COMP Cams® Gear Drive System
#4120 Ford Small Block

Thank you for choosing COMP Cams® products; we are proud to be your manufacturer of choice. Please read this instruction sheet carefully before beginning installation and also take a moment to review the limited warranty information.

Special Notes

• This set is equipped with a 3 keyway crank gear to provide standard factory timing, 2 degrees camshaft retard. Aligning “O”, “A”, & “R” mark on crank gear with the “O” mark on the cam gear provides these 3 valve timing options.

• FUEL PUMP ECCENTRIC APPLICATIONS: This gear is for use with one piece fuel pump eccentric (Ford part number C3 AZ-6287-B) generally found in engines manufactured prior to 1975. However, the 2 piece style eccentric can be bolted up. The two piece style is functional and will work if there is sufficient clearance for 2 piece eccentric use.

• The following applications have a separate spacer on the camshaft in front of the cam sprocket which must be removed and discarded prior to installation. 5.0L (302) H/O & 5.7 (351W) H/O engines to 3/21/84 have this spacer.

Installation Instruction

Step 1:
Remove stock timing cover. Rotate engine to top dead center of cylinder #1 so that the timing marks on the original crank and cam sprockets are directly lined up with each other, i.e. the mark on the crank sprocket will be at 12 o’clock (straight up) and the mark on the cam sprocket will be at 6 o’clock (straight down).

Step 2:
Remove sprockets and chain.

Step 3 (figure 1):
Lubricate bronze thrust ring and slip over hub on cam gear. Install cam gear on engine and check to see that cam gear seats properly on camshaft locating face. Note: The existing bronze thrust plate may have to be loosened up and repositioned (clearance in thrust plate bolt holes allows off-center installation at factory) to allow cam gear to seat correctly on camshaft. Install washer and cam bolt. Tighten to 20-28 ft/lbs.

Step 4:
Select the keyway for the timing setup desired. Align crank gear keyway to the keystock on the crankshaft. Press, or tap (on hub only) crank gear in place. When using cam retard (R) or cam advance (A), rotate crank 4 degrees to align the mark straight up at 12 o’clock (and permit installation of the idler assembly). CAUTION: DO NOT ROTATE THE CRANKSHAFT BY GRIPPING THE GEAR TEETH.
TIMING COVER MODIFICATION

Step 5 (figure 2):
IMPORTANT! The rib in the center of the timing cover must be removed and ground off flush to provide room for the dogbone idler set to be installed.

Clearance Test

DOGEBONE INSTALLATION

Step 6 (figure 3):
Install dogbone idler assembly as follows: Power Idler (large) gear must be installed on the left side. Put idler gear assembly about halfway in (so idler shafts contact cover upon installation). Fit-up cover with gasket in place. Cover should seat completely on gasket face.

DO NOT BOLT IN PLACE. Remove cover and check clearance between idler studs & block. Clearance should measure .005 to .075” for proper operation. If clearance is less than .005”, grind off idler studs as shown to obtain proper clearance.

SMALL BLOCK FORD ONLY: If clearance is greater than .090, replace left side (larger idler side) stud with tapered end stub provided in the kit, reinstall idler assembly and recheck for minimum clearance between block and front cover.

In operation, crankshaft gear will force Power Idler (large gear) into tight mesh with camshaft gear as crankshaft rotates clockwise. Reverse Idler (small gear) should have free vertical movement of .005”-.075” when power idler gear is in tight mesh with cam and crank gears.

Gear damage will occur from excessive friction if Reverse Idler (small gear) does not have sufficient running clearance.

Alternate Clearance Test

Clearance putty can be used to accurately check axle/block end clearance. DO NOT TRAP AXLES between the block and front cover.

Use clearance putty as follows: place a thin piece of putty between the block & the axle. WITHOUT USING A GASKET, hand tighten the timing cover in place, then remove to check axle/block end clearance. There should be a very thin film of clearance putty remaining on the Power Idler axle. This assures that after installation of a gasket the proper .005” to .075” clearance is maintained.

STEP 7:
Bolt timing cover in place and test.

NOTE: This timing setup requires use of a harmonic balancer, DO NOT substitute an aluminum hub.