

Steering Columns

SAAB

99
900

DESCRIPTION

Steering columns used on these models are safety, telescopic type. The lower portion of the steering shaft is designed to retract into the upper portion when frontal impact is experienced. On 99 models, the steering shaft is mounted in column tube by bushings. Column tube is mounted at one end to pedal bracket and at other end to body. On 900 models, steering shaft is mounted in column support by needle bearings. Column support is mounted to a cross member under dash. An intermediate shaft, with "U" joints at each end, transmits steering shaft movement to steering gear. On 99 models with power steering, double "U" joints are used.

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

STEERING COLUMN

Removal (99) — Remove locking bolt at universal joint and lower retaining screws at pedal bracket. Remove upper column-to-instrument panel retaining screws. Detach quick-release wiring connection and lift out steering column assembly.

CAUTION — On 99 models, steering wheel must be mounted on shaft before column is installed. Otherwise, tension on wheel and column may result.

Installation (99) — Position steering column tube in place with steering shaft and wheel attached. Bolt steering shaft to "U" joint. Make sure mounting bolt is opposite groove in steering shaft. Tighten bolt. Mount steering column tube to pedal bracket and body. Connect electrical harness. Adjust steering wheel.

Removal (900) — Remove locking bolt at universal joint. Remove lower bearing cover and safety padding under instrument panel. Remove direction switch and wiper switch assembly. Remove rubber boot at dash and the four screws in steering column bearing support. Remove complete steering column assembly.

Installation (900) — Bolt steering shaft to "U" joint, making sure bolt engages groove in shaft. Install four steering column bearing support screws and tighten slightly. Position support so holes align with holes in dash. Tighten screws. Install rubber boot to dash, install electrical switches, safety padding and steering joint cover. Adjust steering wheel.

INTERMEDIATE SHAFT SEALING BELLOWS

Removal — Remove cover under instrument panel. Unscrew steering column-to-intermediate shaft retaining screw. Unbolt

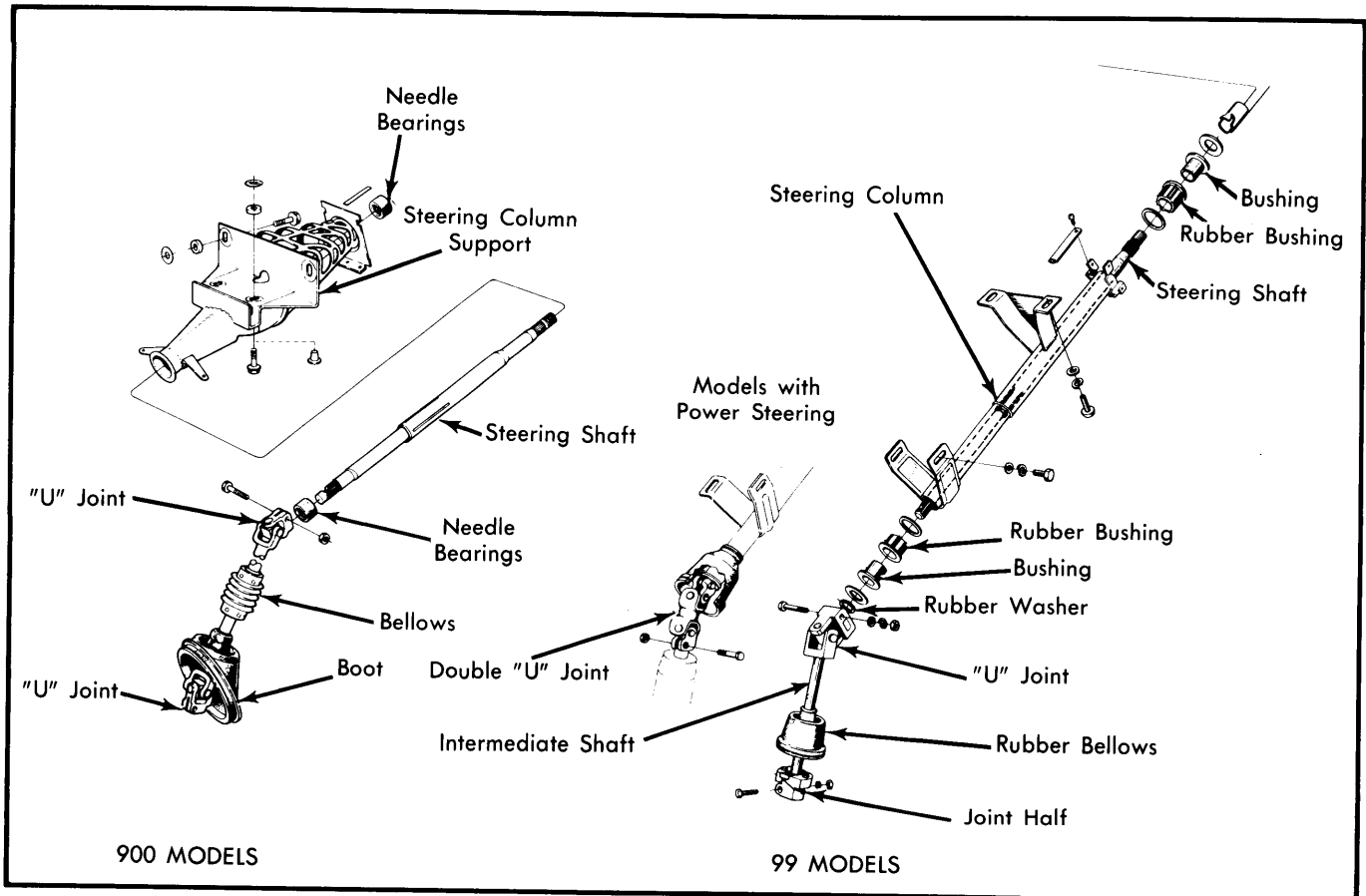


Fig. 1 Exploded View of Steering Column Assembly

SAAB (Cont.)

column tube from instrument panel. Pull steering column from intermediate shaft. Cut off old sealing bellows.

Installation — Lubricate suitable installation tool (8995813) with vaseline or soapy water. Place tool against intermediate shaft. Ease new bellows over tool and joint. Ensure bellows are not damaged in this process. Replace steering column into intermediate shaft. Make sure that shaft is pushed in so that screw is located directly opposite the groove. Tighten retaining screw. Attach steering column to instrument panel. Check position of steering wheel and adjust if necessary. Fit bellows in dash panel. Replace cover under dash.

OVERHAUL

STEERING COLUMN

NOTE — *The only overhaul procedure possible on 900 models is replacement of the two needle bearings.*

Disassembly — Remove three retaining screws and remove plastic cover under steering wheel. Pull steering wheel shaft out of tube. Withdraw two rubber bushings with steering wheel shaft bushings and washers.

Reassembly — To reassemble, reverse disassembly procedure. Replace required bushings.