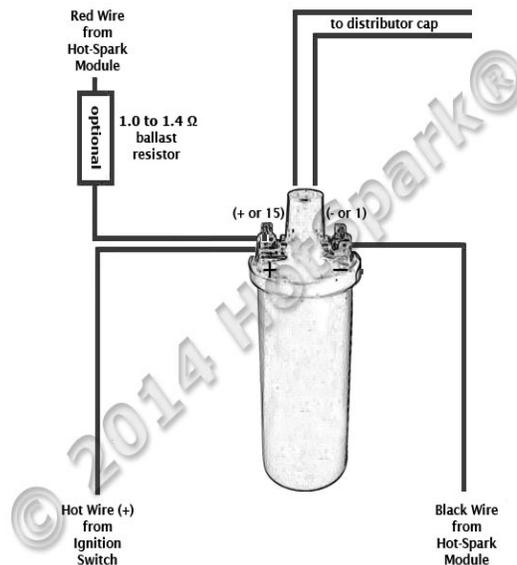


Installing the 009 Distributor with 3BOS4U1 Electronic Ignition

Warning: Reversing the red and black ignition wires will destroy the ignition module. The Hot-Spark module's red wire connects to positive (+ or 15 on Bosch coil). The black wire connects to negative (- or 1 on Bosch coil). Remove the condenser and its wire from vehicle. Connect any other wires to the coil in their original positions. This module is designed for 12V negative ground applications only.

Make sure that the ignition wires have plenty of slack inside the distributor and are not rubbing on any moving parts. If you need to extend the length of the ignition wires, use 20-gauge (AWG) wire. Crimp tightly or solder all connections.



Make sure that engine oil level is on the full mark before revving engine!

Coil: Coil MUST have a minimum of 3.0 Ohms primary resistance. To measure primary resistance:

www.Hot-Spark.com/Coil.htm

Test Maximum Charging System Voltage: If the charging system voltage, measured at the coil's positive terminal, is more than 14.0 volts at any RPM level, the voltage regulator likely needs replacing. Too much voltage can destroy the ignition module and other electronic components. A maximum charging system voltage of 13.7 volts or so is plenty. A quick fix is to wire a [1.4 Ohm external ballast resistor](#) between the coil's + terminal and the HotSpark ignition's red wire. Adding the ballast resistor is cheap insurance against voltage surges, etc.

Ignition Timing: Set the ignition timing, with a stroboscopic light, to 28-32° BTDC @ 3,500+ RPM.

Test Battery Voltage to Coil: With ignition switch ON, engine not running, check voltage at coil's + terminal. The voltmeter should read somewhere around +11 to +13 volts or about the same as battery voltage. If voltage is too low or there's no

reading, the battery's terminals or ground connection may be corroded and need cleaning or the battery may need charging. Some vehicles have a resistor wire running from the ignition switch to the coil's + terminal. If this resistor wire drops the voltage below 10 volts or so, you may need to run a non-resistor wire from the ignition switch to the coil's + terminal or run a +12V wire directly from the ignition switch to the red Hot-Spark ignition wire. Make sure that the ignition switch terminal to which you connect this wire has power only when the ignition switch is in the ON position. Or, you can, for temporary testing purposes only, run a wire directly from the battery's + terminal to the coil's + terminal, the Hot Spark ignition's red wire to the coil's + terminal and the black Hot-Spark wire to the coil's - terminal. Do not leave the wire from the battery connected to the coil's + terminal for more than a minute or so without the engine running.

Finding Top Dead Center on a VW Type I engine: https://www.vw-resource.com/find_tdc.html#pulley

Which is Number One Cylinder? You can rotate the position of the spark plug leads in the distributor cap, as needed, so that the arrangement of the ignition wires and the position of the vacuum canister best suits your particular application. Any of the distributor cap's four spark plug wire positions can be for number one cylinder, as long as the firing order remains 1-4-3-2, clockwise. Cylinder number 1 for Type I VW engines is normally at about the eleven o'clock position, when looking down on the engine from above. For VW Type IV engines (1972-83 USA VW bus), Cylinder No. 1 is normally at about the five o'clock position. Each cylinder firing position is 90° from the next or last, including Cylinder number 3 (No. 3 is not retarded).

