lug bottoms, unlike, say a McCoy. They left the factory "as cast" with a slightly rounded bottom and a casting seam right between the mounting holes. Fortunately I had an unused set of those Super Cyke mounts in my collection of stuff. I used a small conical diamond tipped rotary tool to enlarge the holes just enough for the O&R. Then I flattened the bottom of the O&R lugs with a safe file. A safe file is one that has no teeth along the sides, so you can use it in close quarters without marring anything alongside the surface being worked.

In this case, the two problems probably worked together to crack the mount. But regardless of the mount used, it's a good idea to flatten those lug bottoms on the O&R. At the very least you can carve away that casting seam rather easily with a curved X-acto blade.

This illustrates both the tips above. The plastic zip tie at the aft end of the red point wire reduces the wires vibration but still lets the timer move for adjustment.

The mount is the pressed steel one that came drilled for the Super Cyclone engine. The mount came as a set of two pieces which are mirror images of each other.

I made the tank for alcohol use from an old 35mm plastic film container. It holds 30cc. The filler is a brass tire stem with a standard screw-on cap and a small vent hole in its center.

