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EXPANDING PISTON
RINGS

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Fitting expanding piston rings

When piston rings of the expanding type are fitted, certain special precautions must be taken.

1. When expanding piston rings are fitted the ring gap must always be checked when the piston is at its bottom dead-centre position since expanding rings are usually fitted in considerably worn cylinders. The cylinder bores are always more worn at the top and become thus slightly conical. If the ring gap is faultily checked in the upper part of the cylinder, there is risk that the ends of the ring are pressed together in the bottom dead-centre position with consequent seizure. Also check that the ring groove in the piston is sufficiently deep for the ring.

See the fitting instructions included in our sets of piston rings.

2. An engine fitted with expanding rings requires a longer and more careful running in period than an engine fitted with normal rings. The expander rings exert greater pressure against the cylinder walls and also scrape off the oil more effectively which means that the engine can easily seize if it is subjected to heavy loading without previous careful running in.