

6-4.9.2. Spark Plug Maintenance

Procedure

1. Remove the ignition harness leads from all spark plugs.
2. Remove the top and bottom spark plug from each cylinder. Mark each plug's installed location during removal.

NOTE: Many spark plug manufacturer's offer erosion (go/no-go) gauges to determine spark plug serviceability. If the spark plug meets the "go" criteria, it may remain in use, if no performance issues are noted.

3. Inspect plug condition using Figure 6-32 as a guide to spark plug serviceability. Discard spark plugs that fail to meet the "normal electrode condition" characteristics depicted in Figure 6-32.
4. Remove and discard the copper gaskets from all reusable spark plugs.

WARNING

Do not install any spark plug that has dropped or exhibits physical damage.

5. If a new spark plug is required, select one from the list in Table 6-9.

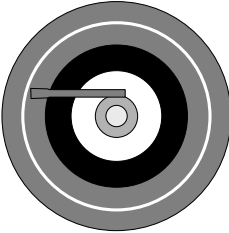
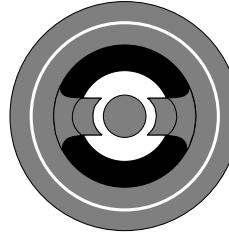
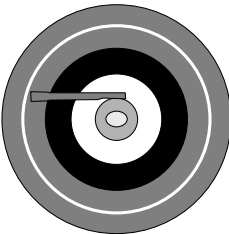
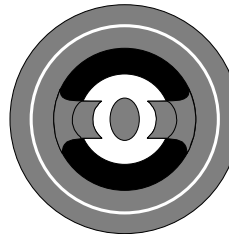
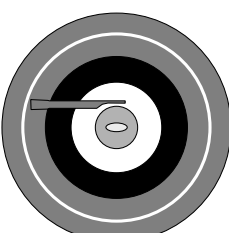
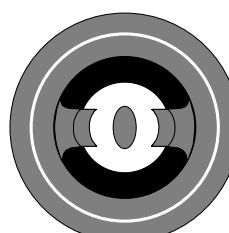
	FINE WIRE ELECTRODE	MASSIVE ELECTRODE
NORMAL ELECTRODE CONDITION •INSULATOR TIP GRAY, TAN OR LIGHT BROWN •FEW COMBUSTION DEPOSITS •ELECTRODES NOT BURNED OR ERODED •PROPER TYPE AND HEAT RANGE PLUG FOR ENGINE AND SERVICE. •SPARK PLUG SHOULD BE CLEANED, REGAPPED AND TESTED BEFORE REINSTALLTION		
NORMAL WORN-OUT CONDITION •ELECTRODES ERODED BY HIGH VOLTAGE SPARKING AND BY CORROSIVE GASES FORMED DURING COMBUSTION TO LESS THAN 1/2 ORIGINAL THICKNESS •MORE VOLTAGE NEEDED TO FIRE SPARK PLUGS - OFTEN MORE THAN IGNITION SYSTEM CAN PRODUCE. •REPLACE WITH NEW APPROVED AVIATION SPARK PLUGS.		
SEVERE WORN-OUT CONDITION •EXCESSIVELY ERODED CENTER AND GROUND ELECTRODES PLUS EXTENSIVE NECKING OF FINE WIRE GROUND ELECTRODES INDICATE ABNORMAL ENGINE POWER OR PLUGS LONG OVERDUE FOR REPLACEMENT. •DISCARD SPARK PLUGS AND CHECK HEAT RANGE BEFORE INSTALLING NEW ONES. •REPLACE WITH NEW APPROVED AVIATION SPARK PLUGS IN APPROPRIATE HEAT RANGE.		

Figure 6-32. Spark Plug Inspection Criteria

6. Clean the spark plugs (new or re-used) according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Set the spark plug gap to the spark plug manufacturer's recommended setting for the spark plug part number. If the manufacturer's recommended spark plug gap cannot be located, use the gap specified in Table 6-9.