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Supplemental Information & Instructions For MGB Rack & Pinion Steering Assembly

453-620 MGB 63-74½ RD to (c)360300, GT to (c)361000

Safety Warning

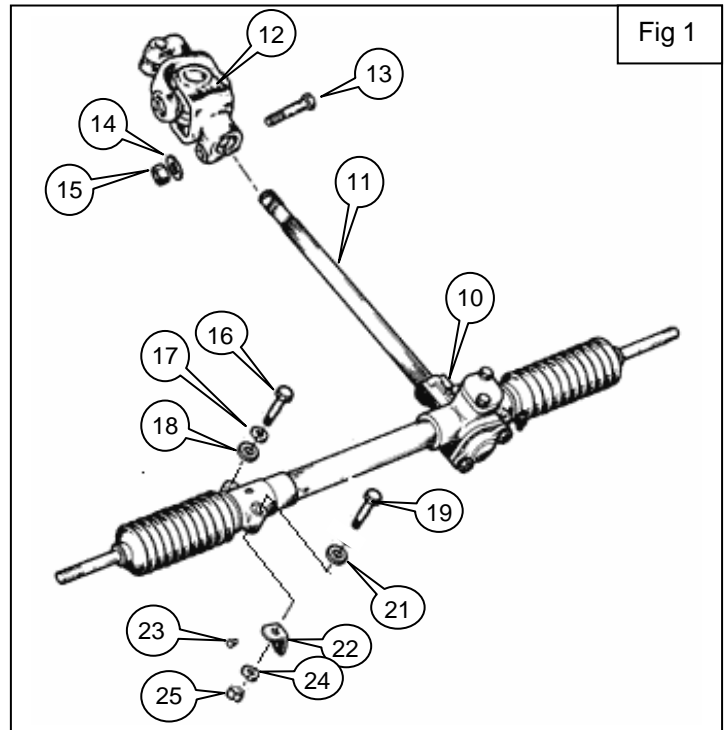
Proper installation of the MGB steering rack is a safety critical procedure. Improperly installed, the steering will be stiff, which may make it difficult to control the car. In some cases the loading on the steering shaft will be so great that it will fail. If this occurs while the vehicle is in motion, the result may be an accident with the potential for serious or fatal injury. If you have the slightest doubt about your ability to complete this procedure, you should have the installation done by a competent mechanic who understands the importance of following the procedure.

Background

The same rack and pinion was fitted to US spec MGBs from 1962 to 1974 ½. The rack changed when the MGB went from chrome to rubber bumpers. The steering column changed from a solid shaft to an energy absorbing column in 1967. The installation and alignment procedures are significantly different and are covered in separate sections to avoid confusion. Because the alignment is so critical, Moss has reproduced the factory alignment tools so that the factory procedure can be followed. We developed these instructions based on the original factory workshop manual, adding information and rearranging some of the material for clarity.

Parts Reference

Ref	Part#	Desc	
10	453-620	Rack & Pinion Assembly	1
11	-	Steering shaft	1
12	263-090	U-Joint Assembly	1
13	17H3839	Pinch bolt, U-joint	2
14	365-730	Lock washer, 5/16	2
15	310-140	Nut, 5/16 UNF	2
16	BH605161	BOLT 5/16 UNF X 2IN	2
17	365-720	Lock washer, 5/16, rear	2
18	365-720	Flat washer, 5/16	4
19	320-585	BOLT 5/16UNF X 2-1/4	2
21	365-720	Flat washer, 5/16	2
23	-	Rivet, shim to crossmember	2
22	263-130	Shim, rack adjusting	A/R
24	365-720	Flat washer, 5/16	2
25	310-290	Nut,nyloc, front, 5/16 unf	2



28 **Before You Begin**

29 *These instructions do not replace the factory workshop manual, which you will need to remove the*
30 *existing rack and pinion from the vehicle properly. The manual also contains information on the steering*
31 *column not contained in these instructions. If you do not have a workshop manual, get one.*

