

# THE MODEL A FORD

## LAP ROBE

### ACCESSORY A-18545-A, B, C, and A1

BY

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Probably the rarest of all Model A Ford authorized accessories is the Model A Lap Robe, A-18545-A, B, C and D. Rare because of its perishability thus being made of left-over upholstery fabric used to upholster the Model A Ford cars.

As described in the November-December 2009 issue of MARC's Model A News, "On December 19, 1930, Ford Service Letter, Chicago, and December 26, 1930, Ford Service Letter, Indianapolis, indicated that Ford added to their line of approved Ford Accessories, Lap Robes.

These robes came in three (3) colors and two (2) sizes.

A-18545-A Lap Robe (Gray) 52" x 64" for \$4.50  
A-18545-B Lap Robe (Blue) 52" x 64" for \$4.50  
A-18545-C Lap Robe (Brown) 52" x 64" for \$4.50  
A-18545-A1 Lap Robe (Gray) 52" x 58" for \$4.00

Contained in the Indianapolis Service Letter was the description of the material for which the robes were made. The robes were "**faced with body cloth on one side and headlining cloth on the other with a layer of padding between**".

A search was done at the Ford Archives for this part number to reference but the data was not found.

No sooner did the article appear, our Editor, Helen Ehrenhofer received a phone call from George Deel who informed Helen that a friend of his, Bob Kimbrell, had one of these Lap Robes (**Fig. 1**). However, the robe itself measures 48.5 inches by 57 inches. Not the same size as was stipulated by Ford in 1930. However, as Ford stipulated, it is "faced with body cloth on one side and headlining cloth on the other with a layer of padding between".



**(Fig. 1)**

It has 3 seams, the first is at  $\frac{1}{8}$  of a inch in from the edge, next is at  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch from the edge, then the last is at  $1 \frac{1}{4}$  inch from the edge **(Fig. 2)**. These go all the way around the robe. It has no tags or marks of any type. It looks like striped wool broadcloth on the top **(Fig. 3)**, that is used on seats of the Model A.



**(Fig. 2)**

To confirm the material used, and if in fact it was Ford material, photos of the robe were taken to the 2010 MARC Membership Meet at Terre Haute, Indiana where Howard and Gretchen Minners got to compare the photos with the upholstery samples within the sample booklet.



**(Fig. 3)**

Although the size, colors and material type are not as what Ford stipulated in the 1930 Service Letters, if the upholstery is a correct match to one which was used during this time period, this robe just may very well be one of the Lap Robes for which Ford made up during this era thus using up the old surplus, left-over material used in Model A's for Ford owners.