

J-19 Letter—**Rear Suspension Cradle**

Bob: Some parts are missing on my Model 3. I am 87 now and I spend my winters rebuilding cars. Can you tell me how the rear engine subframe mounts onto the frame in the front? Shocks are on the back and it pivots on the front, but no brackets to accomplish the installation. A picture or dimensions would really help, so that I can manufacture. **Valta Ross.**

Sigh. Nobody asks me questions I can answer! Back to the experts:

Valta: If I'm following your question right, you want to know about the engine cradle mounting? The engine cradle mounts on two rubber bushings off the main frame where it kicks up over the rear wheels. On the frame there are two "ears", one on each side. To adjust belt tension between the engine cradle and the transmission there is a rod that comes off the front of the engine cradle to a hole beside the center pivot mount of the wheel cradle frame. On Wisconsin powered cars this rod was spring loaded, on Kohler engine powered cars they used a rubber bushing type thing.

As you said, the wheel cradle mounts at the rear with the "shock" (actually just an enclosed spring in each). Also at the rear there is a "panhard rod" or bar across from the bracket on the frame to the wheel cradle frame to keep it centered. At the front of the wheel cradle you have the center mounting and on each corner two short rods from the frame to wheel cradle (they seem to be there to limit how much it can twist side to side).

*The photos Lee sent may help, and I may be able to get some measurements for some of the missing pieces, if need be, this next week. Right now we are in the deep freeze here (single digits with wind chills). **John White***