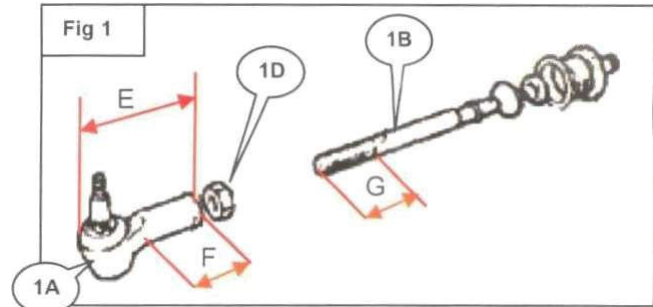


## Supplemental Information & Instructions for 263-288 Tie Rod End, Pair MGA, and Sprite-Midget to 1974

### Background

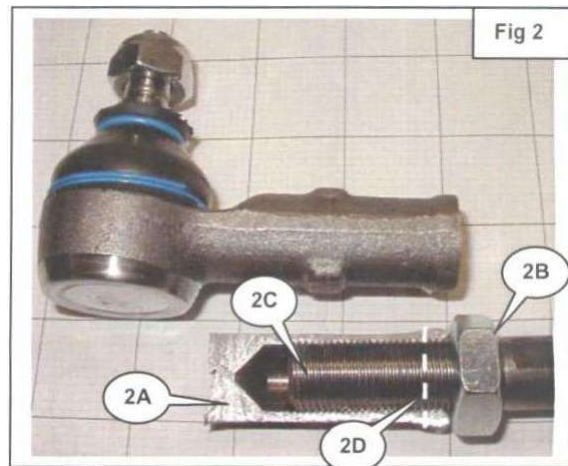
To align the front end, the tie rod end (1A) and jam nut (1D) are threaded onto the tie rod (1B). Normally there are enough threads on the tie rod (G) to allow the tie rod end in far enough to align the car.

At least some of the original tie rod ends (1A) For both the MGA and Sprites had an overall length of 3 3/8" (3.375"). (See Fig 1, Dimension E). The tie rod ends available for the MGA/Sprite today are slightly longer overall at 3 5/8" (3.635").



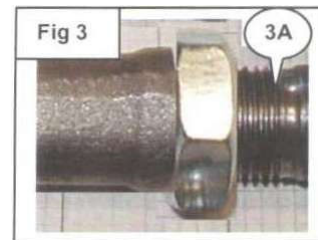
### The Problem

On *some* MGAs the additional length creates a problem. In Figure 2, the tie rod end (2A) has been threaded onto the tie rod (2C) to the point where the jam nut (2B) has run out of threads. This is a problem if you run out of threads before the wheels are aligned properly. This is not strictly a new problem. We have talked to a couple of shops that swapped original steering racks from one MGA to another and either the tie rod ends or the tie rod had to be shortened in order to align the front end. Not all tie rod ends, steering racks and tie rods fitted to MGAs are the same.



### How Do I Tell If I Have A Problem?

Before you replace the tie rod ends on your car, compare them to the new ones. If the new tie rod ends are "longer" overall, check and see if there is at least 1/4" of threads left behind the jam nut (3A) on both sides. If you don't have at least 1/4" on both sides, you may need to modify the tie rod ends.

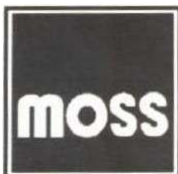


### What Do I Need To Do?

Of the possible solutions, the easiest would be to cut 1/4" off the tie rod end (2D) with a hack saw. The cut ends need to be even; it can be dressed up with a file to smooth out the surface that the nut (2B) will contact.

### Why Not Just Buy The Right Tie Rod Ends?

We tried. We have obtained sample tie rod ends from every company we know that makes/sells tie rod ends for the MGA. They are all about the same size. The forgings are used to make tie rod ends for several applications, and the forgings being used today are longer than the forgings used by some manufacturers in the past.



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