

SUSPENSION - REAR

Article Text

1996 Volkswagen Golf
For Volkswagen Technical Site
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Thursday, August 19, 1999 11:59PM

ARTICLE BEGINNING

1995- 96 SUSPENSION
Rear

Golf III

DESCRIPTION

Suspension uses control arms and axle beam for stabilization. Control arms and axle beam are combined as one unit. Brake drums or discs rotate on stub axles bolted to control arms. See Fig. 1.

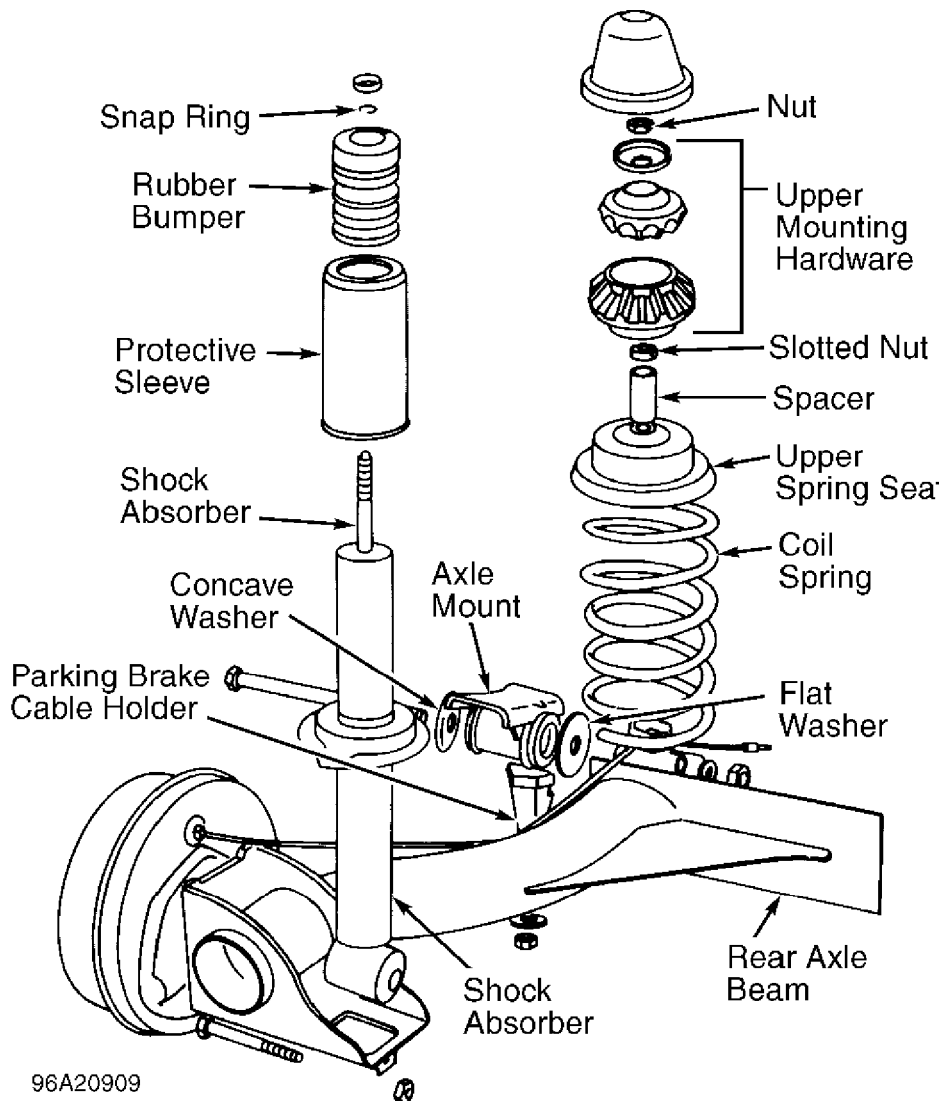


Fig. 1: Identifying Rear Suspension Components (Typical)
Courtesy of Volkswagen United States, Inc.

ADJUSTMENTS & INSPECTION

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WHEEL ALIGNMENT SPECIFICATIONS & PROCEDURES

NOTE: See **WHEEL ALIGNMENT SPECIFICATIONS & PROCEDURES** article in **WHEEL ALIGNMENT** section.

