

# MSD<sup>®</sup> IGNITION

# 6AL versus Street Fire CDI!

There has been many questions about recommending and selling the 6AL versus the Street Fire CDI to customers. True, these products are in competition with one another, but there are differences in the ignition themselves as well as the customers.

MSD Ignition is the premium brand in the performance ignition world – and one of the top names in all of the performance aftermarket. Street Fire is positioned as a 'value brand' that offers budget-minded enthusiasts a product that comes from MSD, but without reducing the equity built into our premium product line.

There will be customers that only want the 6AL. The 6AL is one of the most recognizable aftermarket components and that also brings an emotional tie to having 'the red box' under the hood. The veteran performance enthusiast knows MSD and asks for MSD.

The Street Fire CDI customer is more of a first time, or entry level enthusiast, and very budget conscious. They tend to buy products from retail/chain stores. They may desire to have the 6AL, however the Street Fire is a better alternate due to the price.



## Quick Comparison

### MSD 6AL, PN 6420

**Primary Voltage:** 470 Volts

**Spark Energy:** 110 mJ

**Spark Series Duration:** 20° crank rotation

**RPM Range:** 15,000 w/14.4 Volts

**Voltage Input:** 10 – 18 Volts

**Current Draw:** 1 amp per 1,000 rpm

**Microprocessor:** No

**Weight/Size:** 3-lbs, 8" x 4" x 2.25"

**Rev Limiter:** Modules

**Vibration Mounts Supplied:** Yes

**Accepts a 2-Step:** Yes

**Accepts Timing Accessory:** Yes

**CARB Legal:** Yes, Non-OBD II

**Warranty:** One Year

### Street Fire CDI, PN 5520

**Primary Voltage:** 435 Volts

**Spark Energy:** 95 mJ

**Spark Series Duration:** 20° crank rotation

**RPM Range:** 15,000 w/14.4 Volts

**Voltage Input:** 10 – 18 Volts

**Current Draw:** .7 amp per 1,000 rpm

**Microprocessor:** Yes

**Weight/Size:** 1.5-lbs, 6" x 3.5" x 1.75"

**Rev Limiter:** Rotary Dials, 2K – 9.9K

**Vibration Mounts Supplied:** No

**Accepts a 2-Step:** No

**Accepts Timing Accessory:** Yes

**CARB Legal:** Yes, Non-OBD II

**Warranty:** One Year

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## Power Output:

When putting the two ignitions against each other, the most obvious performance difference is the output. The 6AL delivers higher voltage and spark energy. This is the major difference and when it comes to higher output engines (over 400 hp) the 6AL will be the better choice.

Also, if a customer plans to increase power in the future or add nitrous or forced induction, the 6AL will be the best choice.

## Rev Limiter:

Both ignitions have adjustable rev limiter. The Street Fire uses rotary dials so there is no need for plug-in modules like the 6AL. However, the advantage of the modules is that a customer could easily add a 2 or 3-Step Module Selector down the road.

## Connections:

Both units connect to the same coils and distributors, with matching wiring. Each offer a White (points, amplifiers) and a 2-pin Magnetic Pickup to connect to stock or MSD distributors.

## Size:

The 6AL is larger and requires a little larger foot print for mounting.

## Analog versus Digital:

The 6AL incorporates an analog circuitry design while the Street Fire Ignition uses a microprocessor. The benefits of the digital control are a slight improvement in rev limiter accuracy and high rpm timing. To the street/strip enthusiast, this will never be an issue as we're talking 7,000+ rpm accuracies. The digital components can be delivered in a smaller package as well. Analog circuits are less susceptible to Electrical Interference. As for assembly, the through-hole assembly of the board is structurally sound and is a solid design to handle the high powered components and circuitry.

For the record, MSD incorporates both digital and analog components in our high output racing ignitions. The digital side manages timing and rpm functions while the analog circuits control the high power component side of ignition such as our Programmable 7 Series.



### 6AL

- *Performance enthusiast customer*
- *Desire to have the best*
- *A serious enthusiast*
- *Over 400 horsepower*
- *Plans to upgrade performance*
- *Wants a 2-Step rev limiter*
- *Spirited' driving or racing*



### Street Fire CDI

- *Entry level enthusiast or first time build-up*
- *Looking for to spend the least buck for the most bang*
- *Mild power, 350 hp or less*
- *Not planning on increasing power*
- *Will not be racing the vehicle*
- *Using a stock distributor*