

# Steering Columns

## DATSUN/NISSAN 280ZX

### DESCRIPTION

There are 2 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 1 universal joint is used on the power steering model.

Both columns are designed to compress on impact, absorbing the shock of a collision.

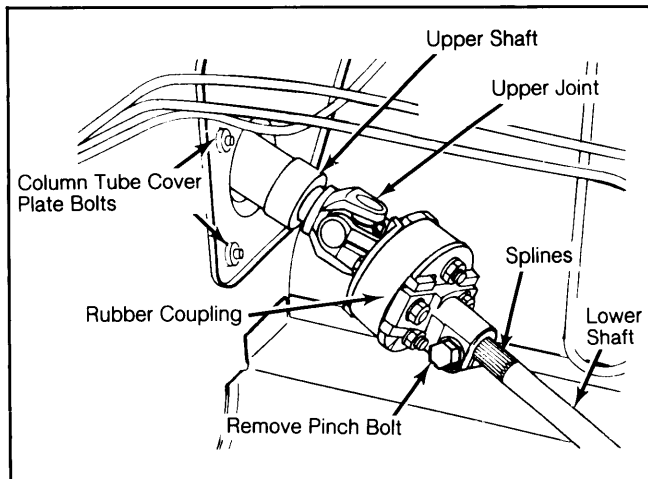
### REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

#### STEERING COLUMN

##### Removal

1) 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: Manual Steering Upper and Lower Shaft Assembly**



Remove pinch bolt and pull column through firewall.

2) On models with power steering, remove bolt retaining stub shaft to rubber coupling. On models with manual steering, remove bolt retaining lower joint to rubber coupling.

3) On all models, remove steering wheel. Remove column tube bracket and cover from dash panel. Remove column mounting bracket and remove column assembly from passenger compartment side.

##### Inspection

1) Check all steering components for free, smooth rotation. Inspect jacket tube for deformation or breakage (replace if necessary).

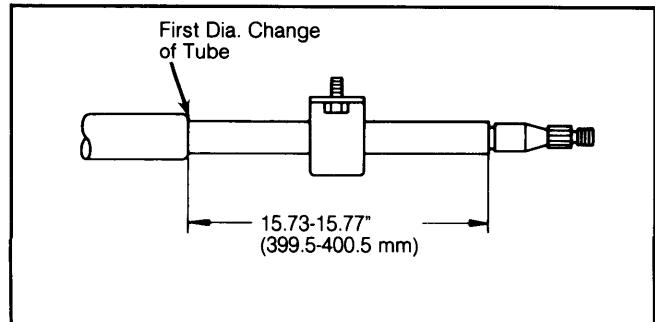
2) Check column shaft spring for proper tension. Free length is 1.075" (27.3 mm), loaded length is .059" @ 66 lbs. (15 mm @ 29.9 kg).

3) Measure distance from upper end of tube collapsible section to first diameter change of tube. See Fig. 2. Measurement should be 15.73-15.77" (399.5-400.6 mm).

4) If measurement is not correct, tube has been crushed and should be replaced. Inspect inserts in column support clamp.

5) If there is any space between inserts and bracket, column has been damaged.

**Fig. 2: Measuring Points on Collapsible Column**



Measurements must correct or place shaft.

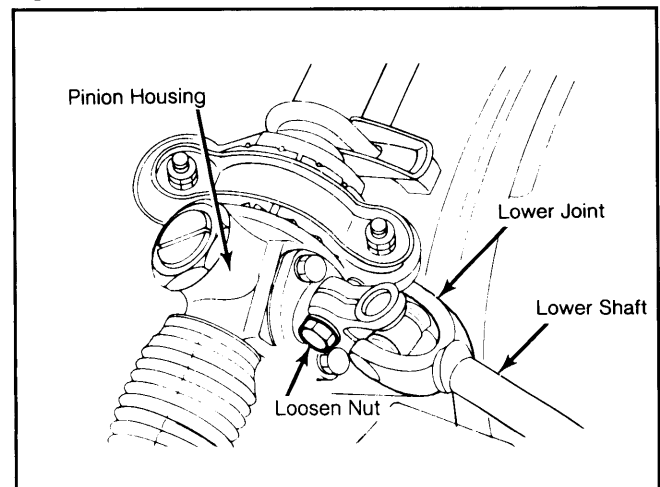
##### Installation

1) Fit steering column through dash panel. Install steering column onto stub shaft (power steering) or onto lower joint (manual steering).

2) 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).

3) Connect column and tighten bolts. After installation, ensure steering wheel rotates smoothly.

**Fig. 3: Manual Steering Lower Shaft and Pinion Gear**



Remove bolt retaining stub shaft to rubber coupling.

### OVERHAUL

Refer to Inspection in this article for description of components which may be replaced. If damage to the collapsible section is suspected, steering column replacement is recommended.

### TIGHTENING SPECIFICATIONS

Application	Ft. Lbs. (N.m)
Column Clamp Bolt .....	9-13 (12-18)
Coupling-to-Column Shaft	
Manual Steering .....	2-14 (16-19)
Power Steering .....	11-16 (15-22)
Lower Joint-to-Pinion Gear .....	29-36 (39-49)
Lower Joint-to-Rubber Coupling .....	17-20 (23-27)
Stub Shaft-to-Coupling .....	24-28 (33-38)
Steering Wheel Nut .....	29-36 (39-49)