Installing Distributor in VW Type I Engine - Beetle, Ghia, Thing, 1950-71 Bus (USA)

Before removing the old distributor, rotate the crankshaft to TDC (0°) on the compression stroke for Cylinder number 1. You can locate Cylinder number 1's firing position like this:

Remove the right-side valve cover, exposing the valves of Cylinders number 1 and 2 (Cylinder 1 is closest to the front of the car). The exhaust valves for Cylinders number 1 and 2 are closest to the front and rear of the car, respectively (on the outside). Cylinders number 1 and 2 intake valves are next to each other (on the inside). Rotate the engine clockwise, by hand, until you see Number 1 cylinder's exhaust valve open. Keep rotating the engine until the intake valve opens and then closes. Turn the engine by hand, clockwise, until the TDC (0°) notch in the crankshaft pulley wheel is lined up with where the two engine case halves join. The Woodruff key that fastens the pulley to the crankshaft should be at the nine o'clock position. The old distributor's rotor should be pointed to Cylinder number 1's spark plug wire. That is TDC (0°) on the compression stroke for Cylinder number 1.

Another method of finding Cylinder number 1's compression stroke is by removing the spark plug from Cylinder number 1, and holding your finger or thumb over the empty spark plug socket. Turn the crankshaft pulley clockwise, by hand, until you can feel compressed air rushing from spark plug hole (it's then on the compression stroke). Turn the pulley a little, until the TDC (0°) notch lines up with where the two engine case halves join or the crankshaft pulley's Woodruff key is at the nine o'clock position. The rotor should be pointing at the spark plug wire for Cylinder number 1.

The air-cooled VW's cylinders are arranged as follows:

Front of Car

3 1

4 2

Rear of Car

As you look at the exhaust and intake valves from the car's right side:

Cylinder 2

Exhaust Intake

Cylinder 1

Intake Exhaust

Make a note of to which spark plug wire the rotor is pointing. Note the location of the tab on the rim of the distributor cap

and orient it so that it aligns with the notch in the rim of the old distributor's body. Remove each spark plug wire from the old distributor cap, one-at-a-time, and insert it into the new distributor cap in the same location and order (1-4-3-2, clockwise).

Remove the old distributor and remove its clamp. Slide the distributor clamp onto the new distributor, before you fit the O-Ring to the distributor shaft. Now slide the O-Ring onto the distributor shaft and into its groove. Coat the distributor shaft and O-Ring with motor oil before sliding it into its hole. Look down into the engine's distributor hole to see how the distributor drive slot is oriented and turn the distributor shaft to match it. Make sure that the anti-chatter spring is in place, down in the center of the hole. Insert the distributor shaft into the hole. You might need to tap the distributor's rim gently to get the O-Ring started into the hole. Work the shaft down all the way, turning the rotor gently, as needed, until the distributor shaft gear settles into its slot and the rotor will no longer turn.

Place the cap on the new distributor. The rotor should point to Cylinder number 1. If not, move the spark plug wires in the distributor cap around, until the rotor points to the spark plug wire for Cylinder number 1. Cylinders 4, 3 and 2 spark plug wires should follow, in a clockwise direction (1-4-3-2 firing order).

If the rotor doesn't point to number 1 cylinder, the distributor drive pinion may be installed incorrectly. It will need to be removed from the distributor shaft hole with a special extraction tool and reinstalled so that its slot is oriented correctly (see VW repair manual for illustration).

Timing the 009 Centrifugal-Advance Distributor

TDC = Top Dead Center, or 0° BTDC = Before Top Dead Center ATDC = After Top Dead Center

Use a stroboscopic timing light and tach/dwell meter or tachometer, regardless of whether the distributor is equipped with points or an electronic ignition module. Static timing at around 0° (TDC) is suitable only for the initial adjustment, in order to get the engine running. To set the timing accurately, you must use a stroboscopic light connected to No. 1 cylinder's spark plug wire. Set the timing with the engine running at 3,000+ RPM, so that the centrifugal advance is fully in. The 009's timing should be set no further advanced than 30° to 32° BTDC at 3,000+ RPM.

