



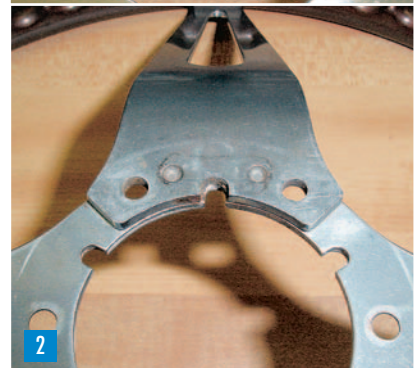
READER'S QUESTION: I've been looking for a new steering wheel to replace the old, cracked one on my '65, and found one on eBay recently, advertised for '63-'67 Corvettes. I won the auction, and received the wheel the following week, very carefully packed. It looks great, but when I went to install it, it wouldn't fit flat on my steering wheel hub. It has an extra thickness at the hub for the bottom spoke. Aren't '63-'67 Corvette steering wheels all the same in this area?

RESPONSE: No, they're not – the pattern for the six attaching screws is the same, but the '63-'66 steering wheels were a flat, one-piece stamping at the center and the attaching surface on the hub is also flat. The steering wheel design changed in 1967 such that the lower spoke became a separate part, which lapped underneath the center portion of the wheel and was spot-welded in place. A corresponding recess was cast into the new '67 hub to accommodate the added thickness of the wheel in that area.

As a result, the flat-center '63-'66-type steering wheel will fit on either the '63-'66 hub or the '67 hub, but the double-thickness '67 wheel won't fit on the flat '63-'66 hubs. When the steering wheel vendors ship an early-style, flat-center wheel that will be used on a '67, they include a matching separate stainless steel segment to go under the lower spoke that fills the recess in the '67 hub so there's no "gap" visible between the spoke and the hub.

In your situation, you have two options – return the wheel to the seller and get the correct flat-center '63-'66 wheel that will fit your hub, or have your hub machined to add the required recess to accommodate the lower spoke. A '67 hub with the recess won't work with your steering column – the steering column, canceling cam and turn signal switch were a new design for '67.

Be an educated buyer, and be very cautious when buying items on eBay, or anywhere else, for that matter. Many sellers aren't familiar with minor nuances and year-to-year differences in part applications (or simply misrepresent them to "move the merchandise"). Know exactly what you're looking for, ask questions, and ask for more detailed photos before you bid so you know whether or not the item is indeed as advertised in the heading. ■



1. The "flat" one-piece steering wheel center, as used on 1963-1966 Corvettes, with a matching "flat" attaching surface on the hub. These will also mount on a 1967 hub, with a separate spacer piece that inserts in the cast recess.

2. The two-piece welded 1967 steering wheel center, which has a matching recess cast into the hub for the added thickness. These will not mount on a 1963-1966 hub.