



## Volkswagen MK4 Golf, Jetta ECS Exhaust System Installation Instructions - [Click HERE to Shop](#)



**Skill Level**  
**1 - Easy**  
**Basic Skills**  
**Required**



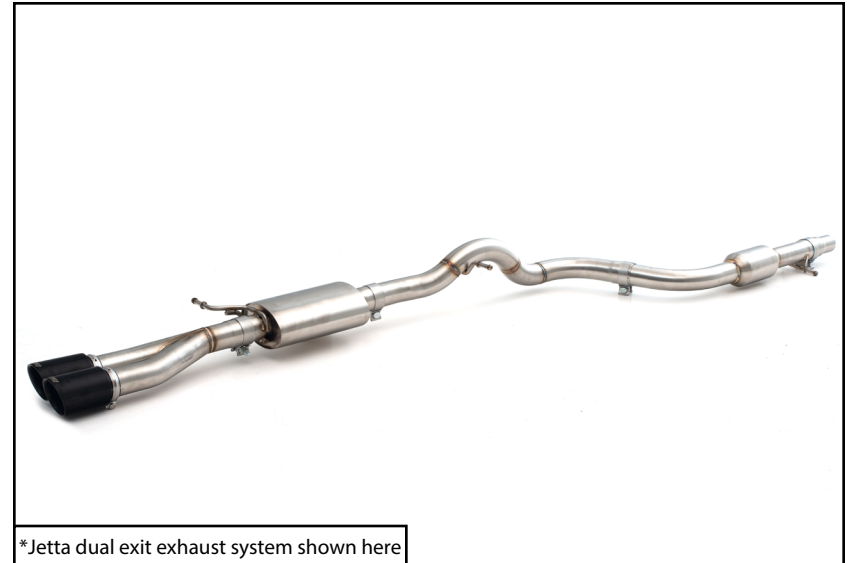
Proper service and repair procedures are vital to the safe, reliable operation of all motor vehicles as well as the personal safety of those performing the repairs. Standard safety procedures and precautions (including use of safety goggles and proper tools and equipment) should be followed at all times to eliminate the possibility of personal injury or improper service which could damage the vehicle or compromise its safety.

## INTRODUCTION

Upgrading the exhaust system on your VW MK4 Jetta or GTI is a very rewarding project that an experienced technician will be able to complete in a single day, plan accordingly based on your experience level.

Each system includes adapters to fit stock, 2.5", and 3" downpipes.

Please read and familiarize yourself with these instructions before you begin. Thank you for looking to ECS Tuning for all your performance and repair needs, we appreciate your business!



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## REQUIRED TOOLS

Note: The tools required for each step will be listed by the step number throughout these instructions.

### Standard Automotive Tools

- Protecta-Sockets (for lug nuts) ..... [ES#2221243](#)
- **3/8" Drive Ratchet** ..... [ES#2765902](#)
- **3/8" Drive Torque Wrench** ..... [ES#2221245](#)
- **3/8" Drive Deep and Shallow Sockets** ..... [ES#2763772](#)
- **3/8" Drive Extensions** ..... [ES#2804822](#)
- **Hydraulic Floor Jack** ..... [ES#2834951](#)
- **Torx Drivers and Sockets** ..... [ES#11417/8](#)
- **1/2" Drive Deep and Shallow Sockets** ..... [ES#2839106](#)
- 1/2" Drive Ratchet
- 1/2" Drive Extensions
- 1/2" Drive Torque Wrench ..... [ES#2221244](#)
- **1/2" Drive Breaker Bar** ..... [ES#2776653](#)
- Bench Mounted Vise
- Crows Foot Wrenches
- Hook and Pick Tool Set ..... [ES#2778980](#)

### Required For This Install

### Available On Our Website

- 1/4" Drive Ratchet ..... [ES#2823235](#)
- 1/4" Drive Deep and Shallow Sockets ..... [ES#2823235](#)
- 1/4" Drive Extensions ..... [ES#2823235](#)
- Plier and Cutter Set ..... [ES#2804496](#)
- Flat and Phillips Screwdrivers ..... [ES#2225921](#)
- **Jack Stands** ..... [ES#2763355](#)
- **Ball Pein Hammers**
- Pry Bar Set ..... [ES#1899378](#)
- Electric/Cordless Drill
- **Wire Strippers/Crimpers**
- Drill Bits
- Triple Square Drivers ..... [ES#9013](#)
- Hex Bit (Allen) Wrenches and Sockets ..... [ES#11420](#)
- Thread Repair Tools ..... [ES#1306824](#)
- **Open/Boxed End Wrench Set** ..... [ES#2765907](#)

### Specialty Tools

- **Oxygen Sensor Wrench** ..... [ES#240942](#)
- **Exhaust Hanger Removal Pliers** ..... [ES#2784927](#)
- **VAG Connector Removal Tool** ..... [ES#2628676](#)

## INSTALLATION NOTES

- **RH** refers to the *passenger side* of the vehicle.
- **LH** refers to the *driver side* of the vehicle.
- Always use the proper torque specifications.
- If applicable to this installation, torque specifications will be listed throughout the document and at the end as well.
- Please read all of these instructions and familiarize yourself with the complete process **BEFORE** you begin.

