

Step By Step: Steering Box Adjustment

So you've been driving your T34 for some time now and you've noticed that the steering wheel is a bit sloppy, loose, and it doesn't have that "new car" feel. But what can you do about it that doesn't involve a \$500 repair shop bill? While you've got the fuel tank out (you were gonna do that anyway, right?) it's a great time to make a simple adjustment to your steering box.



The steering box is that square box that's at the end of your steering column with four bolts holding it down and two nuts on top. It's probably really dirty from years of crud building up (above). The 15mm nut that's at the very center of the steering box is the adjustment screw. If you look closely you'll see a slotted tip held down by that 15mm nut. Remove the nut and clean the grime out of the area with degreaser & a wire brush first. Once it's clean (below) you'll be able to adjust the slotted tip (adjusting screw) CLOCKWISE to tighten the steering box & reduce the slack in your steering wheel.



On my T34 there was about a 3-inch play in the steering wheel before I felt resistance. I knew it was not set correctly because when driving it felt loose at speed on the freeway. After turning the adjusting screw all the way clockwise until it stopped there was only a 1-inch play, which is what the Workshop Manual says is correct. If you still have too much play then your steering box likely needs to be replaced (ie big repair bill). Once the fuel tank is removed this job is only a 5 minute job. Tighten the nut back down and you're done. Fast & easy ...

While you're in there, take a few minutes to remove the ground wire going from the steering box to the front beam. Clean the connections well and then install the wire again. This should help to keep a good ground.

And check your brake lines, tie rod ends, and anything else that's in there for signs of wear & corrosion.

www.PureT34.org