Installation & Operating Guide
Guide Applicable to E-MAG Ignition Models E-113 and P-113 Ignitions on Lycoming 4 Cylinder Engines.

Experimental Aircraft Only
E-Mag ignitions are not (currently) certified and are not approved for installation on certified aircraft.

Warranty
Your E-MAG electronic ignition is warranted for one (1) year from the date of purchase. Any unit returned must first receive a return authorization number prior to shipping (postage paid). E-MAG will repair or replace ignition modules within the warranty period that, in E-MAG’s sole opinion, have not been subjected to abuse or any attempted field repairs.

Note: This represents a reduction in our warranty compared to earlier releases. This has been done in response to the unexpected impact our previous (3 year) warranty was having on our banking and credit card merchant account relationships. In lieu of a 3 year “warranty” we have instituted an extremely lenient “policy” of service and support for our products covering 3 years or 1000 hours, which ever comes first.

Caution
The aircraft operator has the SOLE responsibility of determining how to appropriately and safely control engine leaning. Nothing stated by E-MAG, its employees, owners, agents or affiliates should be construed as overriding or invalidating the engine manufacturer’s instructions (including lean operation warnings).

Patents Pending

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Using This Manual

Your E-MAG is designed to make installation as straightforward and as simple as possible. To further assist you, this manual includes a variety of comments and tips. These tips are shown in *italics and in dark blue for easier identification and printing*.

Please note, the term “E-MAG” shall apply to both E-MAG and P-MAG models, unless specifically stated otherwise.

Installation

Overview

Installing your E-MAG ignition will require you to:

1. Install the drive gear on your ignition.

2. Install wiring:
   a. Attach three (four if you use the tack) leads to the Control Plug.
   b. Spark plugs and the spark plug harness
   c. MAP (manifold pressure) sensor tube

3. Install your E-MAG ignition on the engine, set the timing, select the maximum timing advance.

**CAUTION:** Do NOT strike or apply significant inward force to the ignition shaft. Doing so could cause it to shift, and lose proper position sensor alignment.

**CAUTION:** Operating the ignition without all connections – 1) power, 2) ground, 3) p-lead, 4) plug wires with plugs (and all plugs grounded) can result in damage to the ignition and/or cause an electrical shock to the installer. Please resist the temptation to do a quick (incomplete) hook up so you can watch the ignition spark or
make the LED light up. Firing the ignition without all connections could damage the unit, and void your warranty.
Drive Gear

E-MAG ignitions are indexed to the engine through a drive gear. The drive gear from a non-impulse magneto can be recovered and, if in good condition, be reinstalled on your E-MAG. Gears from an impulse magneto are different, and cannot be reused.

To recover the drive gear from an existing magneto:

1. Remove the cotter key, castle nut, and washers. A strap wrench is helpful while removing (or re-installing) the castle nut from the ignition shaft.

2. Remove the drive gear from the magneto shaft. A gear puller will be necessary to remove the gear without damaging it, or the magneto. NEVER strike the magneto or the gear.

3. Install the drive gear on the E-MAG shaft using the woodruff key, washer(s), castle nut, and cotter key provided. Your kit includes three washers (one thick and two thin). The thick washer should always be used. The thinner washers can be used, as needed, to align the hole for the cotter key with the castle nut when tightened. Make certain the cotter key ends lay flat and do not extend past the open face of the gear. The back wall of the accessory case will be close to the face of the drive gear, and you don't want any protrusions that can make contact and wear against the back.
Controls

Control Wiring – Control leads are connected to the ignition via a Control Plug that captures each lead with a screw cage mechanism. The plug is then attached to the ignition and secured with anchor screws on either side. A wiring diagram is included at the end of this manual. The numbering system for the plug terminals is 1 thru 6 as viewed looking at the cage screw heads with wires oriented below (see fig). The wire/plug assignments are as follows: Use the cushioned anchor strap to provide a mechanical strain relief for the wires.

1. “1” connects directly to a nearby engine case ground using 18 gauge wire. Note 1: You cannot rely on the ignition’s mechanical attachment to the engine to provide ground. Aluminum anodizing acts as an electrical insulator, so the clamp connection to the anodized flange will not serve as a reliable ground.

