

Control arm - steel or aluminium

Posted by sagoston - 19 Oct 2009 02:30

I need to replace a broken aluminium control arm (and more) so I have a choice of either sticking with the aluminium arms or switching to steel.

Cost of steel is obviously less but are there any other differences to consider? What are the pros and cons of using steel or aluminium?

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Re:Control arm - steel or aluminium

Posted by Sterling Doc - 20 Oct 2009 12:45

Found this online. <http://www.axux70.dsl.pipex.com/944t/arms.htm>

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Re:Control arm - steel or aluminium

Posted by sagoston - 20 Oct 2009 16:56

I do have a Tarret bar. It's been set to full soft but maybe that's still too much for this part?

It seems like it would be a good idea to allow reinforcing of these early aluminium arms just from a safety perspective. It would be more cost effective than changing to steel arms...

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Re:Control arm - steel or aluminium

Posted by sagoston - 21 Oct 2009 10:52

It turns out the Tarret bar can currently only be used with the aluminium control arms. Tim C. mentioned something about being able to adapt the drop links to the steel arms with a new part but this part is not currently in production. So the bad news is that there is no Tarret part for the steel arms. But the good news is that Ira from Tarret was kind enough to share the drawing for the part and I should be able to create a prototype to test out on my car. I'll follow up when I know how that works out. Quite an adventure...

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Re:Control arm - steel or aluminium

Posted by cbuzzetti - 21 Oct 2009 11:37

I ordered steel arms, bushings, clamp and ball joints from Gabe at SGS Performance today (805-540-3300). Yes this is a plug for one of my sponsors.

I ordered a set of 3 so I will have a complete spare (L and R are the same).

Should have them tomorrow so I will get a chance to check them out this weekend at Infineon. The forward bushing is rubber/steel and will be softer than the Delrin I was using in my Alu arms.

I will let you know if I can feel any difference.

Steve you know if you will be at Infineon this weekend?

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Re:Control arm - steel or aluminium

Posted by sagoston - 21 Oct 2009 23:29

Charlie, I tried to get it together for this weekend but it's just not going to happen. At this point, I'll be content with getting all put together for Nov/Dec for one or two more events.

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