

Positioning paper gaskets on the Austin Seven rear main bearing housing

Two similar looking circular gaskets are employed either side of the steel rear main bearing housing on the Austin Seven engine. However, one is thicker than the other and it may not be obvious which one goes where.

I couldn't find this information in the Woodrow Manual or the 750 Companion, although I may have been "boy looking". However, I did find an old hand-written note saying the thinner gasket goes on first between the housing and the crankcase; and the thicker one between the housing and the (reverse oil scroll or modern seal) alloy cover-plate.

This is the arrangement I have always used and it is confirmed in David Cochrane's (Austin Seven Components) parts list and also on the excellent Cornwall A7 Club Website technical pages.

From a fundamental engineering perspective this also sounds right. The thinner gasket sits between two hopefully sound faces, whilst the thicker one can better accommodate any slight distortion in the less robust alloy cover plate.

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