

# Bulletin ServiceLink<sup>SM</sup>



SERVICE TIPS FOR THE PROFESSIONAL TECHNICIAN

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## SERVICE AND REPAIR OF 1986-96 TAURUS/SABLE FRONT STRUT ROD MOUNT

The front strut rod connecting point at the crossmember, on these vehicles, can deteriorate and allow excessive movement of the strut rod resulting in undesirable wheel movement. This movement of the rod (A) is magnified at the tire (B) and can cause sufficient alignment angle change to create a pulling problem during brake operation, figure 1. There can also be noise generated as the rod moves within the crossmember. This noise is usually a popping sound.

The wear probably is occurring in the strut rod bushing mounting sleeve. This sleeve is a stamped metal insert. As the insert corrodes it allows the rod and bushing to move within the crossmember, figure 2. This usually can be determined by careful visual examination of the crossmember at the bushing contact point.

Excessive movement of the strut rod will polish the frame area adjacent to the bushing. Also, as the stamped metal insert corrodes it can create a gap between the bushing and crossmember. This gap will usually allow you to see the condition of a portion of the insert without further disassembly.

To perform a more thorough inspection, disconnect and remove the strut rod from the lower control arm and crossmember. The condition of the mounting sleeve pilot hole must also be determined before continuing with the installation. If the pilot hole is excessively worn, another method of repair must be used.

