

SUSPENSION - REAR

Article Text

1991 Volkswagen Vanagon
For Volkswagen Technical Site
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Saturday, March 18, 2000 09:50PM

ARTICLE BEGINNING

1991 SUSPENSION
Rear - Vanagon

DESCRIPTION

Major components of rear suspension are independent trailing arms, coil springs, and shock absorbers. Trailing arms have provision for caster and toe adjustments, and mount in front to pivot brackets. Drive shafts extend through trailing arms and connect to wheel hubs. See Fig. 1.

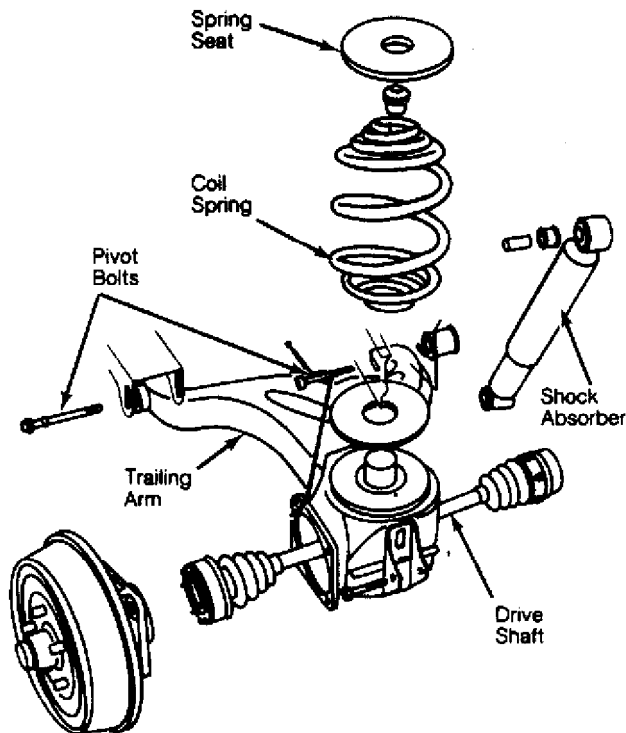


Fig. 1: Exploded View of Rear Suspension
Courtesy of Volkswagen United States, Inc.

ADJUSTMENTS & INSPECTION

WHEEL ALIGNMENT SPECIFICATIONS & PROCEDURES

NOTE: See ALIGNMENT SPECIFICATIONS article in the WHEEL ALIGNMENT Section.

WHEEL BEARING

No adjustment is required.

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

COIL SPRINGS

Removal

Raise and support vehicle. Support trailing arm using floor jack. Remove shock absorber retaining bolts and shock absorber. Slowly lower floor jack. Remove coil spring and spring seats.

NOTE: If only coil spring is to be removed, remove only one shock absorber mounting.

Installation

To install, reverse removal procedure. End of spring must fit into spring seat depression. Depression in lower spring seat must fit into depression in trailing arm. Tighten bolts to specification. See **TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS TABLE** at end of article.

HUB & KNUCKLE ASSEMBLY

See Fig. 2.

