Tips from the gasket expert

Selecting the right cylinder head gasket for diesel engines

There is generally a large variety of thicknesses of cylinder head gaskets for diesel engines. In order to identify the correct cylinder head gasket, the piston protrusion must be measured.

The measurement described below must be performed with extreme care.

The piston protrusion must be measured exactly to the manufacturer's specifications.

- The measurement points must be located above the piston pin axis in order to counteract the effect of piston tilt clearance.
- Set the indicator on the cleaned cylinder block gasket surface and zero out with some pretension.
- Set the indicator on the cleaned piston and determine the highest point by turning the crankshaft.
- Repeat the procedure for measurement point 2.
• C is the distance between the piston surface at the top dead center and the joint face of the cylinder crankcase.

The measurement must be performed for all pistons. The piston with the highest projection is used to determine the matching cylinder head gasket. Select the cylinder head gasket with the correct thickness from the sales documentation. The thickness of the cylinder head gasket can be verified by the number of punched notches or holes.

**Identification using holes**

![Identification using holes image]
Identification using notches

- Notch 2
- Notch 3
- Notch 4
- Notch 5