

TECH INFO.

Club Spares have recently been supplying Mahle 78.5 mm pistons to members who are re-boring their cylinder barrels.

A few precautions should be observed when using these excellent pistons, in particular the tolerances set out in the manual for:

- diametral play of connecting rod big end bearings = 0.044 - 0.061 mm (original white-metalled bearings)
- play between barrel and piston = 0.06 - 0.08 mm

as well as the other dimensions and checks contained in this section of the manual.

Traction engines, with their relatively low oil pressures rely for adequate lubrication on a certain amount of "slop" in these areas, and if this is not provided, the two oil control rings of the Mahle pistons will clean the upper cylinder area of needed oil quite effectively.

Some engine reconditioners even recommend the drilling of a small hole through the con rod from the big end bearing to give an extra supply of oil to the cylinder wall.

In any case, it would appear, from my recent (unfortunate) experience, that less than three thou of play between barrel and piston will have dire results - like one or more pistons collapsing through overheating!

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