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# Essential Maintenance for Golf Carts: Tune Up A Club Car Gas Cart

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Last Updated on November 9, 2023 by Chuck Wilson

When it comes to maintaining your **club car**, regular **tune-ups** are essential. A well-maintained **golf cart** not only runs more efficiently but also ensures longevity and reliability. Whether you own a **Club Car Precedent** or a vintage model, understanding the basics of **cart maintenance** can save you time and money.

## Key Takeaways

- **Regular Maintenance:** Keep your Club Car in top condition with annual tune-ups and regular checks.
- **Self-Service:** With the right tools and guidance, many tune-up tasks can be DIY.
- **Battery Care:** For electric models, battery maintenance is essential for longevity.
- **Record Keeping:** Maintain a log of all maintenance tasks to track the health of your cart and preserve its value.

- **Professional Help:** When in doubt, seek professional assistance to avoid costly mistakes.

## Checking and Replacing the Spark Plug

One of the first steps in a **club car tune-up** is to inspect the **spark plug**. A worn or dirty **spark plug** can lead to engine misfires and reduced performance. **Make sure** to remove the **plug** carefully, check its **condition**, and **test** for any wear or deposits. If necessary, **replace** it with a new one to ensure your **vehicle** runs smoothly.

## Air Filter Maintenance

The **air filter** is crucial for maintaining clean airflow to the **engine**. A clogged or dirty filter can impede performance and cause the engine to run rich. Regularly **check** the **air filter** and **replace** it if you notice any blockage or damage. This simple step can significantly impact the efficiency of your **gas golf cart**.



### 1025582-01 Canister Style Air Filter 2PCS..

- Fits EZGO 1996 UP TXT, WORKHORSE, ST VEHICLES, RXV MODELS, Club Car 2004+UP PRECEDENT....



### Club Car Air Filter Element | For 1984-..

- (1) Air Filter for Club Car Gas 1984 – 1991 golf carts
- Made of paper element with wire mesh...



### Performance Plus Carts Club Car...

- For Club Car Precedent Golf Cart with 350cc Kawasaki engine
- Inside Diameter = 1 3/4-...



## Fuel System Checks

For **gas** models, ensuring the **fuel filter** is clear is vital for preventing blockages in the fuel system. A blocked **fuel filter** can cause your **cart** to stutter or stall. During a **tune-up**, **check** the filter and **replace** it if needed. Additionally, inspect the fuel lines and **carburetor** for any signs of wear or leaks.

## Listening for Engine Irregularities

While the **cart** is running, **listen** for any unusual noises. Odd sounds can indicate a range of issues from loose **wires** to internal engine problems. It's important to address these sounds promptly to prevent further damage.

By following these steps and ensuring each component of your **club car** is in top **condition**, you'll enhance the performance and extend the life of your **golf cart**.

## Drive and Belt Inspection

The drive system of your **club car** is integral to its operation. Regular inspection of the drive belt for any signs of wear, such as cracks or fraying, is crucial. A compromised belt can affect the **cart's** performance and might even lead to a breakdown. If the belt appears worn, **replace** it to maintain the **vehicle's** integrity.

## Carburetor Adjustment for Optimal Performance

The **carburetor** is the heart of your **golf cart's** fuel system. It mixes the gas with air to create the combustible mixture that powers the engine. Over time, the carburetor may need adjustment to ensure this mixture remains at the optimal ratio. If you're not familiar with this process, it's advisable to consult a professional or refer to a detailed guide specific to your **Club Car model**.

## Check the Air Flow

Start by **raising the seat** and gently lifting the cushion from the hinge brackets. This allows you to remove the seat by sliding the tab with two ears from the hinge slot. This is a feature I

overlooked when I first got the cart. I didn't realize I could easily remove the seat instead of propping it up with my elbow while I worked.

After setting the seat aside, identify the **air filter box**. For the **1992 – 1996 model DS Club Car** with the **FE290 Kawasaki engine**, you'll find this box on the driver's side of the opening. It's a black plastic box with two thumbscrews at the back. Simply rotate each of these 90 degrees to unlatch the back. If the box's placement makes it hard to access the latches, you can take out the entire airbox. Do this by loosening the hose clamps at the front and back of the box.

