

Steering Columns

1968-71 AUSTIN-HEALEY SPRITE & AUSTIN AMERICA

Austin America (1968-71)

Sprite (1968-70)

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

STEERING COLUMN

Removal – 1) Disconnect battery cable and remove pinch bolt securing steering column clamp to steering gear pinion shaft. Remove screws securing toe-plate to floor board.

2) Note location, quantity and thickness of spacing washers between upper column mount and body mount. Disconnect steering column wiring harness at connector below fascia. Remove steering column with steering wheel and switches.

Installation – 1) If a new steering column is being installed or if spacer washers were lost, steering column must be aligned. See *Steering Column Alignment*.

2) To install old steering column, reverse removal procedure. Make sure spacer washers were installed in original position. Tighten all bolts and nuts to specifications.

STEERING COLUMN ALIGNMENT

1) Turn pinion shaft on steering gear to straight ahead position. Install steering column in vehicle and position inner column in straight ahead position and insert pinion shaft in steering column.

2) Install two top column upper bracket bolts and tighten until weight is off of steering column and column bracket is parallel with body bracket. Steering column should pass through toe-plate hole approximately in center.

3) Measure spaces between brackets. Install spacer washers between both brackets that are same thickness as distance just measured. Tighten bolts finger tight.

4) Tighten toe-plate screws. Tighten column-to-pinion shaft clamp bolt. Measure gap between column and body brackets at third bolt hole and install a spacer washer of same thickness. Tighten bolt finger tight.

5) Remove toe-plate and bolt securing steering column to pinion shaft at steering gear. Pull up on steering column slightly and push down on pinion shaft. Column should move freely.

6) If column moves hard, steering gear alignment must be checked. See *Steering Gear Alignment*. If column moves easily, tighten three upper mount bolts, toe-plate and column-to-steering gear clamp bolt to specification.

TIGHTENING SPECIFICATIONS

| Application | Ft. Lbs. |
|---|----------|
| Steering Column Upper Mount Bolts | 12-17 |
| Pinion Shaft Pinch Bolt | 9-12 |