# PRESTOLITE

## DESCRIPTION

### SINGLE BREAKER DISTRIBUTORS

The pivoted type breaker plate assembly consists of a support plate mounted rigidly in housing and a separate breaker plate on which contact assembly and condenser are mounted. Breaker plate is pivoted on support plate at a point under the condenser and rests on brass supports on plate. A tension spring on underside of support plate provides constant uniform friction between the two plates and governors action of vacuum unit in rotating the plate to advance or retard spark.

### DOUBLE BREAKER DISTRIBUTORS

The ball bearing type breaker plate assembly consists of a support plate mounted in distributor housing and a breaker plate on which contact assemblies and condenser are mounted. Retainer clips on support plate engage bearing assembly on underside of breaker plate and hold assembly firmly in recess in support plate.

### ALL DISTRIBUTORS

Vacuum advance link connects directly to breaker plate and rotates it around distributor cam. A single spring is used on each governor advance weight. One spring, with light tension, controls low speed advance; other spring, with heavy tension, controls high speed advance.

## SPECIFICATIONS

### POINT GAP, CAM ANGLE & BREAKER ARM SPRING TENSION

*See appropriate article in TUNE-UP Section.*

### CENTRIFUGAL & VACUUM ADVANCE

*See DISTRIBUTOR ADVANCE SPECIFICATIONS in this Section.*

## ADJUSTMENT

### CENTRIFUGAL ADVANCE

To adjust centrifugal advance, bend outer spring lug of light spring for low speed and outer lug of heavy spring for high speed operation.

### VACUUM ADVANCE

*NOTE — Vacuum advance units on 6 Cyl. distributors cannot be adjusted.* To adjust vacuum advance, remove the retaining plug and the gasket and remove washers. Check thickness of removed washers and substitute thinner washer if vacuum required to move plate is greater than specified. Substitute thicker washer if vacuum required to move plate is less than specified. *NOTE — It may be necessary to replace spring, then adjust to specifications by means of various combinations of washers.*

### CONTACT POINT AND CAM ANGLE SETTING

On new points, insert a feeler gauge between points with rubbing block on peak of a cam lobe. On used points, use a dwellmeter to adjust cam angle since roughness of points will not allow accurate reading. Points are adjusted by moving stationary contact in desired direction.

### CONTACT POINT ALIGNMENT

Align contacts to provide center contact by bending stationary contact only. Bend bracket next to contact away from breaker arm, then bend bracket back to vertical. *CAUTION — Do not bend movable breaker arm.*

### BREAKER ARM SPRING TENSION

Measure tension with a spring scale at right angles to point surfaces. Note scale reading at point where contacts start to separate. To adjust move end of point in or out as necessary.

## OVERHAUL

### DISASSEMBLY

Remove vacuum unit, distributor cap clamp springs, and rotor. On single breaker distributors, push in rubber grommet and remove primary lead. On double breaker distributors, loosen primary terminal post nut and remove primary lead. Remove breaker plate attaching screws and remove breaker plate assembly. Remove cam felt and spring clip retainer from center of cam and remove anti-rattle spring. Clamp distributor in soft-jawed vise and attach a dial indicator to body with indicator plunger against cam. Move shaft back and forth with just enough force to indicate clearance. If sideplay exceeds .006", replace bushings or shaft. Remove cam and yoke. Drive retaining pin from drive collar and shaft and remove collar. Remove lower thrust washer and push shaft out through top of housing. *NOTE — On distributors with driven gear held on shaft with retaining pin, support hub of gear so gear not damaged when pin driven out.* Remove upper thrust washers, oiler and oiler wick. Remove governor weights and springs.

