“...the gear that gives you no trouble is the one you never use.”

Eventually, the two-speed planetary transmission developed by Wills and used on earlier Fords was retained but improvements were made. The transmissions in the N, R and S versions had only a shroud covering that was susceptible to elements. Plans for the T called for the planetary transmission to be covered and to share oil with the engine, with the Wills brainstorm that constantly bathed the unit in oil.

Model T prototypes borrowed more from the Model N and S Fords. Those cars had three floor pedals and two levers. One of the levers controlled low, neutral and high gears in the transmission. The second was an emergency brake. The floor pedals were for reverse, the transmission brake and for the rear wheel brakes.

There was no textbook or script available for any carmaker in 1907, including the Ford Motor Company development team. There was no proven way to make a successful car. Those who had new ideas and the right financial backers were trying their cars on the public. Many carmakers were