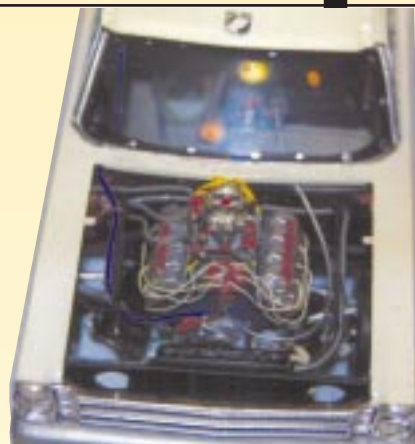
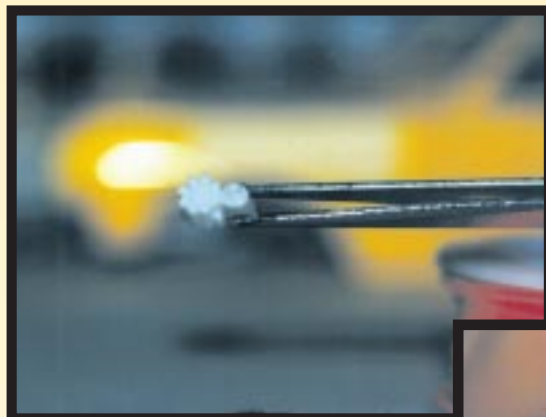


TECH TIP Distributor Caps

Text by Buggs

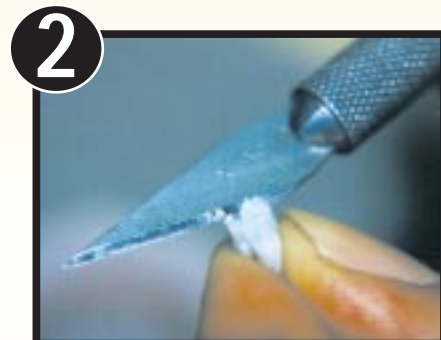
BEFORE



AFTER

Dressing up your existing distributor caps... straight from the kit!

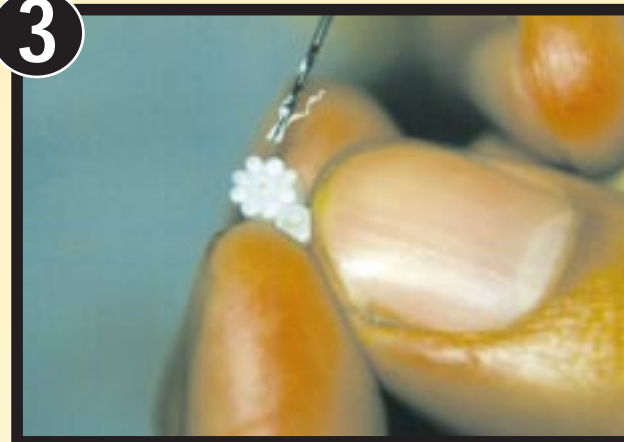
Ever go to a model contest, register, set up & anxiously await the final word on who placed what in your class, then find out that the judge says that you didn't have enough detail in your model. Detail, hmm, what about detail? Well, for the most part, judges do look for detail but also look for a number of other things like glue globs, scratches in the paint, a clean overall build but mostly detail. Here's a quick way to add a little detail to your engine. This is quite simple so your supply list is kinda limited. All you need is a stock distributor from practically any kit, an X-Acto knife or razor blade, a pen vise with a small bit and some detail wire. The detail wire you can get at your local hobby shop or if you're a penny pincher & just love to shop around for knick knacks, then Radio Shack carries a nice line of scale diameter wire that could be used just as well.



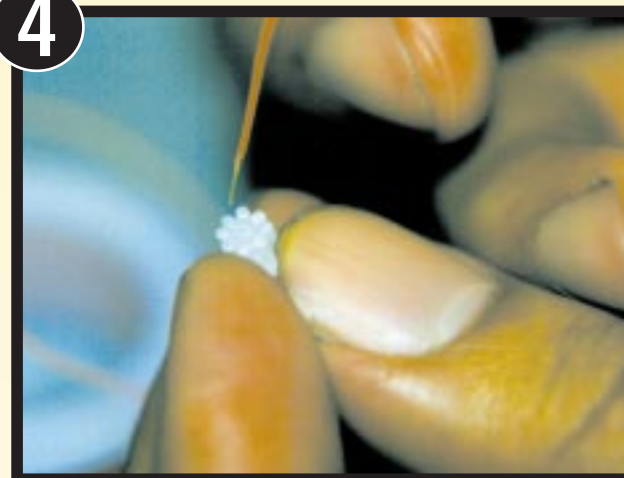
1) As shown here in the photo, you can use any distributor for this task. Here I'm using the traditional distributor from a '64 Impala kit.

2) Next, with your X-Acto knife or razor blade, cut the top of all the points on the distributor off evenly. *Please be careful not to cut your fingers during this stage. **Junior modelers always have an adult present.**

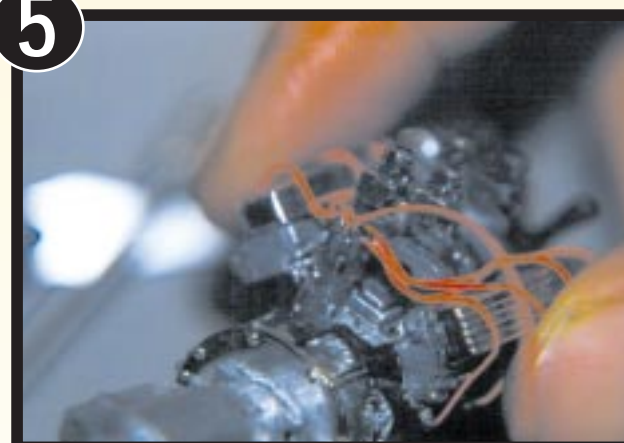
3



4



5



3) With your pen vise, a small hand drill, slowly find a starting point on the tops of each spot where a distributor wire would go. (Slowly) Turn just enough to open a small hole in each spot to insert your detail wire into with a dab of glue. 4) Take your detail wire and cut strands long enough to slip into each hole & to also wrap around the engine block itself to where each line would go. Strip just a little at each end of the wire so that it will go into each hole that you made in the distributor. I wouldn't worry about the exact firing order for each plug. There are very few instances to where judges are too concerned with this aspect of the distributor. ***Note** To maintain that cleanliness, here's a cool trick of the trade. Take your glue bottle & put a drop of glue on your table where you're working. Take each stripped end of detail wire that you plan to insert into the top of the distributor cap & one at a time, touch the end you plan to insert into the dab of glue. Just enough to get glue on the end of the wire. Afterwards, securely place the wire in the hole on the distributor. This will prevent having to put a glob of glue on your distributor, therefore turning the judges away even more. Remember, you can have all the detail you want but if there are glue globs everywhere then you're still not considered in a contest.

5) Finally, after mounting all the wires into the distributor, it should look like the one in this photo. Now you're ready to glue your distributor to your engine. And that's it. All it takes is a little time & the right tools & your on your way to becoming a "Detail Master." No pun intended.

