

## Victoria Steering Column Support

by Stan Johnson

Most Model A's know that sometime in 1931 Ford put a stronger mounting system on the upper part of the steering column. The new mount attached to the strong cross-brace that runs behind the dash rail and onto which the rear of the gas tank is mounted. By contrast, the old mount was riveted to the bottom of the gas tank and sometimes caused a leak. The new mount was both stronger and safer.

Ford also introduced the slant windshield design in 1931. The first car with this style was the Victoria, which actually began production in November of 1930. Even though it led the way with slant windshield and painted upper radiator shell, the Victoria did not have the new steering column brace when first introduced. It used the original gas tank mount, shown on the left. But the Victoria had a lower windshield so the driver sat lower, creating a need for the steering column to be lower than the standard gas tank mounting provided.



**Original tank mount**

A new part was created to move the steering column downward. This part is shown in the next photograph at the right. The spacer, bottom clamp and longer mounting bolts are shown at the left, while the normal mounting bracket and shorter bolts are at the right.



The spacer lowers the column 1 & 7/16" at the point where it connects at the gas tank. The spacer has no part number cast into it, only a "D" with an X inside and a number 4. The bottom half-clamp (Part #A-3519) seems to be the same for all applications.



**Normal bracket A-3520E      Longer A-3520F**

When the new mounting system was introduced for all Model A's, the Victoria also was provided with a new bracket that connected to the cross-brace behind the dash rail. However, the requirement for a lowered steering wheel remained, so a special longer bracket was made for the Victoria (Part # A-3520F *hexagon E3*). The normal bracket on the left (Part # A-3520E *hexagon P3*) and is 1 7/8" shorter at the point of connection than the Victoria bracket. The normal bracket is being reproduced (e.g., Bratton's part #4860-\$26.90), but the longer Victoria bracket can only be obtained from swap meets and individual sales, at a premium price. ©