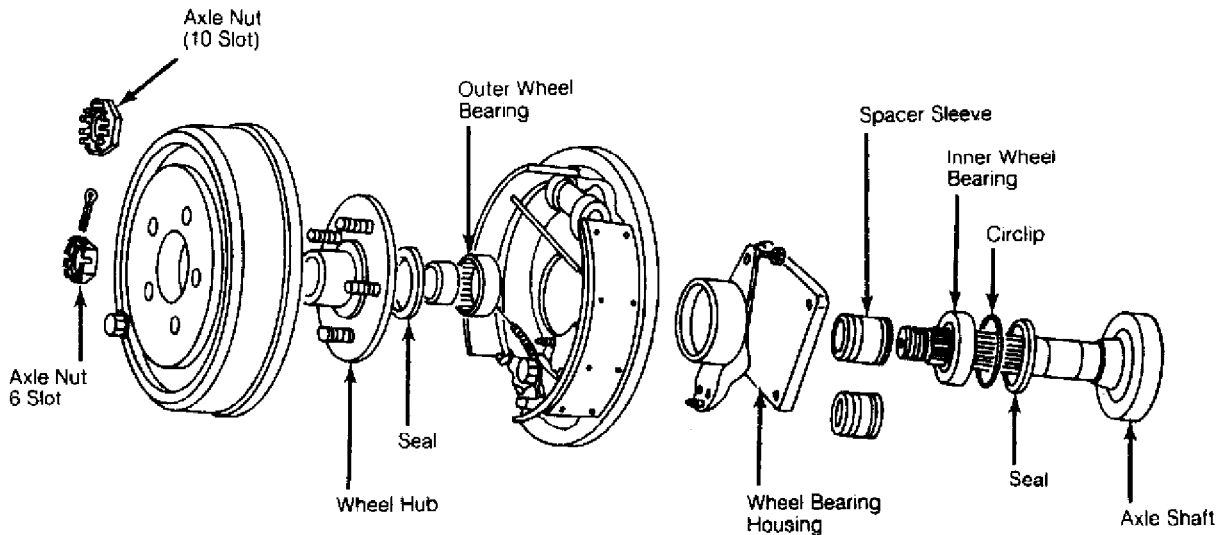


Fig. 2: Identifying Axle Shaft, Wheel Bearing & Hub Components
Courtesy of Volkswagen United States, Inc.

TRAILING ARMS

Removal

1) Raise and support vehicle. Remove wheel assembly. Support trailing arm with floor jack. Remove nuts which retain brake drum and hub to trailing arm. Remove hex screws at axle shaft-to-transaxle joint. Remove axle shaft and brake drum assembly through opening in trailing arm.

2) Remove lower shock absorber retaining bolt. Slowly lower

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jack. Remove coil spring and spring seats. Note relative position of trailing arm and mounting brackets. Remove pivot bolts and trailing arm.

Bushing Replacement

1) Using Bushing Remover (VW 442) and Adapter (30-14), remove bushing from trailing arm. Coat washer with oil and place between nut and tool.

2) Lubricate bushing bore, Installer (3053) and bushing with soap solution. Pull bushing in until sleeve contacts tool. Wait about 30 seconds before removing tool. Bushing should seat itself. If necessary, press edge of bushing out.

Installation

1) To install, reverse removal procedure. Depressions in spring seats must align with ends of coil spring. Align depression in lower spring seat with depression in trailing arm.

2) Install trailing arm at position noted earlier. Tighten bolts to specification. See TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS TABLE at end of article. Check wheel alignment. See ALIGNMENT SPECIFICATIONS article in the WHEEL ALIGNMENT Section.

WHEEL BEARING

Removal

1) Remove axle nut. Raise and support vehicle. Remove wheel assembly. Remove and plug brake line. Remove brake drum and wheel hub assembly. Remove backing plate retaining bolts. Separate backing plate from housing and support it aside.

2) Remove bolts retaining wheel bearing housing to trailing arm. Remove hex bolts at axle shaft-to-transaxle joint. Pull hub assembly and axle through trailing arm. Remove axle shaft-to-hub bolts. Separate axle from hub. See Fig. 2. Using Press Adapter (VW 411), press axle from bearing housing.

3) Remove outer grease seal, inner grease seal, and bearing circlip. Remove inner race of outer wheel bearing. Remove spacer sleeve. Drive outer wheel bearing out with brass drift. Using Press Adapters (VW 412 and VW 244b), press inner bearing from housing.

Installation

1) Using Support Plate (VW 401) and Press Adapters (VW 407 and VW 472), press inner bearing into housing until seated. Install bearing circlip. Press outer bearing into housing using same tools. Grease bearings and fill space between bearings with multi-purpose grease.

2) Install spacer sleeve and inner race of outer bearing. Using Seal Installer (VW 240a), install outer and inner seals. Press axle shaft into bearing housing using Press Adapters (VW 412 and 30-100). To complete installation, reverse removal procedure. Tighten all bolts and nuts to specification. See TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS TABLE at end of article.

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NOTE: Install new spacer sleeve and axle nut on vehicles up to VIN 25ZBH119362. New nut has 10 key slots; old nut has 6 key slots.

TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS

TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS TABLE

Application		Ft. Lbs. (N.m)
Axle Nut		
10 Slot		370 (500)
6 Slot		250 (340)
Brake Backing Plate-To-Housing Lower Bolt		48 (65)
Brake Backing Plate-To-Housing Upper Bolt		15 (20)
Drive Shaft Bolt		33 (45)
Housing Assembly-To-Trailing Arm		101 (137)
Shock Absorber Retaining Bolt		65 (88)
Trailing Arm Pivot Bolt		76 (103)
Wheel Lug Nut		133 (180)

END OF ARTICLE