

> LVVTA's Component Testing

IN response to the ever-increasing number of unsafe aftermarket components hitting the market, LVVTA's efforts to help the hobby has moved to the next level through the development of a purpose-built cyclic test rig. The rig was configured to replicate light driving forces on an aftermarket tilt-adjustable steering column, although this is just one of many uses LVVTA have in mind for it. Why cyclic? While some components may easily pass a one-off load test, most automotive components, throughout the life of the vehicle they are fitted to, undergo a high number of cyclic (repeated) loads. The cyclic test rig replicates those loads. As unproven and poorly constructed products are becoming increasingly common in the hot rod aftermarket, the cyclic test rig has been designed so it can be used for many different components, not limited strictly to steering products. This will help enable LVVTA to prove or disprove the quality of components intended to be fitted to hot rods and low volume vehicles. The design allows for columns to be tested at a range of angles, including their maximum tilt setting, a position in which they're often driven in hot rods and pick-ups — a situation which creates the highest loads such a column will receive. With the rig now operational, LVVTA is fine-tuning the process to which columns will be tested, using a mix of data sourced from vehicle manufacturers and reputable aftermarket column test data. It's important to note, this test is for tilt-adjustable columns only, not for straight columns. For the time being, there are no confirmed changes to existing steering column requirements. However LVVTA hopes to develop a clearer picture of the suitability of a wide range of aftermarket steering columns going forward, which will then be detailed within the LVV Certification system. Further information visit lvvta.org.nz.