2. “2” Control Alternate (future use)

3. “3” Control Alternate (future use)

4. “4” connects to your ignition ON/OFF (ground) p-lead switch using 20 gauge wire or larger. Note 1: If you are replacing a magneto, your old P-Lead can serve this purpose, and may already be wired to a suitable switch. Note 2: Non-starting magnetos require a mechanism to prevent them from firing during start-up. Keyed ignition switches have a jumper on the back that serves this purpose. When installing an E-MAG in place of a non-starting magneto that was controlled by such a switch, make sure you remove this jumper. You do NOT want a start-up block on any circuit controlling your E-MAG(s).

5. “5” connects to your main 12 volt aircraft buss through a dedicated circuit breaker (not provided) using 18 gauge wire. E-MAGs should use a 5-amp breaker, and P-MAGs should use a 3-amp switchable breaker. The switch is needed to test the P-MAG internal alternator during ground run up – see Operating Notes. Note 1: Whenever the aircraft buss is powered up, the ignition is “awake”. It draws a small amount of current.
even when not firing the plugs. Use the main buss switch (or breakers if necessary) to power down the ignitions when not in use.

6. "6" is a courtesy (optional) connection to provide a digital tack signal – two pulses per revolution. Note 1: Collect your tack signal from only one, not both, ignitions. This applies to dual E-MAG ignitions as well as split systems (E-MAG in tandem with a magneto or other EI). Note 2: Your E-MAG will generate a tack signal even when it is disabled at the key (or other) p-lead ignition switch, so you won’t lose tack when you switch the E-MAG OFF during a preflight ignition check. Note 3: E-MAG’s tack output is a courtesy feature that is unrelated to the ignition’s primary purpose. Due to the variety of instrument options available, our ability to support and troubleshoot tack interface issues is limited.

MAP Sensor

Connect one end of the sensor hose to the MAP nipple on the back of the ignition case next to the coil base, and secure with nylon clamp. Route the line to a convenient connection point (connecting hardware not included) where you can tee into the line going to your manifold pressure gauge. Note 1: The MAP sensor is a fail-safe input; i.e. if the tube comes loose or fails in-flight, timing will retard to an operable, but much less efficient range.

Spark Plugs & Harness

Post Assignments – The plug wire assignments are as follows:

1. Cylinders 1 and 2 connect to the coil pair nearest the LED indicator
2. Cylinders 3 and 4 connect to the coil pair furthest from the LED indicator.

Note: It does not matter which cylinder is connected to which post within a given
pair. They are completely interchangeable, which can be convenient to help fine tune the wire lengths.

**Aircraft Plugs** - One advantage of electronic ignition is the ability to fire across a wider spark plug gap (0.030” to 0.035” in the case of E-MAG). Some aircraft plug styles are difficult/impossible to adjust this wide. Plug styles similar to REM37BY have an extended electrode arm that is easier to adjust. **Caution:** You will need to support the base of the arm when adjusting plug gap, as it can break off where it attaches to the rim.

**Auto Plugs** - There are a number of auto spark plug styles and temperature ranges available through automotive outlets. E-MAG has NOT undertaken studies to compare the relative durability/suitability of different plugs. We do offer a standard “starter” plug for convenience. Customers need to monitor plug condition and evaluate/adjust as necessary. We offer the following list of plug alternatives that is reported (BY OTHERS) to work.

1. NGK BR8ES 2.5mm Center Electrode (our standard "set-up" plug)
2. NGK BR8ET 3-Ground Electrode
3. NGK BR8EV Gold Palladium Center Electrode

**Auto Spark Plug Adapters** - Plug adapters permit the use of 14mm automotive type plugs with a ¾" reach. [Not suitable with engines that use long-reach (13/16”) aircraft plugs.] First, install adapters with the supplied gasket on the spark plugs finger tight. Then, insert in engine and tighten to 15 in/lb (standard plug torque). **Note:** If you install and torque the adapters separately, stresses will be more focused on the adapter neck and can cause it to fail during installation.

