

How to adjust hydraulic lifters with the engine running and NOT splash oil all over the place!!

This is one of those things that make you smack your forehead and say “Why didn’t I think of that!”

Right off the top, there are 2 devices out there (that I know of) for achieving this task:

“Rocker Stoppers”(plastic plugs on a spring), or springy metal deflector clips that snap onto the rocker arms...

Frankly, these gizmo’s don’t work that well. Oil still overflows the lower rear corner of the rocker valley, and one good blip on the throttle to clear things out and “SPROINGGGG” they go flying and oil is all over the place and smoking and fire and yuck.

The very best tool for this job requires you to scrounge up the following:

- 1) A junkyard/spare/OEM steel valve cover (for your particular engine)
- 2) A decent, used, valve cover gasket
- 3) Some RTV or gasket glue
- 4) A drill motor and 7/8” hole saw
- 5) A ruler and Sharpie

The following picture should explain what you’ll need to do to the preceding parts list:



(I can’t claim to be the inventor of this handy device/tool, but I’ve made a few revisions to my original version – the VC with the big cutouts still allowed oil to splash all over)

- Pull a valve cover off the engine and take some careful measurements of the rocker stud/nut locations.
- Transfer these measurements to your “sacrificial valve cover”.
- Drill the holes (A 7/8” holesaw allows a 5/8” deep socket to just fit through the hole... accuracy is key!)
- De-burr the holes with a rat-tail file or emery cloth
- Clean/scrub/sterilize the new tool. Make sure ALL the metal chips & shavings are GONE!
- Glue the valve cover gasket to the modified valve cover.

Just swap this cover onto the engine and adjust the lifters. This tool works great!