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## Hi Fred:

According to all of the literature that I have found to date, '65 & '66 factory GT's were equipped with either HCC-AX (manual steering) or HCC-AW (power steering) boxes. Is there any inherent difference between the two boxes which would prohibit conversion to manual steering while still using a HCC-AW steering box?

Also, what is the difference between these factory GT steering boxes and a standard box such as an HCC-AT found on non-GT's?

Thanks for your help.  
Brad Cook

Brad,

*The HCC-AX steering box is a 16:1, 4 turn power steering box.*

*The HCC-AW steering box is a 16:1, 4-turn manual steering box (used in the GT option)*

*These steering boxes are exactly the same perfectly fine for the power steering conversion.*

*The HCC-AT steering box is 19:1 5 turn manual steering and can also be used with power steering but makes the steering too loose or easy to steer.*

Fred

## Hi Fred,

I read your column "Ask Fred" every month. I have to say, you really know your Mustangs.

My question (problem) is: I have a 1967 289 Mustang. It had an automatic transmission until I installed a 4-speed top loader in it. The speedometer does not work now and my mileage is turning backward. If I keep going, I will have the lowest mileage Mustang, ever. Ha! Ha!

The hole in transmission is on the opposite side of tailshaft. The 4-speed transmission was supposed to have come out of a '67 Mustang. It's a close ratio.

What do I have to do to remedy this, get another tailshaft with the speedometer hole on the driver's side like the C-4 was or what?

My son is going to be driving this car I don't want any excuses about him speeding. Any help would be appreciated.

I am restoring a 1970 MACH 1 428 Super Cobra Jet R-code now.  
Thanks very much  
Oscar

Dear Oscar,

*The original speedometer cable with the C4 was approximately 66-inches long and the 4-speed cable is 77-*

*inches long because it needs to go to the opposite side of the transmission.*

*Additionally, the teeth on the driven gear are cut in the opposite direction. Therefore, the speedometer will run in reverse. Not too practical!*

*You will need to provide tire size and rear axle ratio in order to get the correct gear.*

Fred

## Fred,

A friend and I are working on the engine and engine compartment of a 1967 Mustang.

While stripping the paint on the engine compartment, I noticed that the paint is the same color as the car underneath the layers of black paint. I know it is usually personal preference when it comes to color choice but, when these cars were manufactured, what color

was the engine compartment? Was it painted the same color as the rest of the car or was it painted a different color?

Thank you for your help.  
Sincerely,  
Nick Garcia

PS. We decided to keep the six cylinder and do an overhaul on it. Thanks for your input!

Dear Nick,

*The engine compartment was originally painted semi-gloss black. We have occasionally seen body color under the black, but black was always the final color.*

Fred

## Dear Fred,

I really need your help.

I purchased a used Ford toploader 4 speed and installed it in a 1965 Mustang. The Mustang has a 289 with a Curry 9-inch with 4.11:1 posi-traction and 15-inch wheels.

My questions are about the speedometer cable.

1. What length should the cable be?
2. How many teeth should the driven gear have?

The tag number is HEH-P

Thank you,  
J. Vann

Dear J,

*The correct length cable for the 4-speed application is 64 15/16-inch Ford part number C50Z-17260-A.*

*The C-4 cable is 58 13/16-inch and the 3 speed is 48 11/16-inch and would not be long enough to reach hole in the tailshaft which is on the right-hand side of the 4 speed.*

*According to the Ford Master Parts catalog, with the 4.11:1 ratio rear axle and 15-inch wheels, I would suggest starting with a 19-tooth driven gear. The size of the tire you are using may require a change in tooth count. One tooth equates to approximately 8 MPH.*

*The HEH-P tag number indicates that the transmission is originally from a 1965 Mustang built between August 20, 1964, and December 30, 1964.*

Fred

## SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO:

Ask Fred

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