**E-MAG Aircraft Lead Kit** – E-MAG’s aircraft plug leads have traditional “cigarette and spring” threaded fittings pre-installed on one end of our auto style wires. The hex cap end attaches to standard 5/8” x 24 spark plugs. There is currently no harness option for 3/4” x 20 plugs. The other end connects to the coil and is trimmed, and fitted in the same manner as our standard Auto Lead Kit – see below. **Note:** Aircraft kits use our standard auto wire (not shielded). To date, we’ve had no (zero) reports of noise problems from customers using this wire. Even so, builders have the option, if needed, of adding a shield over the leads and grounding them at the spark plug end.

**E-MAG Auto Lead Kit** – E-MAG’s auto style harness is provided as an assembly kit. It gives the builder greater latitude in routing and permits a cleaner more custom
installation.  *Note: Auto leads should be kept separated when installed. Do NOT bundle them together as is common with shielded aircraft wires, as this can cause them to be inductively coupled. Wire looms can be purchased at auto parts stores, but a simple separator can be fabricated out of tie-wraps and ¼” segments of left over MAP sensor hose – see photo.*

**Auto Lead Fabrication**

1) Plan your route and lay out one lead at a time, starting with the longest leads first. Cut leads with about three extra inches. *It will be easier to make the terminal connections at your workbench, so mark the cut leads so you know where they belong when you return.*

2) Install COIL end boots and terminals (only) on each lead – see “Crimping Terminals” below. Your lead kit includes 2 extra terminals with each set so don’t panic if you make a “practice piece”.

3) Connect all four leads to the coil and review the wire route. You might even install the wire separators (if you plan to use them) so you can more accurately determine the correct length. Cut the plug wire end where it meets the plug tip. Install the spark plug boots and terminals. *Now that you’ve had some practice with crimping terminals, it may be more convenient to install them with the wires on the engine.*

4) Crimping Terminals

**Identification:** The shorter steel terminals and rounded boots are for the spark plugs. The longer brass terminals and flat-backed boots are for the coil end attachment.

a) First, run the wire through the boot so it’s a couple of inches from the end. This will give you room to work with the wire and terminal. A light coating of silicone spray (not included) is needed to lubricate the wire as you work it through the boot. *It is best to push the boot down the wire (rather than pulling) to avoid straining the wire core. Note: You can push on the heel of the boot and straighten the opening so it is aligned with the wire as you push it through.*
b) Use the Crimp Tool to trim 1” of shielding from the wire end. Use the largest opening on the tool stripper (position “10”) to GENTLY cut the shield. Make one cut, and then a second cut with the tool rotated 90 degrees to ensure you cut the insulation all the way around the core. You can then twist the trimmed wire shield to complete the separation. Continue twisting as you remove the shield from the core.

c) Free the terminals from their strips with wire cutters.

d) Fold the wire core back against the shield and position in the crook of the terminal ears, and “Pre-Crimp” the terminal. Pre-Crimping will snug the ears against the wire shield (for positioning) and point the tips of the ears inward just enough so they fit in the “W Crimp” slot on the tool.

e) “Final Crimp” the terminal using the “W Crimp” slot on the Crimp Tool. The ears feed into the side that has the “W” point. This way the ears will roll back toward each other and imbed themselves in the shield as the Final Crimp is formed.
f) Push (not pull) the terminal to position it inside the boot. The longer coil terminals will need to be bent 90 degrees (at the narrow section) before positioning in the boot.

Installation and Timing

Note 1: If replacing an impulse magneto, you need to remove the magneto impulse spacer. The studs that hold the spacer to the case will be too long for use with the E-MAG. You’ll need to replace the long studs with shorter ones, or simply use suitable length bolts (not provided).

Note 2: These instructions are strictly limited to the installation and handling of “E” model and “P” model E-MAG ignition(s) ONLY. If you are installing dual E-MAGs, pull the breaker AND the coil plug from BOTH ignitions. Reconnect them ONLY as instructed and only for the ignition you are working with. If you have a companion ignition by another manufacturer, BE ADVISED you need to follow all safety and handling guidelines of that system – SEPARATE AND APPART from the instructions provided here for your E-MAG.

