

## Wire Styled Wheelcover Update

(Applies optionally to all other '65-'66 models)

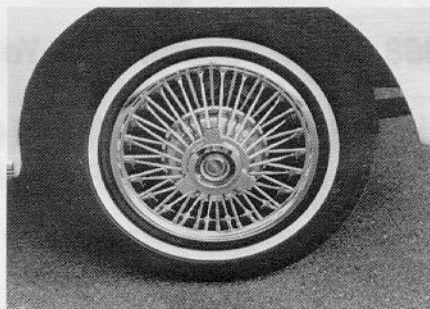
by Rick Mitchell

Every Sprint 200 Mustang was factory equipped with blue centered, small spinner wirewheel covers. Today, few Sprints survive still retaining those wire covers. A replacement set at your local Ford dealer will cost you in excess of \$400! But take heart. Here are a few suggestions to enable you to re-equip your Sprint with the correct wheelcovers for about half the cost.

The least costly approach is to initially purchase a new reproduction set of spinners and then build up a set of four good used wirewheel covers.

Most Mustang parts vendors sell a new set of four reproduction blue centered spinners for about \$90 to \$100, which includes attaching hardware. These are beautifully chromed new spinners with new plastic blue inserts. They are extremely well crafted and look excellent.

The next step is to scour used Mustang parts vendors and flea markets to slowly build up a set of four good to excellent wirewheel covers. Keep in



mind Ford used this same cover during several Mustang years but with different center attaching hubs. These center hubs are easily removed and are interchangeable. The price per wheelcover will vary from \$20 to \$40, depending upon condition. Try to trade off the value of a cover with a bad original spinner or some minor scarring on the outer rim. Watch out for bent rims and always insist on placing a used rim on a flat surface to

check for warps. If the used cover rocks at all, don't buy it! If it lays flat, it's not bent and will later attach properly to your wheels.

When you have located four show worthy examples, remove and discard the old centers. Give the covers a thorough cleaning with light steel wool soap pads. Remove any small bits of road tar from the inside areas using Q-tips and tar remover. Then finish the cleanup with spray wirewheel cleaner or chrome polish. Finally, carefully install the repro spinners with a socket set. *Remember* not to over-tighten and thereby damage the blue plastic inserts. Now the set is ready to be added to your Sprint 200 Mustang.

The beauty of this project is that for about \$200, the value, appearance, and accuracy of detailing on your Sprint are now all immediately improved by adding your "new old set" of wirewheel covers. And they really make your Sprint stand out in a crowd!

MT



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