

SAVVA Technical Tip 134 – Fouled-up Spark Plugs

Could any of our learned or experienced readers assist with a solution to the following problem:

Over the last six months I have had to replace the spark plugs on three different cars. I've had these cars for years and have never had plug problems in the past. The engines started to run rough especially when idling and eventually became hard at starting. In each case it turned out the problem was that the plugs were fouled-up. After fitting new ones the cars ran perfectly.

Asking around the club it appears other members have had the same problem. Incidentally, cleaning the plugs doesn't seem to help very much as the carbon deposit sticks like you know what!

The question is – what is causing these plugs to foul-up and what is the remedy. It has been suggested that using 95 octane (on the high veld) may help. It has also been suggest that the additives to stop valve retardation could be a problem.

Could it be that todays petrol and plugs are made for use in modern fuel injected engines and nor suitable for the older carburettor ones – which tend to run a bit rich at the best of times?

If you have any ideas as what is causing the problem or perhaps you have a solution. Your assistance would be appreciated. Please send comments to the secretary@savva.org.za



Viva la difference!