GM STARTER MOTORS

"To shim or not to shim"

In order for the starter to operate efficiently and quietly, shimming may be required, even if shims were not used on original installation.

On some applications, you will have to either add shim(s) or remove shim(s) to achieve correct "gap" (clearance).

Proper clearance between starter drive gear teeth and flywheel ring gear is critical for correct operation of starter.

To achieve correct gap between ring gear and starter drive, usage of one or more shims may be required on certain GM engines. (See Fig. 2)

DOES YOUR STARTER MOTOR REQUIRE A SHIM(S)??

USE YOUR EARS TO LISTEN FOR PROBLEM SOUNDS!

See reverse side for problem "sounds" and directions on how to remedy them.
GAP TOO LOOSE?

Do you hear a high pitched whine or clanging sound while cranking, before engine starts?

**PROBLEM: EXCESSIVE CLEARANCE!**

- Is the gap *greater* than the thickness of a paper clip?
- Starter must be shimmed closer (into) ring gear to reduce gap (clearance).
- Remove any existing shims.
- Start with one .015" shim cut in half on *outboard* bolt only (the bolt on outside of starter motor away from engine) See Fig. 3
- This will move starter closer into the ring gear.

GAP TOO TIGHT?

Do you hear a high pitched whine after engine starts, as key is being released?

**PROBLEM: NOT ENOUGH CLEARANCE!**

- Is the gap *less* than thickness of a paper clip?
- Starter must be shimmed away from ring gear to increase gap (clearance).
- Install one .015" shim across both bolt holes to increase gap. See Fig. 4.

**OR**

- Install one .015" shim cut in half or a substitute shim on inboard bolt only. (the bolt on inside of starter motor closest to engine) See Fig. 5.
- Usage of one shim on inboard bolt only, will provide greater clearance.

**Note:** Do not use more than 3 shims on either side.

When installing replacement starter motor:

- **DO NOT** use an impact gun or breaker bar to tighten bolts! Nose cones are made of aluminum and are very easy to distort or crack by over tightening.
- Always reinstall any existing heat shields and rear support brackets.
- Make sure all connections at solenoid are clean & tight.
- Add or remove shims one at a time to avoid damage.

PROVIDING THE PROPER GAP, WILL AWARD YOU WITH A STARTER THAT IS QUIETER AND HAVE A LONGER LIFE!