Alfa Romeo Montreal

Correct tensioning of the timing chain

The correct tensioning of the timing chain is essential for the Monti-engine.

The tensioning process should be performed all 6000 to 10'000 km – the time request is approx. 5 minutes.

It is strongly recommended not to tension the timing chain as described in the Alfa-Instruction manual.
This method can lead to engine damage due to the fact that the cams on the camshaft are assymetrical arranged and have a "forward running/setting".

The timing chain shall not be tensioned in cold condition of the engine since the different thermal expansions of the Alu engine block and the steel chain can lead to unduly high stresses during engine warm up - and consequently damage or breaking of the water pump bearing.

During assembly of the camshaft, take care that the timing chain can be pressed slightly to avoid over tensioning.

After a test run and under warm engine condition, the final tensioning of the timing chains can be performed as follows:

Pict. 1 & Pict.2

1. Engine in warm condition
2. Remove distributor cap and apply 5th gear
3. **Tensioning of righthand side/chain**

- turn engine till the lower rotor arm is matching with screwhole, pointing in direction of the gear (*Pict1)* (150° before ignition point of cylinder 1)
- loosen the righthand clamping screw a half turn *(Pict* 2), then push car (on front wheel) forward untill the rotor starts to move and tighten clamping screw.

Pict 3 & Pict.4

4. **Tensioning of lefthand side/chain**

- turn engine one revolution (distributor rotor 180°), the lower rotor is pointing towards the forward ignition coil. (30° after ignition point of cylinder 1) *(Pict 3)*
- loosen the clamping screw a half turn *(Pict 4)*, then push car (on front wheel) forward untill the rotor starts to move and tighten clamping screw.

5. Fit distributor cap

Process completed