The steps above provide a simple and straightforward way to access the air filter box of a 1992 – 1996 model DS Club Car with the FE290 Kawasaki engine. Not only does it save time, but it also ensures you can work comfortably without having to prop the seat up.



**Need To Know What Year Your Club Car Is? Click Here!**

# Check the Fuel

The fuel tank, situated on the passenger side of the engine well, includes a fuel filter on the fuel line that leads to the carburetor. If the filter is of the clear plastic variety, you can determine the quality of the fuel by observing its color: good gasoline will have a light, clear color, while gasoline that has aged and thickened into a “shellac” condition will have a darker, amber color. If the gasoline becomes too old, it loses its combustibility and can become difficult to pass through the filter and carburetor jets.

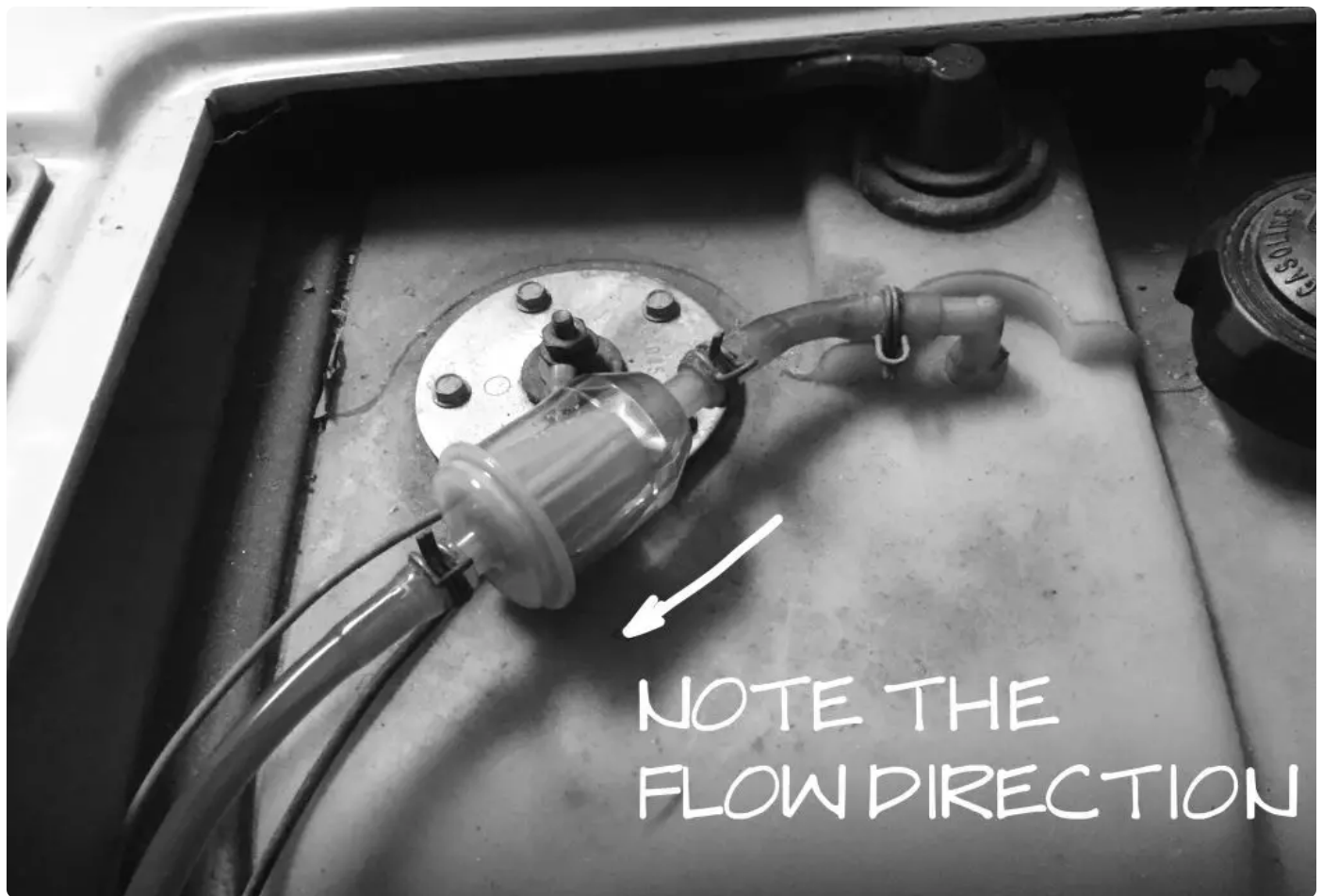
## Observing the Fuel Filter

The fuel filter should be positioned with the tapered end and flat end in a specific orientation. The fuel flow in this filter goes from the tapered end to the flat end – this is a critical detail to remember!

