

Steering Columns

1971-73 DODGE COLT

Colt (1971-73)

OVERHAUL

DESCRIPTION

Collapsible steering system is comprised of a two-piece (upper and lower) column shaft, joined by a collapsible section. This section contracts axially under impact without affecting turning motion. Upper column cover incorporates slits, allowing it to collapse under impact.

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

Removal – Remove air cleaner. Unbolt clamp retaining shaft to gear box. Remove horn pad, steering wheel nut and pull steering wheel. Unscrew tilt lock knob, detach column cover and remove combination meter assembly. Draw out each switch connector and detach switch. Remove floor dust cover. Loosen tilt bracket assembly retaining bolt and withdraw steering column assembly.

Installation – 1) Be sure shaft may be easily turned within column, then attach assembly to instrument panel. Position tilt bracket such that dimension between shaft upper end and column tube upper end measure 3.70-3.74 inches. Place appropriate shim between rear edge of bracket and instrument panel which will give specified measurement.

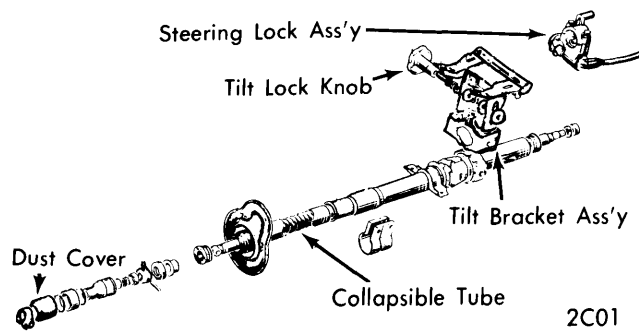
2) Position road wheels in straight-ahead position, install steering wheel and torque nut to specifications. Be sure maximum free play at circumference of steering wheel does not exceed .020 inches. Check steering wheel for proper turning torque of 44 INCH lbs. Install air cleaner.

Disassembly – Pull lower shaft bearing out of column and remove shaft. Loosen lower column tube retaining clamp and remove tube. If tilt bracket is to be removed, cut slot in bracket retaining bolt head and remove with screwdriver. Tap bracket assembly lightly with wood hammer and draw assembly from column. Remove joint socket cover and retainer. Place shaft in vertical position, press downward and draw socket pin out with magnet, then remove socket.

Assembly – 1) Place joint socket (bearing) on shaft lower end with flanged surface upward and lubricate socket, dust cover and ball seat. Insert pin in same manner as removal. Set gear mainshaft in straight-ahead position, attach and tighten socket clamp. Install both column tube bushings. Position and torque bushing stoppers against column ends. Place washer, support, spacer and holder on tilt bracket and tighten. Press guide pin into place.

2) Position bracket assembly on column such that lugs of bearing and holder fit notches in column. *NOTE* – Liquid adhesive should be applied to column tube and bearing before lugs are fitted to notches. Drive bearing into column by lightly tapping support. Install steering wheel lock and torque retaining bolt until head shears off.

NOTE – During any service operations of collapsible columns or components avoid jarring or leaning on any portion of column.



COLLAPSIBLE COLUMN ASSEMBLY

TIGHTENING SPECIFICATIONS

Application	Ft. Lbs. (mkg)
Socket Clamp	11-15 (1.5-2.0)
Column Tube Clamp	4-5 (0.6-0.7)
Steering Lock Retaining Bolt.....	11-16 (1.5-2.2)
Steering Wheel Nut	15-18 (2.0-2.5)