

Head nuts - all torque

My edition of the otherwise excellent 'Austin Seven Companion' (actually the 6th impression dated 1990) suggests on page 133 that cylinder head nuts should be tightened to a torque of 360 lb.in (which equates to 30 lb.ft) and is clearly a mistake. If you are using decent machined full nuts and tighten to this torque, the stud will almost certainly strip the thread in the cast iron block; or in the case of the centre stud – it might well completely wreck the block by dragging out a whole chunk of cast iron between cylinders two and three. Please also remember that torque figures are normally quoted for clean dry nuts and studs and should be reduced (often by as much as 25%) if the threads are lubricated. Woodrow (and others) suggest the suitable (dry) torque for Austin Seven head nuts is 18 lb.ft (much more like it!)