You can locate the 30° BTDC spot on a stock VW Type I crankshaft pulley, which has a 175 mm (6-7/8 in.) diameter, by measuring, clockwise, from top dead center, around the circumference of the pulley, 45.8 mm, or 1-13/16 in. Make a small white paint mark there. That's about 30° BTDC.

Wiring Installation Basics:

1. Remove points, condenser and condenser wire from the vehicle.
2. Attach the red lead of a voltmeter to the coil's positive (+) terminal. Attach the voltmeter's black lead to engine ground. With the ignition switch on, engine not running, measure the voltage at the coil's positive (+) terminal. The reading should be somewhere around +11 to +13 volts. If voltage is too low or there's no reading, the battery's terminals or ground connection may be corroded and need cleaning. Some vehicles have a resistor wire running from the ignition switch to the coil's + terminal. If this resistor wire drops the voltage below 9 volts or so, you may need to run a non-resistor wire from the ignition switch to the coil's + terminal or run a +12V wire directly from the ignition switch to the red Hot-Spark ignition wire. Make sure that the ignition switch terminal to which you connect this wire has power only when the ignition switch is in the ON position.

To get the ignition running initially, only these wires should be attached to the coil's + and - terminals:

- A. +12 volts from the ignition switch to the coil's + terminal
- B. Red Hot-Spark wire to the coil's + terminal
- C. Black Hot-Spark wire to the coil's - terminal. **DO NOT connect any +12-volt wire to the coil's - terminal. Connect only the black Hot-Spark ignition wire to the coil's - terminal.**
- D. The automatic choke and fuel shut-off valve may also need to be attached to the coil's + terminal.

E. Generally, only the black Hot-Spark wire is attached to the coil's - terminal. If a tachometer wire is usually attached to the coil's - terminal, don't attach it until the timing has been set and engine is running properly. No other wires should be connected to the coil's + and - terminals at this time.

F. Attach a stroboscopic timing light to the spark plug wire of Cylinder number 1. With engine rotated to TDC (0 degrees) on the firing stroke of Cylinder number 1, ignition switch ON, turn the distributor until the timing light flashes. You may need to turn the distributor left or right, a little at a time, until the engine will stay running, so that you can set the timing with the engine running, using a stroboscopic timing light, according to factory specifications.

G. For testing purposes, no other wires should be attached to the coil terminals, except for the center high-tension lead to the distributor cap.

Attach a stroboscopic timing light to the spark plug wire of Cylinder number 1. With engine rotated to about 8 degrees BTDC, on the firing stroke of Cylinder number 1, ignition switch ON, slowly turn the distributor clockwise or counter-clockwise until the timing light flashes. Tighten the distributor clamp a little, so that you can still turn the distributor by hand, but the distributor won't turn on its own. The rotor should be pointing to number 1 cylinder's spark plug wire. The position of the rotor will be different than the position of a 009 (which is non-standard) distributor's rotor. If necessary, you can rotate the wires, as long as the firing order remains the same: 1-4-3-2, clockwise.

Start the engine. You may need to turn the distributor left or right a little, until the engine will stay running, so that you can set the timing with the engine running, using a stroboscopic timing light. With vacuum hose disconnected and plugged, the timing should be set to 30-32 degrees BTDC at 3,500+ RPM.

Click [here](#) for printable VW Type I crankshaft pulley degree template for 009 centrifugal-advance distributor.

See www.Hot-Spark.com/Installing-Hot-Spark.htm for more detailed information.

Using Hot-Spark Ignition with VDO Tachometer:

Connect a diode #1N4005 between the negative terminal (- or 1) of the coil and the wire that goes to the tachometer. The cathode end (silver band) should be nearest the tachometer side, not the coil side. You should be able to buy a diode #1N4005 at Radio Shack or other electronic supply store.

Troubleshooting/FAQ: Having installation problems? Click [here](#)

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