Electronic (CDI) Ignition for your Mc - Kart or Saw Engine

No more coils points or condensers

Originally Produced by Bob Cornwell

The black Phelon Electronic ignition unit fitted to my Mac's comes from the Ryobi lawn edgers (Ryobi calls them Whipper Snippers), or string trimmers. The Phelon units slide straight onto the Mac center post as shown in the picture below.



To retain the unit after fitting I bend the two outer laminations of the center post which locks the ignition unit in place. I found epoxying the unit on did not work for too long and let the module slide down and rub the flywheel and presto no more spark. Homelite used a clip that held these modules onto the core and may work on this application as well. These modules will fit the

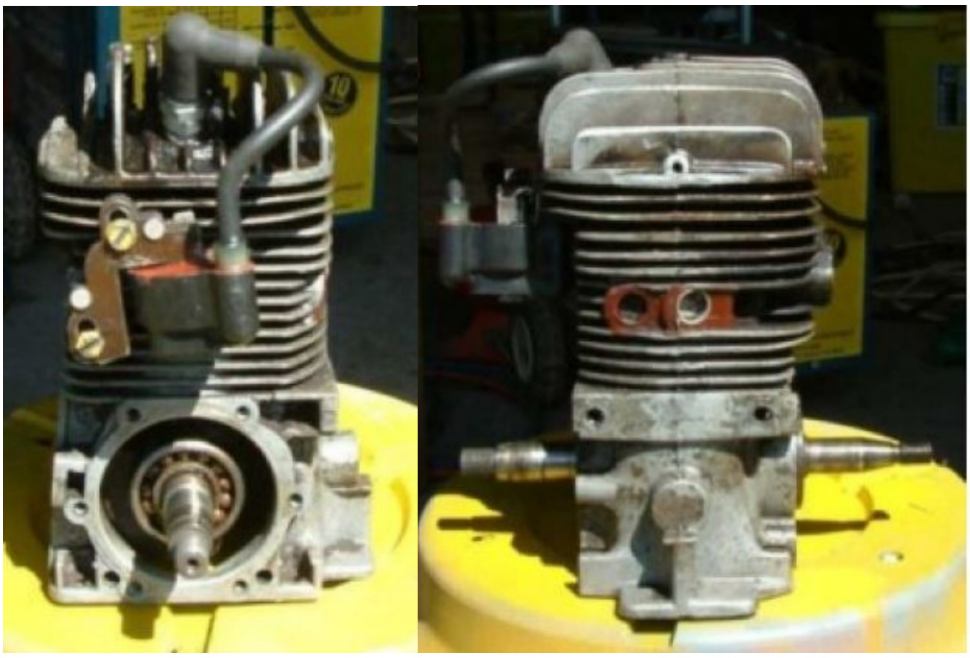
Standard series of Mac's ie; 1-53, 1-40, and the 250, 450, 550. Now they also fit the later SP125C as its 2 legged post is 9mm same as the 3 legged.

There's another option worth considering if the original coil has tested to be OK, and that is to fit an ignition module which replaces both the points and condenser.



Their only shortcoming is it still has joints or screw together wire joints which really isn't a secure way of attaching two wires together. I have seen these on EBay for around 20.00 plus postage, just search for "Ignition Chip Replace Points and Condenser."

Note after the original coil has been removed these units are pressed onto their saws original laminations which is 9mm.



It is recommended that the two outer laminations be bent outwards thereby locking the module in place. The chainsaws should benefit as they work in 2 phases, idle or wide open throttle, there is little need for a mid-range. These units will fit the 10 series of Macs except those like the SP81e, PM800, PM805 and Double Eagle 80, which used different coil laminations to mount the coil. This unit also fits the early 10 series McColluch, but will need the high tension lead changed to a slightly longer length.



The edger unit modules have been fitted to a Super Pro 81 that the original coil failed and these parts are no longer available it was retrofitted with the CDI unit and it works just fine. Two Poulan 2000 chainsaws that had no spark were repaired using two coils from Ryobi brush cutters explained in this method about replacing and repairing older NLA Phelon ignitions. After the leads were lengthened the units produced spark and with fuel in the carb they both ran again.