



ACCELERATOR RINGS AND COLUMN MOUNTED PUSH BRAKES

Adaptation Guide No 5

1) ELECTRONIC ACCELERATOR RING & COLUMN MOUNTED PUSH BRAKE



Electronic accelerator ring

Column mounted push brake

2) MECHANICAL ACCELERATOR RING & COLUMN MOUNTED PUSH BRAKE

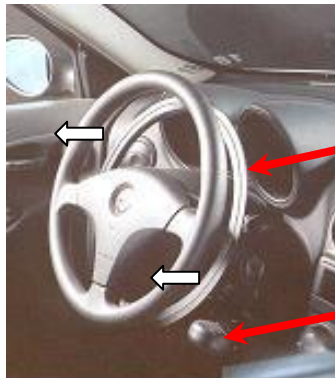


Mechanical accelerator ring

Column mounted push brake lever

Link between accelerator ring and cable to accelerator pedal

3) ELECTRONIC UNDER RING ACCELERATOR & COLUMN MOUNTED PUSH BRAKE



Electronic under ring accelerator

Column mounted push brake

These three types of accelerator rings and column mounted push brakes are a range of hand controls that are available when a person is unable to use their feet to operate the standard pedals.

The **electronic** and **mechanical accelerators rings** are fitted on **top of the steering wheel** and are operated by **pushing down** towards the steering wheel using either the thumbs or possibly the area of the palm below the thumbs.

The **electronic under ring accelerator** is fitted **under the steering wheel** and is operated by **pulling (or squeezing)** the ring towards the steering wheel using the fingers.

The **column mounted brake lever** is generally positioned to the right and behind the steering wheel and is operated by **pushing it away** towards the pedals. There are mechanical connections/rods from the brake lever to the brake pedal.

Points to Consider

- **All** three accelerator rings enable **both hands** to be used to operate the accelerator and/or steering. However, good hand function is required and people with impaired co-ordination may have some difficulty operating these systems.
- With **all** accelerator rings, check that the rod attached to the pedal from the brake lever is not obtrusive. Ensure that there is enough room for a person's legs without them knocking against the rod and that a driver using the normal controls can do so safely.
- The **electronic accelerator ring** requires lighter pressure and is more sensitive to operate than some of the other types of hand control.
- The **electronic accelerator ring** can be turned off, so there is no danger of activating the accelerator ring if another person is steering in the standard way. However, the **mechanical accelerator ring** cannot be turned off so there is a danger that the ring could be activated accidentally.
- The installation of the mechanical brake lever will require the steering wheel or steering column to be in a fixed position. Any adjustability to the steering wheel or column will be lost.

- The **mechanical accelerator ring** has a bracket fitted outside the steering wheel. This may impede hand movement when turning the steering wheel.
- Because of the positioning of the **under ring accelerator**, the indicator/wiper stalks may have to be moved further back to create enough space for operation.
- The **electronic and mechanical accelerator rings** can be fitted to the majority of vehicles, but there is a more limited range of vehicles to which the **under ring accelerator** may be fitted.
- The fitting of any of the **three types of accelerator ring** should not affect the operation of the pedals if another person wishes to drive the vehicle in the standard way. However, when a person is using any of the accelerator rings, a pedal guard is recommended to prevent accidental operation of the pedals or the feet slipping underneath the accelerator and brake pedals. These can be easily removed when the car is driven with standard foot controls.
- To determine whether any of the accelerator rings are suitable for your particular needs, one of the Forum of Mobility Centres may be able to offer you an assessment using these adaptations. Details of these centres may be obtained by telephone 0800 559 3636, email: enquiries@mobility-centres.org.uk or website www.mobility-centres.org.uk

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