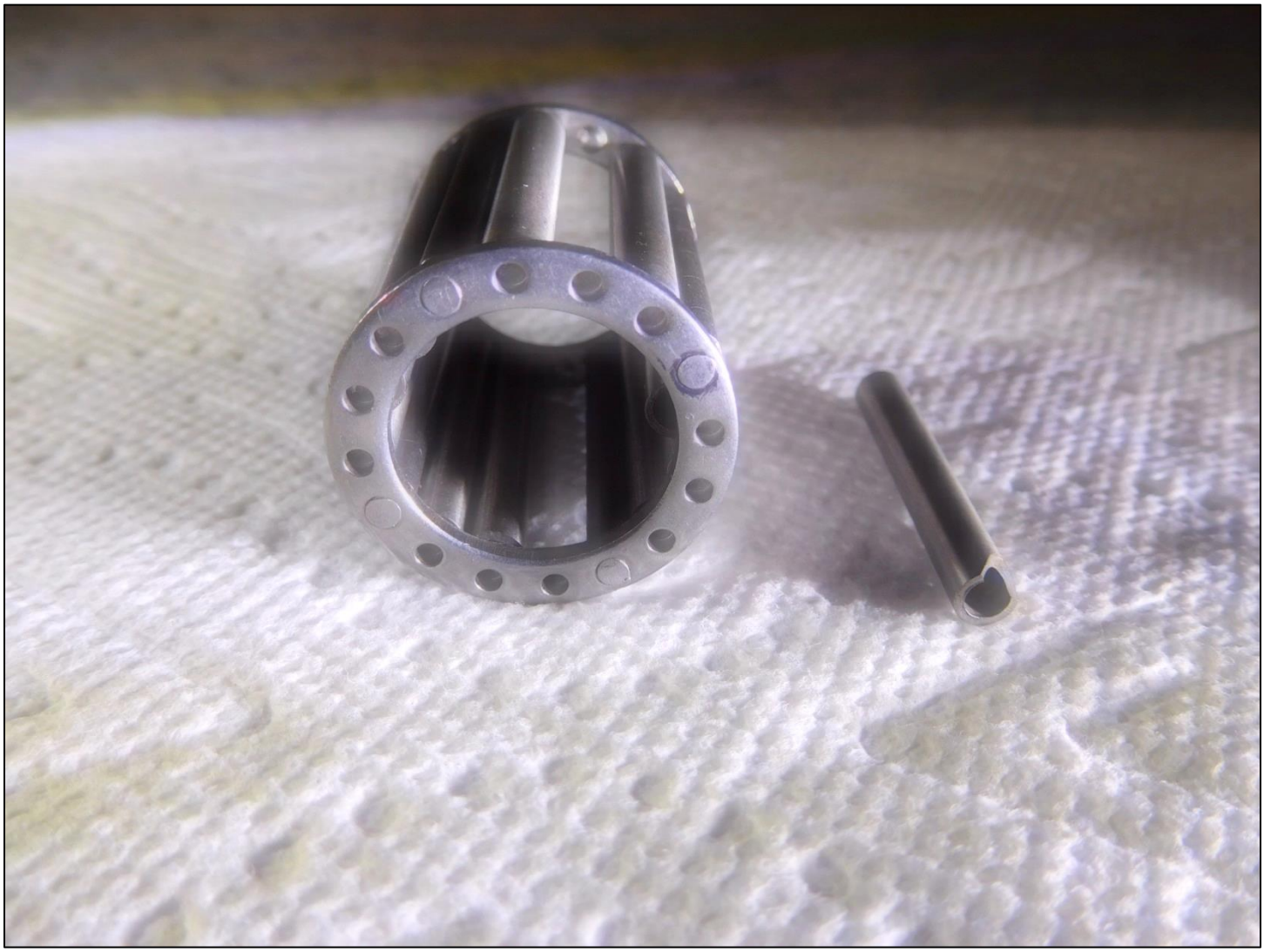
Trans Roller Bearings

by Tom Endy 2020

The Model A kingdom in the last few years has been inundated with extremely poor quality transmission roller bearings. There are two short bearings, part number A-7118-A and one long bearing, part number A-7121-A. Apparently the original manufacturer went out of business and an off-shore manufacturer is now making them under the same part number, but as a completely different design. The original bearing design had an axle at the end of each roller element that fit into a hole in the two end plates. The newly designed roller elements have a recess drilled into each end that fits onto small round mushroom shaped protrusions stamped into the end plates. The recess rides on the protrusion and will wear through it in a very short service life and then the bearing will fail. Just about every Model A supplier is carrying these poor-quality bearings and many are not even aware of the switch. Unless the bearings are examined closely it is difficult to tell which are the good quality and which are the poor quality.

The way to tell a good quality bearing is to put your pointer finger down inside the bearing and with your thumb rotate one of the elements. You should be able to easily see the axle end of the element rotating inside the hole in the end plate. The poor-quality bearings do not have holes in the end plates, even though they appear to be holes when viewed from the ends. However, they are not holes, they are merely the inside of the stamped recesses.



Note the protrusion stamped into the end plate at the rear. Note that what appears to be holes in the end plate at the front are not holes, but are the inside of the protrusion. Note the element on the right, there is a recess drilled into each end. The element end was broken during the process of removing it from the bearing.