

Suppressing RF interference in cars

I found your article on "Inductive Ignition Cable" in the February issue most interesting, as I have been involved in the suppression of several vehicles over a number of years. This work has mainly involved suppression so that AM receivers without noise limiters can be used in the HF and VHF regions with minimum noise pick-up.

My usual technique is to place the ignition system under a bronze flywire screen. This is quite practical where the coil, distributor and spark plugs are on one side of the engine as in 6-cylinder Holdens.

The bronze flywire is attached along one edge of the rocker cover and the bottom edge is attached under bolts on the sump at the back of the motor, the oil pump and the timing case cover. A

coaxial feedthrough capacitor is fitted to the coil and the low tension cables are kept as far from the HT line as is practical. Bonding braids are also attached across each engine mount, from the rocker cover to the firewall, and across the hinges of the bonnet.

For a total outlay of about \$5 quite a substantial reduction in interference level is achieved. I find I get about 20% more effective range with my 2-metre FM transceiver with the suppression fitted as compared to it removed.

For more information on this method of suppression, I would refer you to my articles in "Amateur Radio", the last being on p10 of the February, 1977 issue.

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