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Limora Zentrallager
Industriepark Nord 21
D - 53567 Buchholz
Tel: +49 (0) 26 83 - 97 99 0
E-Mail: Limora@Limora.com
Internet: www.Limora.com

Fitting Instructions: MGA Rack & Pinion Assembly

Part Numbers:
21748, 489836, 21004, 291557, 22535 and 22234

About This Rack

When you go install your new steering rack into your MGA you will have to approach it from one of two ways. As your shop manual points out, if your car is apart and the frame extenders are removed, this is almost a drop in installation. However, installing a new steering rack into a running MGA calls for removal of the pinion shaft from the steering rack. Because the new racks differ from the original racks slightly in how they are put together, we have prepared these instructions on how to remove the pinion shaft.

Instructions

Locate the 17mm cap (1a in figure 2) at the bottom end of the pinion shaft. Undo the counter (Lock) nut (1b in figure 2). Remove the cap using a 17mm socket (1c in figure 3) or open end wrench.

Undo the lock nut on the load adjuster nut.

Next, you will need to loosen the load adjuster nut (1d in figure 4) on the top of the steering rack housing. This requires a 12mm Allen wrench.

Loosen the nut. Note: You do not have to remove this nut. You only need to loosen it enough to release the tension being applied to the pinion shaft.

This may require a number of turns to enable the pinion to pass through. Make a note of how many turns are required as you will need to re-install the load adjuster to its original position.



fig 2



fig 3

Removing The Pinion Shaft

Grab the upper end of the pinion shaft and twist it counter-clockwise. This will walk it right out of the rack. Slide it all the way out of the rack housing. The lock nut and bearing will come out with it.

Cover the greased end of the pinion shaft with a large plastic bag or a clean cloth and set it aside.

Cover the openings in the rack housing with a clean cloth, and secure the covering with tape. We need to be sure that no debris or dirt finds its way into the rack as we install it in the car.

Install the rack following the procedure in the factory workshop manual.

Re-installing The Pinion Shaft

Once the rack is installed, re-install the pinion shaft. Re-assembly is simply the reverse of the steps taken during disassembly.

When you re-install the 12mm Allen pre-load adjuster nut (1d in figure 4), tighten the nut until it reaches its original position. Check the ease at which you can turn the steering wheel after the new rack is installed. This is determined by how much you tighten this nut; if the rack seems too tight, you can back off the pre-load adjuster. Re-fit and tighten the lock nut.

Note

We recommend the use of a thread locker on all threads during reassembly.



fig 3