32 **Steering Shaft Alignment Instructions, MGB 1963-67 (without the**
33 **energy absorbing column)**

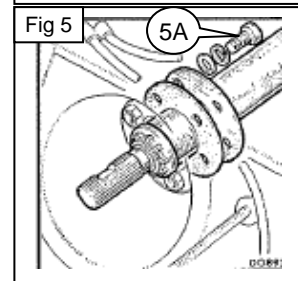
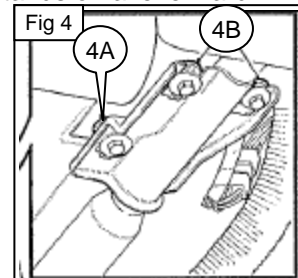
34 ***When assembling the steering-column or steering gearbox assembly to the car care must be***
35 ***taken to ensure that universal joint is free (no binding) before the column or steering rack***
36 ***securing bolts are tightened. For the universal joint to be completely unloaded the centre-line***
37 ***of the steering-column and the centre-line of the steering shaft must pass through the centre***
38 ***of the universal joint spider when the assembly is viewed from above and from the side.***
39 ***Failure to ensure complete freedom at the universal joint will load the steering pinion upper***
40 ***bearing and cause extreme wear and steering stiffness.***

- 41
- 42 1) Block the rear tires, and support the front of the car on a pair of jack stands on a level hard
 - 43 surface. Observe all normal shop safety procedures.
 - 44 2) Set the steering in the straight-ahead position and check that the turn signal cancellation stud at
 - 45 the top of the column is in the correct angular position when the serrations on the coupling and
 - 46 column are aligned.
 - 47 3) Loosen the steering column. Loosen the bolts retaining the steering-column upper and lower
 - 48 support clamp brackets.
 - 49 4) To obtain the proper alignment of the steering shaft, the steering-column support bracket and
 - 50 plate may be moved up and down and sideways and packing shims may be fitted between the
 - 51 steering rack mounting bosses and the brackets on the front cross member.
 - 52 5) Tighten the universal joint clamp bolts.
 - 53 6) With all column and rack securing bolts slack, position the universal joint and tighten the support
 - 54 bracket clamp bolts at the lower end of the column.
 - 55 7) Should there be a gap between the gearbox bosses and mounting brackets, remove the bolts,
 - 56 pack with shims as required, and replace the rack securing bolts.
 - 57 8) Tighten each rack securing bolt one full turn at a time while your assistant turns the steering
 - 58 wheel from lock to lock. Tighten each bolt one turn, then move to the next one as the steering
 - 59 wheel is being cycled from lock to lock. When the person turning the wheel feels resistance in the
 - 60 steering, stop tightening the bolts. Another shim is needed. Remove the bolt, insert another shim
 - 61 and continue the process. John Twist of University Motors, who suggested this technique, also
 - 62 suggests the use of 5/6" flat washers that have been slotted so you don't have to remove the bolt
 - 63 completely to insert a shim. We are grateful to John for his input.
 - 64 9) To ensure complete alignment again slacken and retighten the steering-column lower support
 - 65 bolt.
 - 66 10) Tighten the upper support bracket bolt.
- 67

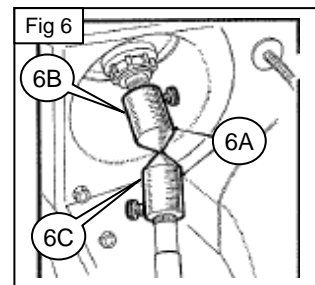
68 *To finish the installation of the rack, you will need to install the tie rod ends and finally, you will need to*
69 *have the front end aligned. For guidance on these procedures, please refer to your workshop manual.*

Steering Shaft Alignment Instructions, MGB 1967-74 ½ (with Energy Absorbing Column)

