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Math Study Strategies

Math for Automotives

Displacement of a Piston

The length of the diameter of a cylinder in an automobile engine is the **bore**. The distance the piston moves in the cylinder is the **stroke**. The engine capacity, or **displacement**, of a car is the combined volume of all its cylinders.

To find the displacement of a piston, find the volume of the cylinder.

Use the formula:

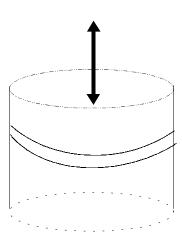
$$V = \pi r^2 h$$

Where

V is the volume,

r is the radius, and

h is the height (or stroke)



Find the displacement of a piston with a 4-inch bore and a 5-inch stroke

$$V = \pi r^2 h$$

V = 3.14(2)²5

V = 62.8

The bore measurement is a diameter, so you need to divide it by 2 to find the radius.

The displacement of the piston is: 62.8 cubic inches.