## Checking Gasoline Quality

If the filter is opaque and you can't observe the fuel, you can open the gas tank and check the gasoline there. The smell will tell you if it's turning to shellac. If the gasoline is too old or if you have doubts about its quality, use a hand pump to remove it and replace it with fresh gasoline.





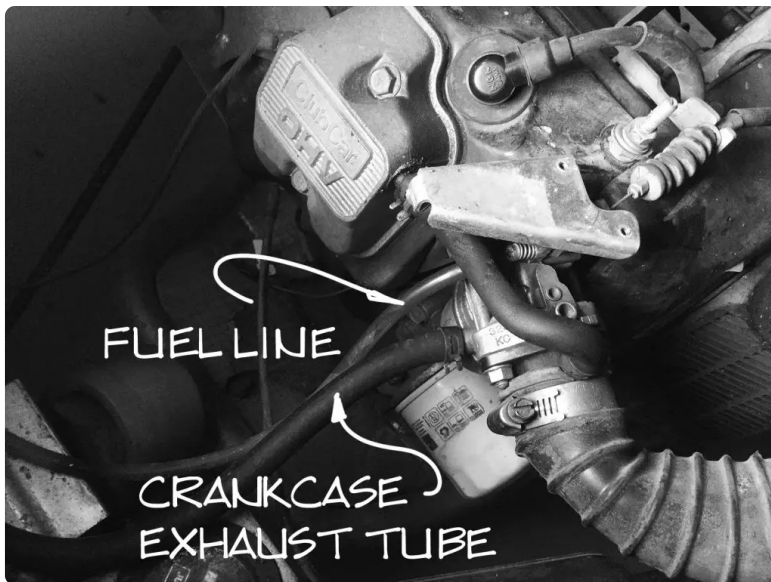
## Detecting Blockages

Once you remove the filter from the line, tap the back (the part connected to the top of the fuel tank) on a clean piece of paper towel. If black, sludgy deposits stain the sheet, you're likely looking at the cause of your cart's poor performance. Sometimes there's a second filter located under the carburetor facing the vehicle's front. If you have one, check that it's also clear of deposits.

## Adjusting Air Mix and Throttle Screw

To adjust the air mix and the throttle screw, you'll need the Torx T15 to remove two screws that secure the cover hiding the adjustments. After unscrewing, lift the right edge of the cover, pivot it over and remove it. Using a pair of needle-nose pliers, remove the fuel line and exhaust vent tube to easily access the adjustment screws.

Remember, maintenance and regular inspections are key to ensure your vehicle runs smoothly. By following these steps carefully, you'll keep your engine in top condition and extend its lifespan. Regular checks can help you spot and fix problems early, saving you time, money, and headaches down the road.

