OIL FLOW by Tim Chaput

Picture #1 shows the Ford adapter kit to change ’55 and ’56 oil filters to the spin-on, disposable oil filter. This kit contains a gasket, filter adaptor (plate), and adaptor fitting (adaptor bolt). If you look at the center of the adaptor bolt you see the hole which the engine oil is returned to the engine. Oil enters the oil filter through the elongated, curves opening at the ‘TOP’ of the filter adaptor plate.

The opening on this adaptor bolt is approximately ¾ inch in diameter. This gives an area of 0.4358 square inches for oil to return to the engine.

Picture #1

If you would like to increase the amount of oil from the filter to the engine you would need to increase the opening in the adaptor bolt. Blue Thunder has done this with their # OS 312 N, as seen in picture #2. The opening is approximately 1 inch in diameter. Thus giving you 0.7852 square inches for the oil to return to the engine. This results in a 55% additional oil entering the engine. The only other change is the old Motorcraft oil filter #FL-1A can no longer be used. You will need to use WIX 51268, NAPA 1268, or equal.

Picture #2

Picture #3 shows both oil filters and the opening size of each filter. There is one last item to discuss. If you just replace the adaptor fitting (bolt) and oil filter, the filter adaptor plate has an elongated, curved hole near the top of this plate for oil, entering the filter. Now this does not need to be done but Ted Eaton suggest you drill two additional holes, the same diameter as the elongated hole. One on either side of elongated hole, for the additional oil attempting to enter the oil filter, see picture #4. Do not drill these holes below the centerline of the adaptor plate.

Picture #3
Two additional holes drilled, one on either side of the elongated curved hole.

Picture #5, the last picture shows both adaptor bolts and the difference in the openings for the passage of oil. This picture miss labels the elongated, curved hole as a ‘oil return.’ This hole in fact brings oil into the oil filter, to be filtered.

Don Hyde can supply this adaptor bolt, or at Blue Thunder Auto (bluethunderauto.com). If you attempt to buy online, be sure the center opening is machined out. I have seen some which accept the WIX oil filter but the center is as small as the original Ford adaptor bolt opening.

This illustration is from the ‘1957 Ford Car and Thunderbird Shop Manual,’ page 1-60.