WHEEL BEARING

While rotating brake disc or drum by hand, insert tip of screwdriver between thrust washer and hub. Adjustment is correct when light finger pressure against screwdriver moves thrust washer. Turn hub nut to adjust. Install castellated nut and NEW cotter pin.

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

AXLE BEAM PIVOT BUSHING

NOTE: The following procedure is for replacing bushing with axle beam installed in vehicle.

Removal

Raise and support vehicle. With no pressure on beam, remove axle beam-to-body nuts. Tap out pivot bolt. Using Bushing Remover/Installer (VW 3111), press out bushing. Press new bushing into place.

Installation

1) Loosely install mounting pad onto axle beam. Using remover/installer, install bushing until it protrudes from axle beam .28-.35" (7.0-9.0 mm). Concave washer and bolt head must face toward outside of vehicle. Bolt head must recess into washer.

2) Using Mounting Bracket Aligner (3021), align mount until aligner reads about 12 degrees. If aligner is not available, follow directions in illustration. See Fig. 2. With vehicle on ground, tighten pivot bolt nut to specification.

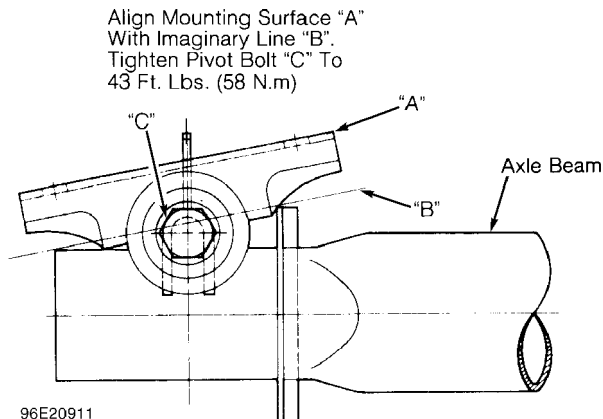


Fig. 2: Aligning Axle Beam Mounting Pad
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STRUT ASSEMBLY

Removal

1) With vehicle on floor, remove plastic cap covering upper strut nuts. Remove strut upper nuts. Slowly raise vehicle until weight is off spring. Remove strut-to-axle beam bolt. Raise vehicle until strut can be removed. Place strut assembly in vise.

2) Hold piston rod. Remove piston rod nut and related components. See Fig. 1. Remove slotted nut (some models). Remove spacer and coil spring. If coil spring is to be replaced, ensure paint stripe color on replacement spring matches original spring color stripe.

Installation

1) Install protective cap and tube onto shock absorber. Install rubber bumper with small end downward. Install snap ring and washer. Place spring into lower seat. Install upper retainer with spacer sleeve.

2) Tighten piston rod nut. Install upper mounting hardware. Tighten piston rod. To complete installation, reverse removal procedure. Tighten bolts and nuts to specification. See TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS.

SUSPENSION ASSEMBLY

CAUTION: When removing suspension assembly, add weight to rear of vehicle to prevent tipping due to change in center of gravity.

Removal

1) With vehicle on floor, remove plastic cap covering upper strut nuts. Remove strut nuts. Raise and support vehicle. Disconnect parking brake at bracket near axle mount.

2) Disconnect and plug brakelines. Leave flex hose attached to suspension. Separate brake pressure regulator spring from axle beam. Remove axle beam-to-body nuts.

NOTE: DO NOT install bolts and nuts fouled with undercoating. With waxy coating on threads, true tightening torque cannot be measured. Clean or replace bolts and nuts.

Installation

1) If axle beam mounting has been removed, adjust mounting pad. See step 2) under INSTALLATION under AXLE BEAM PIVOT BUSHING. If pad is not correctly aligned, torsional preload of mounting bushings will be incorrect.

2) Position rear suspension assembly on body. Install axle beam-to-body nuts. Raise wheel. Guide upper end of strut into body mount.

3) Connect parking brake cables. Connect brakelines. Lower vehicle. Tighten upper strut nuts. Tighten all bolts and nuts to specification. See TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS. Bleed brake system.

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END OF ARTICLE