

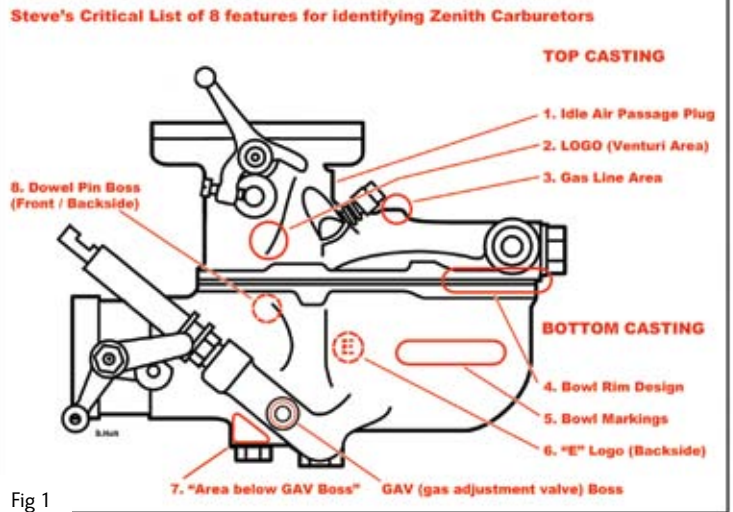
# A Guide to Zenith Carburetors

## Part 2

### The 1928 Zenith Carburetors

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Note: refer to the latest version of the *Restoration Guidelines and Judging Standards* for official accepted usage dates for the different carburetor designs.



Editor's Note: Figure 2 and 3 in Part 1 covering the 1927 Zenith Carburetors were inadvertently switched. Please make this correction in your February-March 2017 issue.

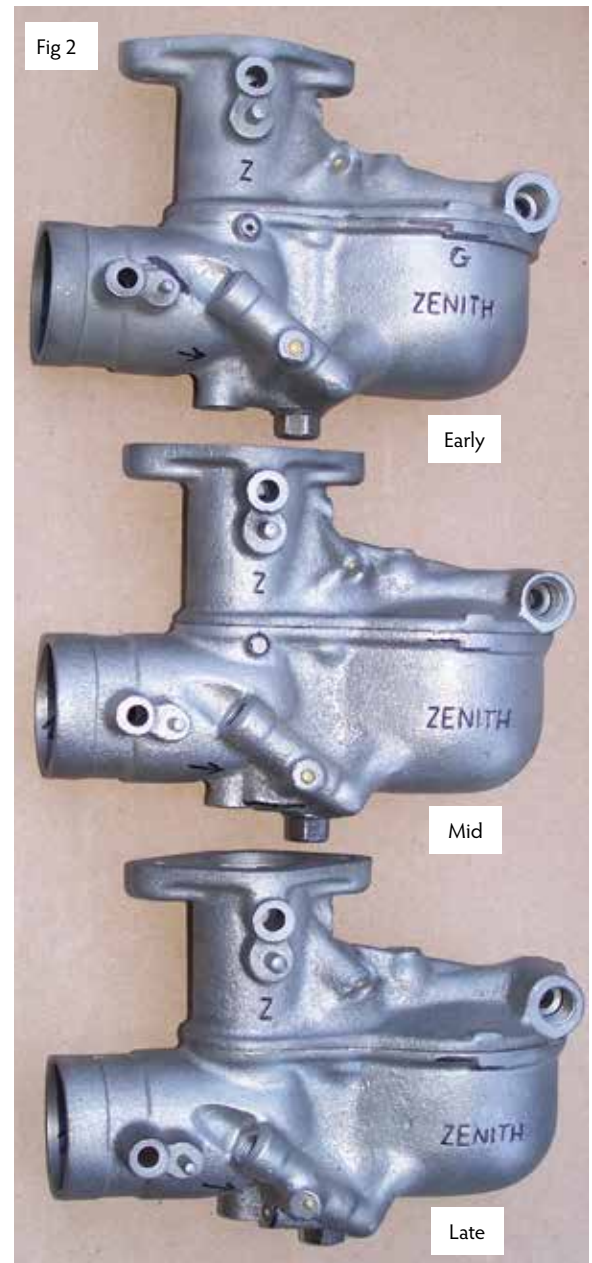
In the last article (Part 1), we discovered the three main features used to identify 1927 carburetors. In this article, we will find out what makes the 1928 Zenith carburetors different and unique from all other Model A carburetors. **Figure 1** shows the 8 most important (critical) features used to identify the correct year of any top or bottom Zenith carburetor casting. The early mid and late 1928 Zenith carburetors are defined in this article as **Z3**, **Z4**, and **Z5**.

