

Steering Column Support

by Tom Endy

In the beginning of Model A production the steering column support was attached to the gas tank with a series of rivets. Over the years this proved to be not a good thing as the constant tugging on the steering wheel loosens the rivets and causes a fuel leak. In April 1931 the column support was changed to provide mounting to the dash rail instead of the gas tank.

The later dash rail mounted column support can be directly retro-fitted to all 30-31 cars as it will line up with existing bolt holes in the dash rail. However it does not line up to the dash rail holes of the 28-29 cars. In order to install the later column support on these early cars an adapter has to be fabricated.

The following photos of the mounting assembly installed in a 28-29 car were obtained from a posting on the Fordbarn forum a few years ago.



The adapter can be fabricated from either steel or aluminum. It should be one inch wide, seven inches long, and $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches thick. Four holes are drilled in the adapter. Use four $1\frac{1}{4}$ -20 countersunk bolts, one inch long, along with four nuts and lock washers.

Drill and mount the adapter to the dash rail as shown in the photo with two of the bolts. Mount the later column support to the steering column and mark the adapter where the mounting holes line up. Drill the other two holes in the adapter. Mount the column support to the adapter using the other two bolts.



For the 1930 and early 1931 cars the later column support will bolt right up to the existing bolts in the dash rail.

A reproduction later column support can be obtained from most suppliers. Bratton's has them.

Steering column support p/n 4860, \$23.00

Steering column lower clamp p/n 4840, \$11.50

Steering column support bolts p/n 4850, \$1.45

(2016 prices)

The existing tank mount can be left in place on the 28-29 cars as the $3\frac{3}{8}$ " adapter will position the steering column just enough so there is clearance all around and no pressure is put on the old mount.

On the 30-31 cars flat washer can be installed with the column mount to provide spacing around the existing tank mount.

Most people looking into the front seat of the car usually don't become aware there are two column mounts.

If the tank is removed from the car for repair a radiator shop can remove the old tank mount and weld up the rivet holes.