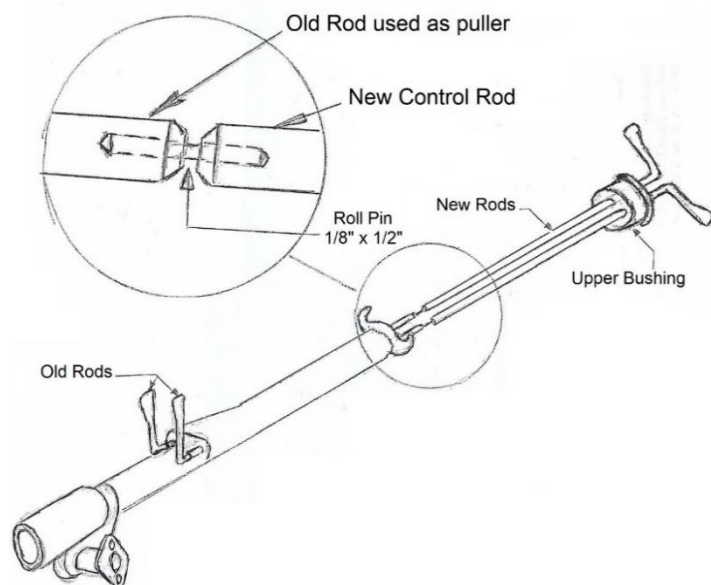


## Control Rod Installation

I have worked on Model A's for about 50 years, and this idea worked about as slick as anything I've tried. I recently installed a new set of spark and gas rods in a '28 Model A steering column, and this is the procedure I used.

I found an old pair of '30-'31 spark and gas rods lying around to use as pullers. Drill a 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch hole 1/4 inch deep in the end of each rod. Drill matching holes in the end of the new rods also. Using fine sandpaper or emery cloth, make sure the old rods are nice and clean and will slide into the holes in the bottom end of the steering column freely.

Start the installation by removing the upper bushing. Drive a 1/8" x 1/2" roll pin into each old rod about a quarter of an inch deep. Insert each rod into the holes at the lower end of the housing, pushing them in until they are in as far as they will go. Now insert the new rods into the upper bushing and tap the two rods onto the roll pins sticking out of the steering column at the steering wheel end of housing. Finally using the handles on the old rods rotate both at the same time back and forth while pulling the rods down through the column.



This worked really well aligning both rods through the correct holes during installation. I put my steering column in a vise in the horizontal position and used wood blocks to support the new rods so their entire weight wasn't hanging on the roll pins. The roll pin, also known as a split pin a spring pin or tension pin, is available at your local hardware store.

If you use old '28-'29 control rods, they are an inch shorter and won't stick out of the '30-'31 column. Instead of using old rods, you could use a 1/4" diameter mild steel rod, 31 inches long plus enough to bend over as the handle. The control rods are 5/16" diameter, so a 1/4" puller will allow for the pin holes to be drilled slightly off center and still guide the new rods in place with ease.

I sincerely hope it is helpful to others in the hobby.

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