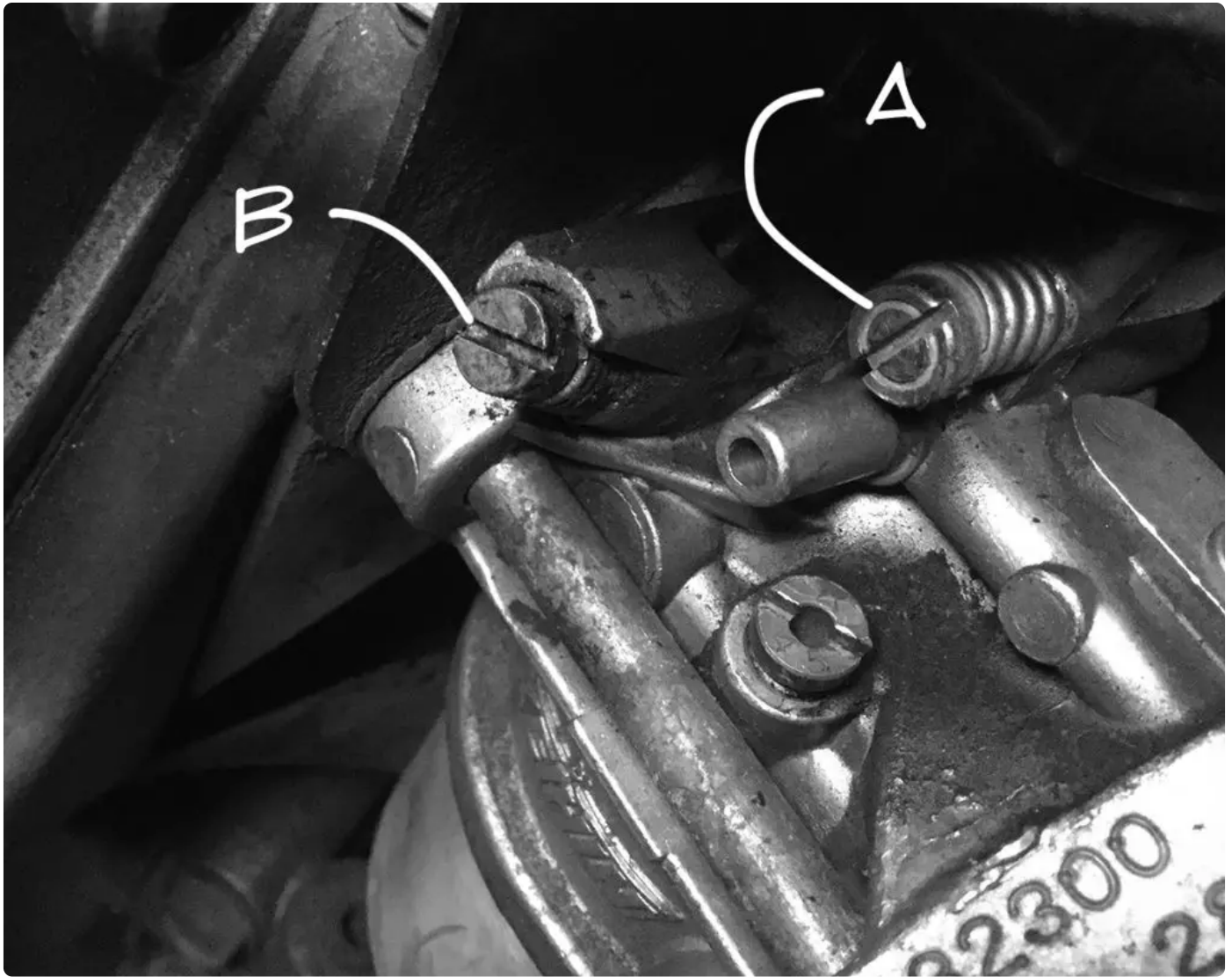


I found the exhaust vent tube on mine had been torn in half by the sharp edge of the cover sometime in the past. Fortunately, the tube was long enough to snip off the damaged part and still have enough to reach the nipple on the carburetor body.

"A" is the throttle adjustment and using the flat screwdriver, back the screw away from the plate that it pushes against until there is a gap between them. Turn the screw until it touches the plate, then 1/4 turn further.