Confirm all connections to the ignition as follows, but do not install the ignition in the engine until instructed to do so:

- Control leads (12 volt, ground, ON/OFF P-lead), 1 (optional) tack lead, and possibly a jumper between terminals #2 and#3 (see below) all of which attach to the (6) position Control Plug. Insert
1. Rotate your prop to the engine TDC (or TC) timing mark. *Note 1: It does not matter whether the engine is on the compression or exhaust stroke for a particular cylinder. Note 2: On some engines, “TC” is stamped on the ring gear, which aligns with a reference alignment hole on the starter. On others, a ring gear mark is lined up with the engine case seem. Consult your engine manual on how to locate TDC.*

2. Setup mode is entered by turning 12 volt buss power ON, while the p-lead switch is OFF (grounded). In setup mode the LED indicator (located at the base of the coil) will light continuous RED. Turn the drive gear with your fingers slowly until you see the LED turn GREEN. You will be looking for a single (very precise) point in the ignition’s rotation, so turn the gear slowly. The GREEN LED signals the ignition’s internal crank angle
sensor is at the ignition index. Note: If you turn the key switch ON, the ignition will leave setup mode and go into run mode. In order to reenter setup mode you must turn the switch OFF and turn 12 volt power OFF. You can then apply 12 volt power WHILE the p-lead switch is OFF.

3. Without moving the drive gear, position the gasket on the E-MAG flange and install the ignition in the engine accessory case. You will engage the ignition drive gear with a gear inside the accessory case. Don’t worry if you bump the gear and lose your LED light at this point, but try to avoid moving the gear very far off the index (GREEN) position.

4. After the ignition is positioned in the case, install your mounting clips, washer and nut (or bolt as the case may be). Tighten only finger tight at this time.

5. Reacquire the GREEN LED indicator by slowly rotating the ignition. If you don’t have sufficient adjustment range to reacquire the GREEN LED, you can remove the ignition, rotate the gear a distance equal to one tooth width, and reinsert the ignition. This should get the index (GREEN) position within your adjustment range.

6. Once the GREEN LED is reacquired, secure the position by tightening the mounting clips.

7. When finished setting the timing for both ignitions (and only then) you can then reconnect the coil plug to the ignition.

**Confirm Plug Wiring:**

Before running the ignition, it’s a good practice to confirm you have plug wires correctly assigned at the coil with the following test:

- Pull the spark plugs and reconnect them to the plug leads.
- Rest each plug on the engine case, or any convenient location, so long as the plug is grounded.
- Rotate the prop by hand and confirm the plugs fire as follows:
  - The PAIR closed to the prop will fire slightly after TDC. Note: Standard start-mode firing angle if 5 degrees after TDC, but this is not critical for this exercise.
  - The PAIR furthest from the prop fires 180 degrees later, provided you do not stop or reverse the prop rotation after seeing the first pair fire. Note: The no-stop no-reversal requirement is part of the ignition's “bounce back abort” routine. This is one of several kickback safeguards built into the E-MAG.
Composite Oil Sump CAUTION:

Programmable Start-Up Firing Angle, as well as Run Mode Starting Delay from earlier versions, are features NOT included with the initial release of series 113 ignitions. Those features are of interest to builders using composite oil sumps. If you are currently using a composite sump, and need these features, contact E-MAG for instructions, and the latest updates before installing your E-MAG system.

Background - Wasted spark systems avoid the weight, mechanical complexity, and high altitude operating issues associated with traditional ignition distributors. In a wasted spark system, plugs are fired in pairs at A) the charged cylinder that’s ready to ignite, as well as B) the opposing cylinder during the exhaust stroke. This second spark is not intended to ignite, hence the name “wasted spark”. However, when restarting an engine shortly after shut down (a hot start), it is possible for fuel vapor to accumulate in the intake manifold. This vapor can be ignited by what is normally the “wasted” side of the spark during valve overlap. [Valve overlap is when intake and exhaust valves are momentarily open at the same time.] Even so, in the test cell instance where this was observed, the event itself was rather unremarkable. It was heard only as a hard “puff” prior to engine start. However, in that instance, the intake manifold channeled this “puff” to the sump, which was later measured as a 15 to 20 psi pulse. This pulse cracked the light weight composite sump installed on the test cell engine. An identical replacement sump did the same thing during a second hot start. When replaced with a standard aluminum sump, the problem did not recur on any subsequent (hot or cold) starts.

