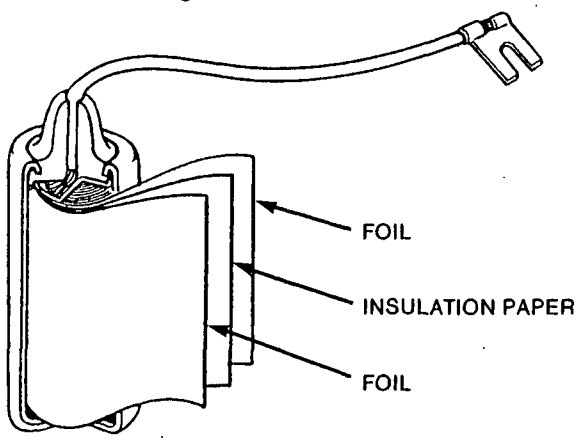
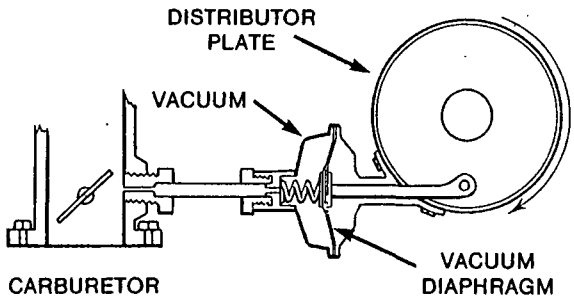
across the contacts, which would burn them. Since its purpose is to protect the contact set, any internal resistance will cause premature failure of new points.



(Figure 22) Condenser.

A new condenser should be installed with new points. Look for a seal against moisture contamination, flexible lead wire, and type of terminal used when replacing the condenser.

Vacuum Control



(Figure 23) Vacuum Control.

The vacuum control device is attached to the distributor housing and mechanically linked to the breaker plate. It moves the plate to advance ignition timing as engine operational conditions provide a vacuum signal. This allows for smoother, more efficient engine operation.

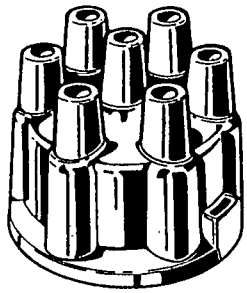
Distributor Cap

The distributor cap serves a dual purpose: to provide the terminals for the spark to be delivered to individual spark plugs, and to protect internal parts from dirt, moisture, and other contaminants.

Any accumulation of contaminants inside the cap may provide paths for the secondary voltage to short circuit, thus causing engine misfire. When this occurs, a path called a "carbon track" is left and will repeatedly cause problems. This tracking cannot be cleaned away and isn't visible in early stages.

Because of this, the finish is very important. A high lustre finish will repel dirt and moisture, helping to prevent carbon tracking. The inserts used are also important, since aluminum allows the formation of aluminum oxide, an abrasive which may damage other parts.

If no carbon tracking or other physical problems occur, the distributor cap is usually effective for about 30,000 miles.



(Figure 24) Distributor Cap.

Distributor Rotor

The rotor turns with the distributor shaft, routing the high secondary voltage spark from the center terminal of the cap to the correct outer terminal. There is a small gap between the end of the rotor blade and the cap insert. As the spark jumps this gap, it will eventually burn away the blade and inserts. This gap is very important, and is precisely machined. It cannot be adjusted, and too wide a gap will weaken the spark to the plug.



(Figure 25) Distributor Rotor.

Caps and rotors should be replaced as a set. Check new rotors for stainless steel spring, brass blades, and be sure to use correct applications.