

1971-73 FIAT 128

128 (1971-73)

DESCRIPTION

STEERING GEAR & LINKAGE

Rack and pinion type steering gear is mounted in rubber insulators and attached to body. Gear is attached to steering shaft through universal joints. Adjustments are provided for pinion bearing play and rack yoke free play. At each end of steering rack, tie rods connect steering mechanism to front wheels.

ADJUSTMENT

PINION BEARING ADJUSTMENT

Measure the distance from bottom of pinion recess (using suitable measuring device) to pinion cover support surface. Vary shim size to obtain proper adjustment. Thickness of selected shims should equal measured distance **plus** .001-.005".

RACK YOKE ADJUSTMENT

Measure gap between rack cover plate and housing surface. Adjustment is made by varying shim size. Proper thickness of shim used should equal the measured gap **plus** .002-.005".

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

STEERING GEAR

Removal – 1) Disconnect battery leads. Raise and support front end of vehicle, then remove front wheels. Remove spare wheel from engine compartment.

2) Disconnect drive pinion from lower steering column section by detaching universal joint inside vehicle. Using a suitable puller (A. 47035), remove tie rods from steering knuckles.

3) Remove stone shield, then unbolt and remove steering gear assembly by sliding out from right hand side of vehicle.

Installation – Fill gear with suitable oil before inserting into vehicle. Set front wheels in straight-ahead position, then connect drive pinion to steering column. Remount gear to body. Connect tie rods to steering knuckles and torque attaching nuts to 58 ft. lbs. Replace stone shield and front wheels.

OVERHAUL

Disassembly – 1) Disconnect tie rods from ball joints (inner end of tie rods). Loosen rubber dust boot retaining clamps, then drain oil from gear. Remove dust boots, then brackets and rubber cushions attaching gear to body.

2) Detach rack yoke cover plate and withdraw gasket, spring, shims, and yoke. Remove pinion cover plate and withdraw gasket, shims, and drive pinion (with upper ball bearing).

3) Mount steering gear in vise, unscrew ball joint ring nuts, then slide off joints with sockets and springs. Slide rack out of steering box, then remove lower drive pinion bearing.

Reassembly – 1) Set steering box in horizontal position with pinion flange on top. Insert lower pinion bearing, using suitable driver (A. 74219). Replace bushing in steering box. Slide rack into position with smooth side facing pinion seating. When fully in place, turn teeth to face axis of pinion seating.

2) Insert pinion so that it mates with rack and assembly upper bearing. Press pinion to seat bearings. Make rack and pinion adjustments as previously described, see *Adjustment in this article*.

3) Attach steering gear ground wire. Reassemble ball joints in reverse of removal procedure. Replace dust boots and clamp into place. Fill steering box with 4 3/4 oz. of suitable oil (FIAT W 90/M).