

How To Straighten Out Dodge Truck Steering

“Chrysler has been screwing up steering since the first Dodge Ram,” says Jeff Grantmeyer at Borgeson, manufacturer of replacement steering components. “They have a great power train, but the rest of the vehicle is lacking in several areas. One that always needs addressing is steering.”

One of the problems with Dodge steering is a coupler that shows signs of wear in as little as 4,000 miles, depending on use. This creates play in the steering. The problem is even more noticeable if the truck is used for plowing, towing or with oversized tires.

Borgeson claims their steering shaft assembly with precision bearing U-joints and a telescopic shaft will outperform OEM parts. It is priced from \$198 to \$320, depending on model.

The company also offers heavy duty power steering boxes for 2003 to 2008 Dodge Ram trucks. The Borgeson Dodge Box has the largest piston diameter for the most available

power assist, quicker ratio for less turns lock-to-lock, and a modern variable valve that provides stable driving and easier parking and maneuvering. The Dodge Box is priced at \$695.

The third steering component for Dodge trucks offered by Borgeson is the pump. Their Hi-Flow power steering pump is a direct replacement for pumps on the 1994 to 2002 Dodge Ram 2500 and 3500 trucks with the Cummins Turbo Diesel motor. The pump has output pressure/flow calibrated to 1450 to 1550 psi and 3.5 gpm. It also features a reservoir with 2 returns to support Hydro-Boost or Vacuum brake applications. The pump is priced at \$195. OEM style power steering lines are also available.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Borgeson, 9 Krieger Dr., Travelers Rest, S.C. 29690 (ph 860 482-8283; sales@borgeson.com; www.borgeson.com).



Borgeson offers a steering shaft assembly with precision bearing U-joints and a telescopic shaft.



The company also offers heavy-duty power steering boxes for some Ram pickup models, as well as a Hi-Flow power steering pump.



Easy Ways To Patch Control Cables

Roger Podoll has a quick fix for broken throttle or choke cables. If the outer sleeve is broken or too short, splice it with a second piece and slide a new wire through the two. He uses a variety of electrical connectors to secure one cable sleeve to another.

“You can go to any big box store like Menards or Lowes and look for #8 or #10 inline union lugs,” says Podoll. “Just slide in the cables and tighten down the set screws. Single set screw inline lugs with a predrilled tab are also handy for securing a cable out of the way.”

Podoll suggests drilling a second 3/16-in. hole in the lug at a 90-degree angle to the first. This leaves the predrilled hole in the tab for attaching to another surface.

Another quick fix uses split-bolt and lug ground wire clamps. “The holes are big enough for the choke cables and a cotter pin or nail,” explains Podoll. “When you tighten down the lug, the cotter pin or nail locks both

clamps together.”

Another even quicker fix is to use shrink-wrap tubing. “Put multiple layers on and then use a thicker wrap over the top,” says Podoll. “The thick wraps have a sticky substance on them. Shrink them down, and they will hold.”

Shrink-wrap tubing can also rescue cable that has been sitting unused and seems locked in place. Podoll uses the tubing to force oil over the wire and into the cable.

“Put one end of the tubing over the tip of the oil can and the other end over the cable,” says Podoll. “Shrink them down and you have a tight connection between the two. You also can use it to soak a bolt and nut with penetrating oil. Shrink the tubing over the nut or bolt and leave the other end as a stem. Fill the stem with penetrating oil and let it sit over night.”

Shrink-wrap tubing also works great to keep dirt out of spliced cables or as an insulator to keep them away from electrical



To repair the outer sleeve of a broken control cable you can use a variety of electrical connectors to secure one cable sleeve to another, says Roger Podoll. They include an inline union (above left) and a single set screw inline lug (above). Another quick fix uses ground wire clamps.

wires. Simply slide them on the 2 cable ends before securing them with lugs or other connectors.

Keeping choke cables from going bad in the first place can be as simple as making sure an engine has a good ground.

“If you ever feel a choke or throttle cable is warm, take the ground apart on the frame

and shine it up, perhaps add a couple of star washers or add another ground,” says Podoll. “Without a good ground, the electricity can try to fuse the inner cable to the outer sheath.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roger Podoll, W8772 State Rd. 21, Wautoma, Wis. 54982 (ph 920 295-2357).

Anyone with a belt-driven battery charger from PowerPak can make it mobile by bolting on the company's wheel kit and handle.



Wheel Kit Mobilizes Battery Charger

If you have a belt-drive battery charger from Power Pak, you can make it mobile with their wheel kit option. If not, Robert Troyer will be glad to sell you both charger and kit.

“It only takes 4 bolts to attach the wheel kit and handle to one of our chargers,” says Power Pak's Troyer.

Troyer sells 6, 8 or 12-volt, manually regulated battery chargers as well as a 12-volt automatically regulated charger. The chargers are available with a 4 hp. Honda engine priced at \$495 or a 2.4 hp. Brilliant engine priced at \$419. Chargers without motors are also available. Shipping is extra.

“The wheel kit is only \$65 with free shipping and turns a stationary battery charger into a mobile one,” says Troyer. “I've been selling the kits for 20 years and have received very good feedback on them.”

The kits include 12-in. tires and an angle iron frame. The handle is a round steel tube. Kits and battery chargers are available direct from Power Pak or from local dealers.

“We are always looking for more dealers,” says Troyer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Power Pak, 33720 CR 10, Fresno, Ohio 43824 (ph 330 897-2805).



Bosch drill bit sharpener consists of a grinding wheel powered by a drill (left). Faithfull's flexible driveshaft extends the reach of a power drill.



Do You Have These In Your Toolbox?

The 43-in. long Faithfull flexible driveshaft extends the reach of a power drill. One end fits into the drill's chuck and the other end has a keyless chuck to slip in a drill bit, wire brush, grinding wheel, etc. With reinforced ends and an anti-kink design, the shaft is built to last. The Faithfull shaft sells for about \$34 at Sears, Amazon and online stores.

To sharpen drill bits, the Bosch drill bit sharpener (\$100 at Amazon.com) can pay for itself if you have a toolbox full of blunt bits. The Bosch sharpener's grinding wheel is powered by a drill. Just push the bit into the right size hole and twist it. That's it.

Sometimes power tools aren't enough for a job like loosening a seized bolt, so you just have to cut your losses. Teng Tools nut



Teng Tools nut splitters can be used with a ratchet or power tool to break nuts apart.

splitters break nuts apart and can be used with a ratchet or power tool. We found a two-piece set on Amazon for \$28. The pro-grade tool comes with a lifetime guarantee.