All 1928 Zenith top castings had a recessed "Z" on the front, in the area of the venturi. This feature (no. 2) remained unchanged until 1931. It is the differences in the bottom casting that provide details for easy identification. Look carefully at the front views on **Figure 2**. At first glance, all three carburetors look the same. **Study Figure 2** and compare each carburetor to the features noted on Figure 1 and see if you can find the most important distinguishing features before reading further.

In the previous article, I mentioned that some features are the same on the 1927 and 1928 carburetors, but were not used to define them. The most recognizable is the "Zenith" bowl marking. This is a supportive feature, but alone it does not define the difference between 1927 and 1928. Likewise, feature no. 7 the "area below the GAV boss" is described as no features ("nothing") because there is very little casting material and it does not form any specific shape. It is characteristic of the 1927 carburetors (**Z1 and Z2**) and only the early 1928 carburetor (**Z3**). Supportive features do not define specific years, only specific time periods that commonly transcend years.

The early 1928 **Z3** Zenith carburetor is best defined by two bottom casting features:

1. Feature no. 4, the bowl rim design change from a prominent square to "stepped" design.
2. Feature no. 8, a front (hood side) drilled dowel pin boss with a steel locator pin.



This carburetor could be identified from just feature no. 8 as it is the only one that had a front drilled dowel pin boss. But the combination of features is concrete evidence of the **Z3**. It is noteworthy that some **Z3** carburetors have a prominent recessed “G” above the bowl marking. This is a minor variation, and not a date-specific feature. See Fig. 3.

The mid 1928 **Z4** Zenith carburetor is best defined by two bottom casting features. It is the same as the **Z3** except:

1. Feature no. 8, both the front and back dowel pin bosses are undrilled.
2. Feature no. 7, the “area under the GAV boss” is described as “forward-rolled”. This term is synonymous with the “GAV underside-rounded to rear” words used in the Zenith carburetor chart on page 1-12 in the *Model A Restoration Guidelines & Judging Standards*.

These are both specific time-period defining features used to identify the **Z4**. This carburetor could be identified with either single feature, because both are unique to this time period. See Fig. 4.

The late 1928 **Z5** carburetor is best defined by three bottom casting features. It is the same as the **Z4** except:

1. Feature no. 8, with no dowel pin bosses, drilled or undrilled
2. Feature no. 7, the “area under the GAV boss” is described as “side-rolled”.
3. Feature no. 5, “Zenith” (only) bowl markings (**Z1** through **Z5**)

The **Z5** carburetor could be identified by using feature no. 7 and 8, if it were not for its transition status that links it to the early 1929 carburetors. It is important to recognize that all three of these features are necessary to define the **Z5** carburetor. See Fig. 5.

Feature no. 7 on the **Z5** carburetor is a most obvious casting change. The shape of the “side-rolled” casting below the GAV boss formed a well-defined vertical flat “face”. This flat face points toward the muffler, or to the rear of the Model A, and has a third brass plug (three total for the bottom casting). The term “side-rolled” as used in this article is synonymous with the “GAV underside-rounded to side” words in the Zenith carburetor chart in the Guidelines.

The **Z5** is the last carburetor to have the “Zenith” (only) bowl marking. It supports the recognition of all 1927 and 1928 carburetors. This fact is very important to remember when we discover the difference between the late 1928 carburetor and the 1929 carburetors in the next article.

