

Rear fuel tank breather

From August 1934, the low chassis Austin Seven Jewel range were introduced. From the introduction of these new models, all petrol tanks were in a concealed position at the rear of the car with a steel filler pipe projecting towards the rear wing. The actual filler pipe was joined to the tank pipe by a flexible hose which was quite close to the spare-wheel compartment.

Austin realised that any leak from the filler pipe caused by overfilling could result in petrol fumes entering the car. To prevent this happening, an overflow pipe was fitted to the front of the petrol tank just behind the back axle. So, if petrol is seen dribbling from underneath the rear of the car when filling with petrol, you have probably overfilled the tank. This is not an uncommon occurrence especially as our elderly petrol gauges become less reliable. To prevent this happening, it is possible to plug-off the overflow pipe either with a tapered hardwood plug or with a central heating microbore (probably 10 mm) blank-end. (slightly less safe to smoke in the car though Ed)

Clearly, it is best to avoid over-filling Eddie Loader