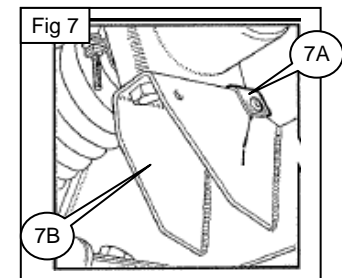
- 1) Block the rear tires, and support the front of the car on a pair of jack stands on a level hard surface. Observe all normal shop safety procedures.
- 2) Verify that there is at least one packing washer between each of the 2 top column fixing flanges and the body brackets. (4B)
- 3) Loosen the two top fixing bolts (4B) until the packing washers are just pinched. Remove the third bolt (4A) entirely.
- 4) Check that the column is free to move forwards, backwards and sideways.
- 5) Loosen the three toe-plate fixings bolts, leaving them hand tight. (Fig 5, 5A)
- 6) Check that the lower end of the column is free to move and position it centrally in the opening in the firewall.



- 7) Fit one of the point gauges of the 453-622 Alignment Tool (substitute for the OE tool 18G1140) on the lower end of the column (6B) Position it so that the retaining screw tightens onto the flat machined in the splines.
- 8) Fit the other point gauge of the 453-622 Alignment Tool to the steering shaft (6C). Position it so that the retaining screw tightens onto the radial groove machined in the splines.
- 9) Fit the rack assembly and tighten the rack mounting bolts.
- 10) Slacken the screw on the column point gauge (6B) and slide the gauge down until the points of both gauges are on the same plane but not overlapping.
- 11) The steering-column and rack assembly are correctly aligned when the gauges meet exactly at their points (6A).
- 12) Correct any horizontal misalignment by moving the end of the steering-column.
- 13) If any vertical misalignment exists between the gauge points, proceed as follows:



- a. Remove the rack mounting bolts.
- b. Add shims (7A) between the mounting brackets on the crossmember (7B) and the rack to correct the vertical misalignment. *You will generally find there is a stack of shims already riveted to your crossmember. You can bend them back out of the way or bend them forward so the shim is between the rack and the mounts on the crossmember. Additional shims are available from Moss as 263-130, or you may use 5/16 flat washers. If you slot the washers, they can be added without removing the mounting bolts.*
- c. Refit and tighten the rack mounting bolts.
- d. Recheck the alignment of the gauge points.
- e. If the alignment is still unsatisfactory, adjust the shim thickness.
- f. When correct alignment of the gauge points has been achieved, rivet the shims (7A) to the mounting bracket. *If there are shims already riveted to the bracket, it will be necessary to drill out the existing rivet first, and then rivet all the shims together.*



- 125 14) Remove the rack assembly.
- 126 15) Remove the point gauges from the steering shaft and steering column.
- 127 16) Check that the steering-column is in the straight ahead position, and fit the universal joint on to its
- 128 splines with the pinch-bolt hole aligned with the machined flat.
- 129 17) Check that the rack is in the straight-ahead position
- 130 18) Fit the rack assembly and fully tighten the rack mounting bolts.
- 131 19) Tighten the three toe-plate to steering-column securing bolts. (Fig 5)
- 132 a. Tighten the two steering-column upper fixing bolts (4B). Torque to 12-13 lbs-ft
- 133 b. Measure the gap between the column upper mounting flange and the body bracket at the
- 134 third bolt position (4A). Fit packing washers to the thickness of the gap, then fit and
- 135 tighten the bolt. Torque to 12-13 lbs-ft.
- 136 c. Fit the two universal joint pinch-bolts and tighten them. Torque to 20-22 lbs-ft.
- 137

138 *To finish the installation of the rack, you will need to install the tie rod ends and finally, you will need to*

139 *have the front end aligned. For guidance on these procedures, please refer to your workshop manual.*

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148 *Although we have spent considerable time and effort to ensure that these*

149 *instructions are clear and accurate, it is inevitable that there will be*

150 *corrections or improvements that need to be made. If you have a*

151 *suggestion for a correction or improvement to these instructions, please*

152 *contact our Technical Services Department by phone (805-681-3411) or by*

153 *email using the contact us form on our website.*

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176 Instruction Sheet 453-620_980-290 July 2006

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