

Over Head Cams for an IC Engine

A double overhead cam engine is a type of internal combustion engine where the camshafts that operate the intake and exhaust valves are mounted above the cylinders, and where there are separate camshafts for inlet and exhaust valves. In engines with more than one cylinder bank, such as the V engine, this designation means two camshafts per bank.

Usually the cams operate the valves directly or by a short rocker, as opposed to pushrod engines which have long rods to transfer the movement of the lobes on the camshaft in the engine block to the valves in the cylinder head.

Double camshafts are required in order to have multiple inlets or exhaust valves that are directly actuated. However, not all double overhead cam are multivalve engines – double overhead cam was common in 2-valve engines for decades before multivalve heads appeared. Today, double overhead cam is normally synonymous with multivalve, since almost all double overhead cams engines also have between 3 and 5 valves per cylinder.

Animation: <http://auto.howstuffworks.com/camshaft.htm>

