

A plant that made distributor caps for Delco-Remy, a GM division, had routinely scrapped those with hairline cracks by hauling them to a nearby landfill, where they served as a solid base for the land that was to be reclaimed. But Delco noticed that a large number of defective caps were being returned. About the same time the company found that the junked distributor caps were disappearing from the landfill. Someone was taking them, combining them with other components and selling them as GM parts. Now the company uses a crusher to destroy rejected parts.

### HOW THE GYPSIES DECEIVE

You have to look sharply to tell the difference between the real thing and the simulators' junk. Go into a store to buy some parts for your Ford and you may spot a display of what looks like the white and red Ford Motorcraft boxes. But look again. The carburetor air-filter box has similar colors and lettering on the label and a speeding car drawn on the front. However, instead of saying *Motorcraft* it says *Motorcare*. The little rectangle to the right of the name doesn't bear the familiar Ford logo. Some boxes have the name *Motorcare* and include in the rectangle the word *quality* instead of Ford. Often even the part number on the box is the same except that it may include the words *replaces one*.

The same sort of deceptions are practiced with Chrysler's *Mopar* parts. Some carry the Chrysler five-pointed star with *Mopar* printed in distinctive style and the word *replaces* or *fits* in tiny letters just above the name.

Counterfeit GM parts come in packages similar in style and blue and white coloring to the real ones. Some include the letters *GM* on the package. Others use the letters *QM* in such a way that it's hard to tell the difference. Boxes simulating those of Delco-Remy parts boxes have the same red, white and blue colors, the same split-circuit designs and sometimes the Delco name below a tiny *replaces*. Some simply say authoritatively, *Service Part*, or carry the label *Quality Parts* with the letters *QM* boxed off in GM style. The real Delco-Remy AC parts always carry the letters *AC* in the middle of the red-circle emblem.

Sometimes the retailers are so familiar with auto parts packages that they scarcely glance at what they're buying.

Simulators of Volkswagen boxes use the blue and white design with *VW*'s sprinkled over them. Sometimes the letters are elongated. Phony Fram filter boxes may carry the distinctive big letter *F*, but the name is spelled *Fran* or *Frame*.

The parts themselves come from various places, a few from small plants in this country but most from overseas. Some phony Volkswagen oil filters were manufactured in Israel, shipped to Brazil