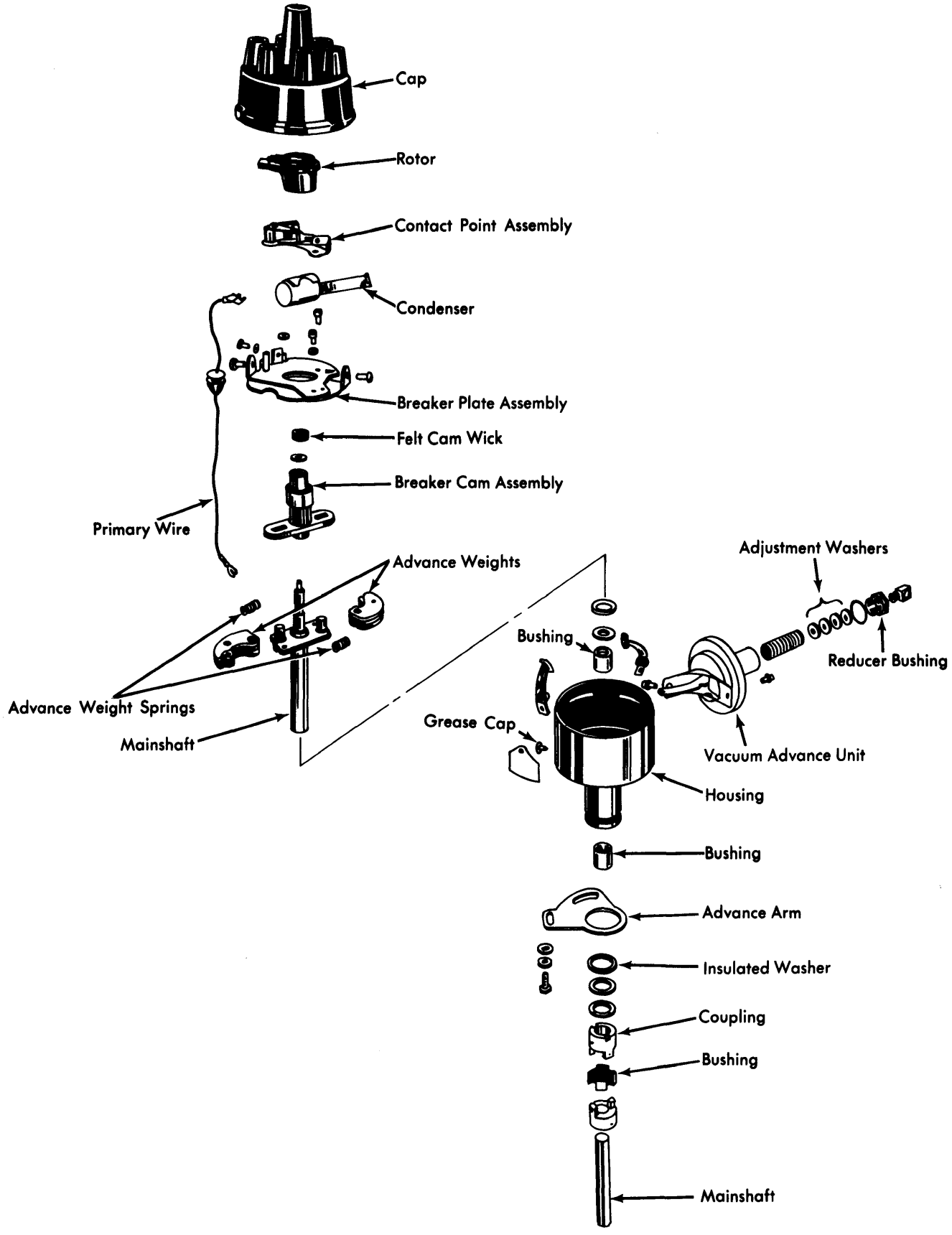
### INSPECTION

Wash all parts except breaker plate and vacuum diaphragm in solvent and blow dry with air. Check operation of governor weights and check weight springs for distortion. Inspect all bearing surfaces and pivot points for binding, roughness or excessive wear.

### BUSHING REPLACEMENT

On 6 Cyl. distributors, remove bushings with a suitable tap and puller (C-3744). DO NOT drive bushings from housing. On V8 distributors, remove bushings from housing with suitable driver (C-3041). On all distributors, install new bushings with suitable adapter and driver (C-3041) and press new upper bushing into position in bore. *NOTE — soak bushing in light engine oil for 15 minutes before installation.* When properly installed, bushing will be .094" below top of bore. Invert distributor housing and press lower bushing in until it is flush with bottom face of distributor. Drill a ⅛" hole through upper bushing by drilling through oil wick hole. Remove burrs from hole after drilling. Install suitable burnishing tool (part of C-3041) and force through both bushings. Burnishing tool should finish inside diameter to .4995-.5000". Bushing-to-shaft clearance should be .005".

## PRESTOLITE (Cont.)




**PRESTOLITE DISTRIBUTOR ASSEMBLY**

## PRESTOLITE (Cont.)

**REASSEMBLY**

Place grease in lubricant hole of governor weights and install weights and springs. Install anti-rattle spring. Slide cam and yoke over end of drive shaft and secure with spring clip. As cam and yoke are being slid over shaft, engage weight lugs with slots in yoke. Lubricate governor weight pivots, yoke slots, and cam sleeve with engine oil. Slide inner thrust washers over shaft and up into position against governor plate. Lubricate shaft with light engine oil and install in distributor. Slide outer thrust washer and collar over drive shaft, then install a new pin and peen ends of pin over shaft. *NOTE – On distributors with driven gear held on shaft with retainer pin, support hub of gear so gear will not be damaged when pin driven in.* With drive shaft collar in place, shaft endplay should be .003-.010". Soak oiler wick and felt pad in light engine oil, squeeze slightly, then install. Install oiler by tapping into place. Install breaker plate assembly into position and line up attaching screw holes, then attach cap clamp springs and screws and tighten securely. On single breaker distributors, slide primary lead through hole in body and seat grommet in hole. On double breaker distributors, install terminal post assembly. Install vacuum unit, engaging vacuum unit arm with pin on breaker plate. Install attaching screws and tighten securely. Install spring clip over breaker plate pin to secure vacuum unit arm. Install condenser, stationary contact arm, and breaker arm.