

Installing A New Steering Wheel

By Todd Z

This project will help you to install a new steering wheel. It is relatively simple and requires 1 special tool. This was done on my 2003 Sport Trac.

TOOLS : 1 small flat tip screw driver
 1 8 mm socket with ratchet OR 8 mm nut driver
 1 Steering wheel puller kit
 1 T-50 Socket with ratchet and extension

PARTS : 1 New steering wheel

- 1) Disconnect the batteries **Negative** terminal using the 8 mm wrench or ratchet and place it away from the battery so it does not touch the terminal. Wait 15 minutes before continuing to Step 2 and make sure all power is drained by turning on the headlights and other accessories.



- 2) Look on each side of the steering wheel. There are 2 round plastic covers. They are removed simply by using the small flat screw driver. Place it in the seam and twist and pull. Do this for both of them.



- 3) Now using the 8 mm again, remove the two bolts (one on each side) holding in the horn and air bag. You will see that mine are different type of screw. This is because I have the Anti-Theft air bag kit installed in my ST.



- 4) Now SLOWLY pull the center toward you, pulling the TOP more than the bottom. You're looking for the connector to the air bag. It is on top.



- 5) Unclip that connector.



6) Remove the air bag and place in a safe place.



7) Find the wire connector that is attached to the clock spring.



8) It may be tight. ONLY REMOVE the black wire plug. DO NOT REMOVE the yellow wire!!! BE careful not to damage the wiring. !!!!



9) Using the T-50 loosen the center bolt about 5-6 turns. DO NOT take it all the way out.

9) Using the steering wheel puller place the claws on the spots that say PULL on the wheel and the center of the puller on the bolt. Use the puller.



10) YOU should get a loud POP and the puller may fall off once the wheel comes free. THIS is why the bolt was left on so the wheel does not fly off. IN NO WAY SHAPE OR FORM USE A HAMMER. YOU WILL DAMAGE THE CLOCK SPRING AND DO SEVERE DAMAGE TO THE AIR BAG AND STEERING SYSTEM.

11) Remove the center bolt and the wheel should slide off. Make sure you slide the yellow wire through the wheel as not to damage it.

12) With the wheel off NOTE that there is a space in the teeth inside the wheel. These teeth must go back on the matching slot on the steering shaft. This will keep the wheel properly aligned.



13) Install the new wheel sliding the slots on correctly and making sure the yellow wire is in the correct spot.

14) Install the center bolt making sure it is good and tight.

15) Re-connect the black wire to the clock spring.

16) Place the air bag center back in and connect the grey air bag power clip.



17) Now re-install the bolts holding the air bag in. DON'T WORRY if you see the bag moving while you tighten the bolts. THIS IS NORMAL !!!

18) Place the round covers back on the wheel.

19) PUSH on the horn button and make sure it moves nicely and does not stick or feel weird. If it does, remove the screws and re-check everything.

20) Once you are ok with the screws, re-connect the NEG battery terminal.

21) Test the horn. Make sure it honks and stops when you let go.

22) Start the truck !!!!

23) Test the wheel by turning the wheel to the left and right making everything feels smooth.

24) You're done !!!!!

NOTE: This is just a guideline and is not to be taken as substitute for having a professional work on your truck. If you're not comfortable working on the Air Bags DO NOT do this. Have a qualified Tech work on the vehicle.

The author is in no way liable if something goes wrong while you follow these instructions. You're using them at your own risk. Thank you !!!