

Steering wheel alignment

There does not seem to be a standard or preferred way of refitting a steering wheel to get it aligned with the road wheels. I say this, because I have travelled in a few Austin Sevens and other vintage cars, where the Steering Wheel spokes do not line up vertically. Of course, some might say, does it matter anyway as there is always 'play' in the steering to a greater or lesser degree!

I think it is good if you can get it as near correct as possible and that is why I thought that I would share my humble attempt with you. At the moment, I have not yet fitted tyres, so the wheel rims are solid enough to give good guidance. As in the picture, my Opal is still on axle stands so this makes it much easier. Using a piece of 1"x 5" prepared timber that is nice and straight and long enough to extend beyond the rear and front wheel, I 'G' clamped it to the rims and repeated this on the nearside. My Opal steering wheel has the upright spoke at twelve o'clock and it was relatively easy to locate the splines in the desired position.



I am sure that there must be alternative ways, but I was pleased with the result of this method.

Mike Ward.