Operating Notes

Starting - DO NOT use procedures suggested for other electronic ignitions (i.e. power up the ignition after the prop is spinning.) To start the engine, simply turn ON 12 volt power to the ignition (presumably your main power switch), turn ON the ignition p-lead (ground) switch, and then start the engine.

Electrical System Condition - E-MAG’s power dip (kick-back) protection guards against severe voltage drops that occur when the starter is first engaged. However, in the event of a compromised electrical system (low battery, long cable runs, corroded terminals, cold engine, etc) buss voltage may not rebound as the starter speeds up (as is normal). A properly designed and functioning electrical system is essential for the system to work properly. If buss voltage stays below safe levels, the power dip safety circuit will do what it is supposed to do – not allow the ignition to fire. Note: Your starter is likely the largest load on the electrical buss. In emergency situations, hand prop starting will avoid the starter motor induced voltage drop. Do
not attempt a hand prop start unless you are well versed in this procedure. See Emergency Prop Starting below.

**Stopping the engine** - CAUTION: P-MAG (self-powered) models are similar to magnetos in that the ignition kill switch is the only way to stop the ignition once the engine is started.

**Powering Down** - With all E-MAG models, use your main power switch or breaker(s) to power down the ignitions. The ignition OFF switch (p-lead) only tells the E-MAG to stop generating spark. It does NOT cut power to the ignition. If you leave the craft with your E-MAG(s) powered ON, they will draw down your battery over time.

**P-MAG Alternator Check** - You can check the internal alternator operation on the P-MAG during run-up (900+ rpm) by switching to the P-MAG ignition and cutting power at the breaker (or other switch). If the built-in alternator is working, the engine will continue to run. If it is not working, the engine will quit. **NOTE:** Do NOT turn 12 volt power OFF and ON to E-MAG (non-alternator) model ignition while the engine is running. The ignition undergoes an initialization and calibration when first powered up that assumes the engine is not running. If done while the engine is running, the calibration will be off.

**Emergency Power** - The P-MAG alternator power output is proportional to engine rpm. The ignition will automatically switch to whichever source (aircraft or internal alternator) is offering greater power. Should it ever be called upon in an emergency (aircraft power failure), the P-MAG internal alternator will take over automatically. There is no need for operator action of any kind.

**Emergency Prop Starting** - Both the E-MAGs and P-MAGs need outside electrical power to start. You cannot prop-start the engine with either ignition if the battery is missing, or totally dead. However, a low battery that barely “bumps” the starter motor, or can only “click” the solenoid will likely have enough energy to power the ignition for prop starting.  **Caution:** Do not attempt a prop start unless you are trained and are comfortable with the procedure. The following is NOT a thorough or complete guide on how to safely prop start an engine. At start-up the E-MAG’s first fire will ONLY happen at TDC on the index cylinders (every other compression stroke). Finding the index bank is easy if you can see the ignition. Turn buss power ON with the ignition switch OFF. This will put the ignition(s) in Setup Mode with the red LED lit (see section on “Installation and Timing”). In Setup Mode, the sparks plugs should not be able to fire, so you can pull the prop through one or possibly two compression strokes. Pause to rock the engine back and forth over the engine TDC mark. When doing this over the index bank of cylinders, the ignition(s) GREEN LED will light up. You can then back up the prop, and it will be “set for start”. Then (and only then) turn the ignition switch ON and you are ready to prop-start the engine. If you can’t see the ignitions, you can always prop start as usual, and simply accept that you have a 50/50 chance of being properly set to fire on any given attempt.
Series 113 ignitions provide a 12-volt tack signal with two pulses per revolution. Note: Tack signal is NOT a primary ignition function. It is a courtesy signal we are happy to provide. Due to the variety of instruments available, we can provide only limited tack signal trouble shooting and/or customer support.
Current Draw

The chart below shows current draw with buss voltage at 13.8 volts (representing normal buss voltage). If the buss voltage were to deteriorate (or go away), the curve for the P-MAG would be much different. This chart is provided as an aid to builders for planning their electrical loads under normal operating conditions.