

ADAPTING A 1977-82 T&T STEERING WHEEL TO A 1976 T&T COLUMN

The 1976 steering column is very similar to the 1977-82 steering columns (both the standard [non-adjustable] and the T&T versions). Therefore, you can adapt the 1977 -82 leather wrapped C3 steering wheel in place of the "Vega" steering wheel that came on the 1976 column. However, you will have to locate some of the attaching hardware for the steering wheel and telescope feature since the 1976 hardware was unique for that one model year and will not adapt. Also the early T&T columns telescoped 2.1 inches the later columns only 1.3 inches.

One thing you might notice if you adapt the later year GM steering wheel to your 1976 T&T column. If you telescope the steering wheel all the way rearward toward the driver, you will find a small gap appearing between the lower edge of the extension and the top edge of the steering column head. This is because the later extension is shorter than the original due to the 1.3 inch telescope requirement versus 2.1 inch. (Most Vette owners want more reach to the steering wheel not less. So I don't know any drivers that extend the telescoping shaft and wheel all the way rearward.)

The following paper gives an overview and describes all of the steering wheel, horn parts, telescope lock parts, etc for all of the C3 columns. It is available at the host websight or from the author. It is entitled:

Production C3 Steering Wheels and Horn Parts

For the most part, if you can purchase the steering wheel along with the hub, extension, screws, spacer, horn cap, upper contact, and telescoping lever, that is the best way to do it.

The following AIM sheets for the 1977-82 models versus the 1976 will help in understanding what parts that you will have to locate to adapt the late wheel to the 1976 T&T steering column. They are also available at the host websight.

Tilt & Telescoping 76 Steering Wheel and Horn Parts

Tilt & Telescoping 77-82 Steering Wheel and Horn Parts (Rev 08AU04)

You will be able to use the original 1976 lower contact assembly, spring, eyelet, and insulator. You will also be able to use the steering wheel nut, the nut retaining clip, shim, the star screw, and the two screws that secure the star screw.

Here is a list of parts along with the GM and the Zip Products part numbers that are needed. Parts are most likely available from other Vette suppliers as well:

Hub Asm GM #3949110 Zip (SC-413 Catalogue says to call)
Extension GM #458910
Steering Wheel Zip (X-260 Need to specify black, buckskin, blue, red, or gray)
Steering Wheel Screws (6) GM #9428089 Zip ZSC-351
Spacer GM #348325 Zip SC-394
Telescope Lever GM #459083 Zip SC-366
Upper Horn Contact GM3 3949103 Zip SC-45
Contact Screws (3) GM3 3949107 Zip SC-644
Horn Cap GM #459082 Zip SC-399
Emblem GM #458909 Zip SC-371
Retainer GM #3945459 Zip SC-370

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