

SECTION 08-01 Clutch/Pressure Plate

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VEHICLE APPLICATION

Taurus With 3.0L SHO Engine.

DESCRIPTION AND OPERATION

The primary function of the clutch system is to couple and uncouple engine power to the transaxle upon driver command.

The clutch system cutaway is in the engaged (pedal released) position and identifies the individual components and their functions. In this position, engine output is coupled to the transaxle input shaft by the friction that exists between the clutch disc facings and the flywheel/pressure plate assembly. The extent of this friction is directly related to the composition of the facing material and the magnitude of the clamping forces exerted by the pressure plate and flywheel on the facings. These are the factors that limit the amount of torque that can be transmitted without slippage. The clamping force is obtained from a Belleville spring contained within the pressure plate assembly.

ENGINE FLYWHEEL (BOLTED TO ENGINE CRANKSHAFT AND ROTATES WITH THE CRANKSHAFT) MACHINED TO PROVIDE A FRICTION SURFACE WHICH MEETS WITH THE FRICTION SURFACE OF THE CLUTCH DISC WHEN THE CLUTCH IS ENGAGED, THIS FORMS A CONTINUOUS SYSTEM BY WHICH ENGINE POWER IS CONNECTED TO THE TRANSAXLE

TRANSAXLE HOUSING

CLUTCH DISC (ATTACHED TO THE TRANSAXLE SHAFT WITH A SPLINED HUB) THE DISC HAS FRICTION MATERIAL ON BOTH SIDES WHERE IT CONTACTS THE FLYWHEEL AND PRESSURE PLATE

PRESSURE PLATE (APPLIES PRESSURE AGAINST CLUTCH DISC) HOLDS CLUTCH DISC TIGHT AGAINST SURFACE OF ENGINE FLYWHEEL

COVER (PART OF PRESSURE PLATE ASSY)

RELEASE BEARING (CONSTANTLY ENGAGED WITH RELEASE FINGERS) PROVIDE CONNECTION BETWEEN RELEASE FINGERS AND FORK

RELEASE FORK

DAMPER SPRINGS (PART OF THE DISC ASSY) AID IN ABSORBING ENGINE PULSES

RELEASE LEVER (RELEASE FORK AND RELEASE LEVER IMPART PEDAL MOTION TO RELEASE BEARING) LEVER IS CONNECTED TO CLUTCH CABLE

NOTE: THIS SYSTEM REQUIRES NO PILOT BEARING

RELEASE FINGERS (PART OF THE BELLEVILLE LOAD SPRING) MOVEMENT TOWARD FLYWHEEL REMOVES CLAMP LOAD FROM CLUTCH DISC

TRANSAXLE INPUT SHAFT

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