

How To – Measure your Advance Curve

Measuring your advance curve is a simple task that can be undertaken by most people with care.

WARNING – When working on a running engine be very careful near the rotating parts such as the radiator fan, dynamo / alternator and fan-belt.

Before you start - You will need



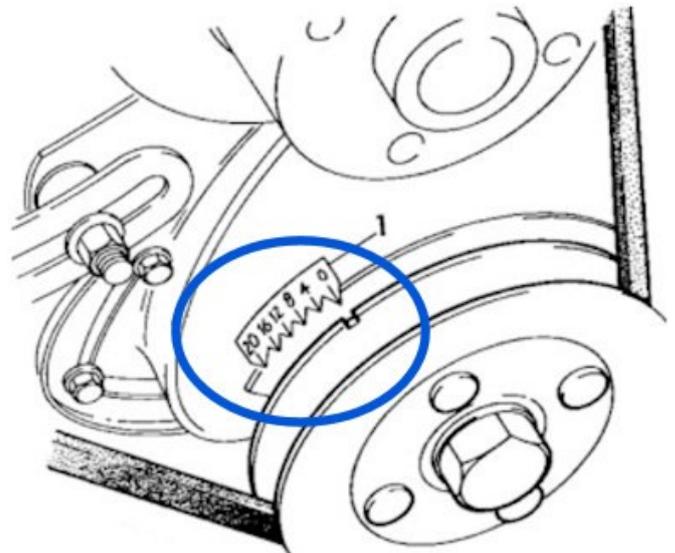
A timing light. If your vehicle has a rev-counter, a simple timing light with an advance control is all that is needed. Although you may prefer to buy the more expensive version that also shows the RPM. If you do not have a rev counter, you will need a more expensive model that shows the engine RPM.



Click [here](#) to search for suitable timing lights.

You will also need to find the timing mark on your engine. There is normally a pointer or scale mounted on the front of the engine next to the bottom pulley with a notch in the pulley itself.

- Wipe the pointer or scale clean. (**Hint:** a piece of kitchen towel and white spirit works well)
- **Mark the 0° (zero degree) pointer** with a dab of white paint. (**Hint:** you can use Snowpake correction fluid it easier to buy in small quantities, is less messy and dries quicker than paint).



- You then need to find and **mark the notch** in the pulley. It is often full of dirt and difficult to see:
 - **Hint:** If you do not have a starting handle Remove the spark plugs and use the fan to rotate the engine. You may have to temporarily tight the fan-belt to stop it slipping.
 - **Hint:** Remove the distributor cap and rotate the engine until the rotor arm points to the plug lead for either cylinder 1 or 4. The notch in the pulley should be near the pointers or scale.

Finally a set of ear defenders (search [here](#)) are useful and an assistant to press the throttle.