"B" is the air mix adjustment and this is set by turning it closed to a soft seat, then back it out 1-1/4 turns. Hook the fuel line and crankcase vent tube back up and replace the cover, tightening down the two screws.





Locate the spark plug on the top of the engine and remove the cable, exposing the top of the plug. Use a spark plug socket and ratchet to remove the spark plug and inspect the ceramic insulator. This should be light brown to brown and not oily or wet. If it is black in color, you might be running too rich of a fuel mixture, requiring an adjustment to the air screw (we will cover this later).

The electrode should be visibly free of deposits and can be scraped clean if needed. Check the gap with a spark plug gap tool (cheap or free at most parts counters) and set this gap to .028 – .030. Replace the spark plug and screw into place using the socket and your fingers to prevent cross-threading. Lightly tighten with the ratchet...no need to strip it out by tightening too much (you do NOT want to deal with a stripped out spark plug hole on the engine's head). Push the wire connector back on to the spark plug.





## Ensuring Proper Electrical Connections

Electrical issues can often be traced back to loose or corroded **wires**. During your tune-up, **make sure to check** all electrical connections, including the battery terminals, for any signs of corrosion or looseness. Clean and secure connections will ensure your **cart** starts reliably and maintains consistent power.

## Testing the Vehicle's Overall Condition

After addressing the **spark plug**, **air filter**, **fuel filter**, and **carburetor**, it's time to **test** the **cart**. Place the **vehicle** in **neutral** and start the engine. **Listen** for a smooth idle and watch for any signs of hesitation or irregularity during acceleration. This **test** can reveal if further adjustments are necessary or if your tune-up has been successful.

By incorporating these **maintenance** steps into your routine, you can keep your **club car golf cart** running at peak performance, ensuring a pleasant drive every time you hit the

course or the neighborhood paths.

## Regular Oil and Filter Changes

An often overlooked aspect of **maintenance** is the regular changing of oil and filters. For **gas golf carts**, this is as crucial as it is for any **vehicle**. Old oil can lead to engine wear and reduced efficiency. During your tune-up, drain the old oil, **replace** the **oil filter**, and fill the engine with fresh oil that meets the specifications for your **Club Car model**.

## Inspecting and Maintaining Tires

Tires are your **cart's** only contact with the ground, and their condition can affect the ride, safety, and even fuel efficiency in **gas models**. **Check** for proper inflation, tread wear, and any damage that might compromise their integrity. Properly maintained tires can also reduce strain on the **cart's** drive system.

## Checking the Braking System

Safety should always be a priority, and the braking system is at the forefront of your **golf cart's safety features**. Inspect the brakes for wear and ensure that they are functioning correctly. If you notice any issues or if the brakes are less responsive than usual, it may be time to **replace** the brake pads or service the system.

## Cleaning and Protecting the Cart's Body and Seats

The aesthetic appeal of your **club car** is just as important as its mechanical integrity. Clean the body and **cover** it to protect against the elements. **Make sure** to also clean and condition the **seats** to keep them looking new and comfortable for your passengers.

**Golf Cart Backfiring? Check Out This Article!**



# Final Thoughts on Club Car Maintenance

A well-executed tune-up not only enhances the performance of your **club car golf cart** but also contributes to its longevity. By following a thorough **maintenance** checklist and addressing each area with care, you ensure that your **cart** remains a reliable and enjoyable **vehicle** for years to come.

With the tune-up complete, you can drive with confidence, knowing that your **club car** is in top **condition**, ready for any journey on or off the golf course.

## FAQs

### How often should I tune up a Club Car golf cart?

Regular tune-ups are recommended at least once a year or every 250 hours of operation. However, this may vary based on usage and model specifications.

### What are the signs that my Club Car needs a tune-up?

Common signs include difficulty starting, irregular idling, decreased power, and unusual noises during operation.

### Can I perform a tune-up on my Club Car by myself?

Yes, with basic mechanical skills and a set of instructions, you can perform a basic tune-up. However, for more complex tasks or if you're unsure, it's best to consult a professional.

### What is the most important aspect of a Club Car tune-up?

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