



# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## MSD Timing Tapes PN 8985

**Important:** Read the instructions before attempting the installation.

**Parts Included:**

1 - Timing tape sheet (8 tapes)

**Note:** The MSD Timing Tapes are used so you can accurately set your initial and total timing when you don't have a fully degreed balancer. This is crucial for optimum engine performance.

### TIMING FUNCTIONS:

One timing setting is not optimum throughout the different rpm range of the engine. The centrifugal, or mechanical, advance of the distributor alters the timing to match the changing rpm. This is achieved through centrifugal force and can be tuned to match the specifications of your engine.

**Initial Timing:** This is the base timing (also referred to as idle timing) of the engine before the centrifugal advance begins. This is where the timing is set by rotating the distributor in the engine.

**Centrifugal Advance:** On MSD distributors, the advance mechanism is made up of weights, springs, and advance cam bushings. The centrifugal, or mechanical, advances the timing to match the requirements of the engine as RPM increases. Most other distributors have similar setups. The amount and rate of advance that your distributor is capable of is determined by the centrifugal timing.

**Total Timing:** This is the total of the initial plus the centrifugal advance added together. Example: 10 degrees initial + 25 degrees centrifugal = 35 degrees total timing.

**Vacuum Advance:** The vacuum advance will advance the timing during partial throttle driving. The amount will vary depending on the type of distributor you're using. MSD distributors will advance the timing up to 16 degrees. This should be disconnected when you're setting the timing.

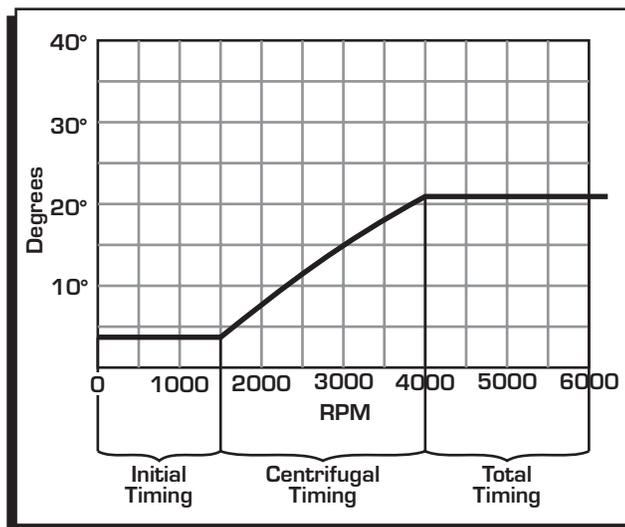


Figure 1 Typical Timing Curve.



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1. Locate the top-dead center or "0" degree mark on the harmonic balancer or timing wheel.
2. Select the correct timing tape for your application. Make sure you know the correct size of the harmonic balancer or timing wheel you're using. If this is not known, measure the diameter of the harmonic balancer or timing wheel's edge and note the size.
3. Choose the timing tape that matches your balancer's diameter. Be sure that the mating surface is clean of any dirt, grease or debris. Locate and note the "0" degree mark on the timing tape.
4. Align the 0 degree mark on the tape with the TDC mark on the balancer. Make sure that the markings on the tape are facing you, and place the tape on the surface. Use firm pressure for proper adhesion. ATC (after top-dead center) will be to the left of the stock mark, and BTC (before top-dead center) will always be to the right of the stock mark.



Figure 2 The Timing Tape Installed.

### Service

In case of malfunction, this MSD component will be repaired free of charge according to the terms of the warranty. When returning MSD components for service, Proof of Purchase must be supplied for warranty verification. After the warranty period has expired, repair service is charged based on a minimum and maximum charge.

Send the unit prepaid with proof of purchase to the attention of: **Customer Service Department, MSD Ignition, 12120 Esther Lama, Suite 114, El Paso, Texas 79936.**

When returning the unit for repair, leave all wires at the length in which you have them installed. Be sure to include a detailed account of any problems experienced, and what components and accessories are installed on the vehicle.

The repaired unit will be returned as soon as possible after receipt, COD for any charges. (Ground shipping is covered by warranty). All units are returned regular UPS unless otherwise noted. For more information, call the MSD Customer Service Line (915) 855-7123. MSD technicians are available from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday (mountain time).

### Limited Warranty

MSD IGNITION warrants MSD Ignition products to be free from defects in material and workmanship under normal use and if properly installed for a period of one year from date of purchase. If found to be defective as mentioned above, it will be replaced or repaired if returned prepaid along with proof of date of purchase. This shall constitute the sole remedy of the purchaser and the sole liability of MSD Ignition. To the extent permitted by law, the foregoing is exclusive and in lieu of all other warranties or representations whether expressed or implied, including any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness. In no event shall MSD Ignition be liable for special or consequential damages.