

Steering Columns

DATSUN 280ZX

280ZX

DESCRIPTION

There are two types of steering columns used on the 280ZX, one for power steering and one for manual steering. Both columns are of the safety collapsible type. A rubber coupling is used to prevent road vibrations from reaching the steering wheel. Two universal joints are used on the manual steering model and one universal joint is used on the power steering model. Both columns are designed to compress on impact, absorbing a collision shock.

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

STEERING COLUMN

NOTE — During any service procedure involving the steering assembly, do not hammer or exert extreme pressure on the steering column or damage to the collapsible section may result.

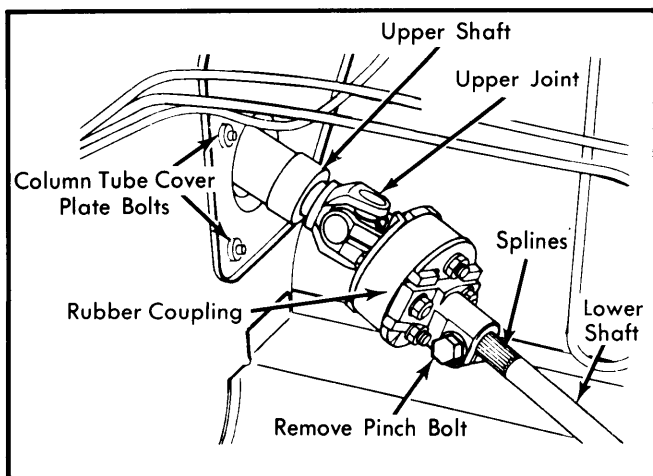


Fig. 1 Separating Upper and Lower Shafts on Manual Steering Models

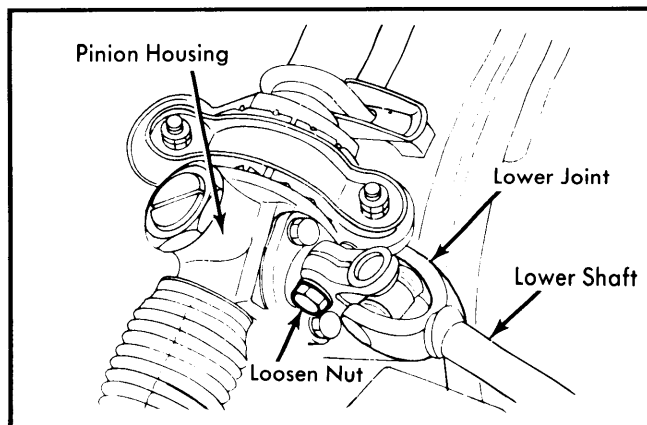


Fig. 2 Separating Lower Shaft from Pinion Gear on Manual Steering Models

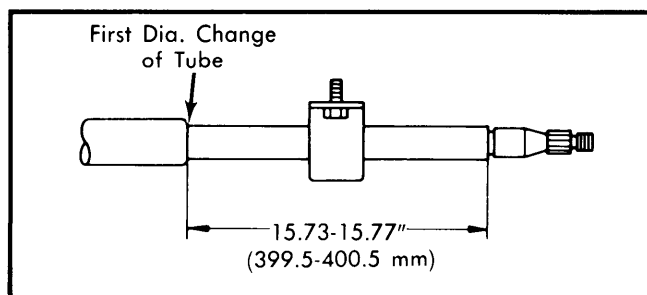


Fig. 3 Measurement for Damage of Collapsible Column on Power and Manual Steering Models

Removal — On power steering, remove bolt securing stub shaft to rubber coupling. On manual steering, remove bolt securing lower joint to rubber coupling. On power and manual steering, remove steering wheel. See *Datsun under STEERING WHEEL & COLUMN SWITCHES* in this section. Remove column tube bracket and cover from dash panel. Remove column mounting bracket and draw out steering column assembly from passenger compartment side.

Inspection — Check for smoothness of rotation at all steering components. Inspect jacket tube for deformation or breakage (replace if necessary). Check column shaft spring for proper tension: free length, 1.075" (27.3 mm); loaded length, .059" @ 66 lbs. (15 mm @ 30 kg). Measure distance from upper end of tube collapsible section to first diameter change of tube (see Fig. 3). Measurement should be 15.73-15.77" (399.5-400.5 mm). If measurement is not correct, tube has been crushed and should be replaced. Also inspect inserts in column support clamp. If there is any space between inserts and bracket, damage to column may be suspected.

Installation — Install steering column onto stub shaft (power steering) or onto lower joint (manual steering) after installation of steering column through dash panel. Set front wheels in straight ahead position, line up slits of universal joints with punch mark on upper end of steering shaft (punch mark should be on top), then connect column and tighten bolts as required. After installation, ensure steering wheel rotates smoothly.

OVERHAUL

NOTE — Refer to *Inspection* in this article for description of components which may be replaced; however, if damage to the collapsible section is suspected, steering column replacement is recommended.

TIGHTENING SPECIFICATIONS

Application	Ft. Lbs. (mkg)
Steering Wheel Nut	29-36 (4.0-5.0)
Column Clamp Bolt	9-13 (1.3-1.8)
Coupling-to-Column Shaft	
Power Steering	11-16 (1.5-2.2)
Manual Steering	12-14 (1.7-2.0)
Manual Steering Only	
Lower Joint-to-Rubber Coupling	17-20 (2.3-2.7)
Lower Joint-to-Pinion Gear	29-36 (4.0-5.0)
Power Steering Only	
Stub Shaft-to-Coupling	24-28 (3.3-3.9)