

1911 Chalmers Gas Tank Removal

It took months; months of staring at the seat internals trying to figure out a way to remove my gas tank from my 1911 Chalmers. Several people told me to just lift the body off the frame. In fact, I was even told, "It's your only option," by a veteran antique car restorer. I continued to stare.

I noticed the top of the seat frame was held in place by four screws at the front edges of the seat armrests. I also noticed that the T in the middle of the seat frame appeared to be mortised into the back edge of the frame. Based on this information, I assumed perhaps the seat frame T was mortised into the front edge of the seat frame as well.

With the removal of screws and tank strap nuts, and a few taps from a rubber mallet, the seat frame assembly came apart easily, providing full access to the gas tank.

Be sure to drain gasoline from your tank before attempting tank removal

- Remove your seat cushions
- Remove screws from (if you have one) front frame seat cushion rail. This will be screwed into front of seat frame.
- Remove the hinged seat frame gas tank access panels
- Loosen and remove the front large round gas tank strap nuts – Don't worry your straps are sturdy and the edges of tank will rest on the frame
- Remove four screws at the outside edges of the seat frame near the base of the seat armrests (2 per side)
- Gently tap the front of the seat frame forward. It should separate from the middle frame section, or the middle section will separate from the back of the seat frame giving you a T. A word of caution: If your car has been restored, there may be the chance these mortise and tenons have been glued. Be gentle so as not to break the wooden slats

With the tank removed, it is a good time to take your straps to a metal smith or blacksmith. Mine were bent and angled in the wrong places. With a few blows of a hammer and using the tank for fitting, my straps were flat and true in a matter of minutes. This made the re-installation much easier as holes, nuts and threads all lined up.