## GENERAL PREPARATION AND SAFETY INFORMATION

ECS Tuning cares about your health and safety, please read the following safety information. This information pertains to automotive service in general, and while it may not pertain to every job you do, please remember and share these important safety tips.

- Park your car in a safe, well lit, level area.
- Shut the engine off and remove the key from the ignition switch.
- Make sure any remote start devices are properly disabled.
- **ALWAYS** wear safety glasses.
- Make sure the parking brake is applied until the vehicle is safely lifted and supported.
- Whether lifting a vehicle using an automotive lift or a hydraulic jack, be sure and utilize the factory specified lift points.
- Lifting a vehicle in an incorrect location can cause damage to the suspension/running gear.
- **ALWAYS** support the vehicle with jack stands.
- **ALWAYS** read and follow all safety information and warnings for the equipment you are using.



**NEVER** get underneath a vehicle that is supported only by a jack, and **ALWAYS** make sure that the vehicle is securely supported on jack stands.

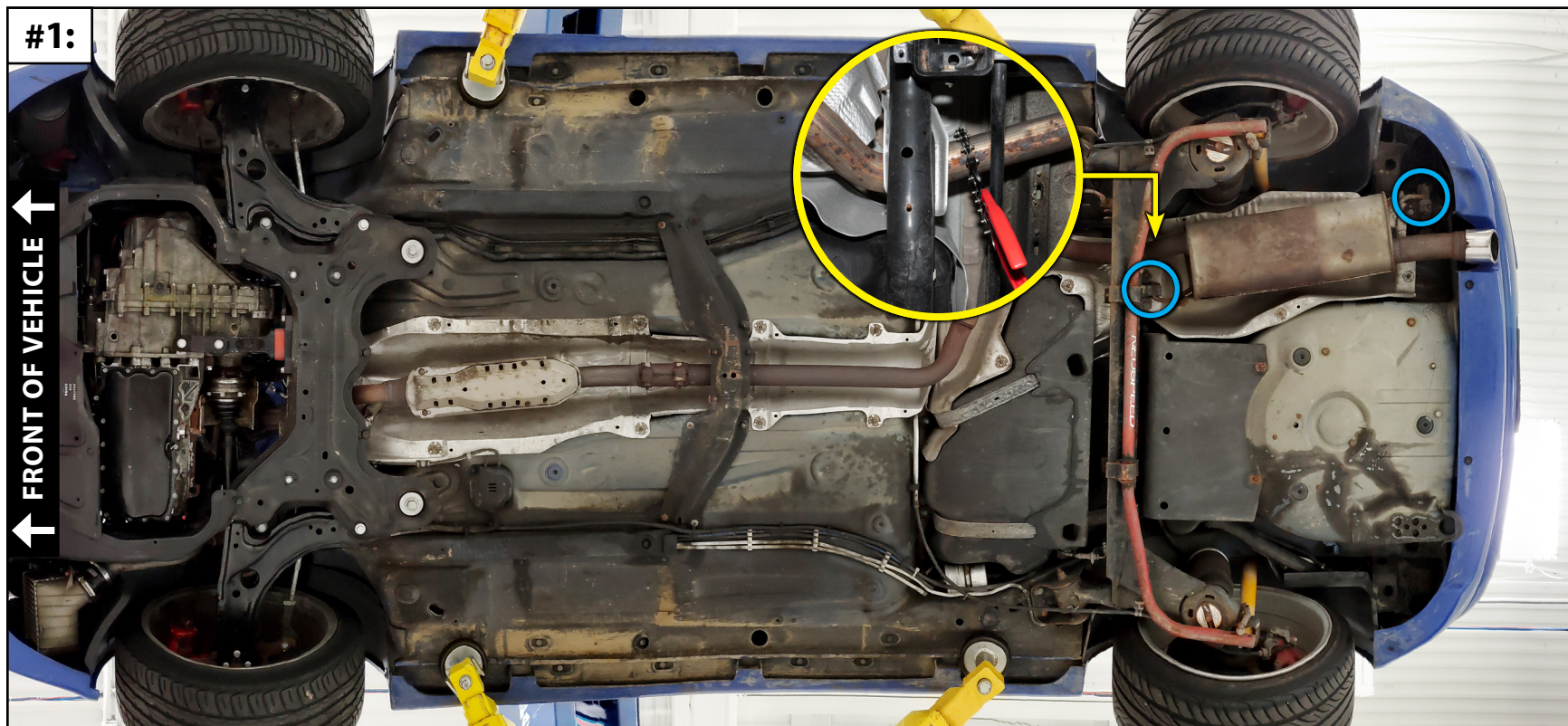


## REMOVING THE STOCK EXHAUST SYSTEM

**Step 1:** 13mm Socket & Ratchet, Exhaust Hanger Removal Pliers

Safely lift and support the vehicle. Support the rear exhaust section from below. First, we need to cut the stock exhaust system because it is routed above the rear subframe (see the inset photo below). We strongly recommend making your cut somewhere that is easily accessible, and could be reconnected with a sleeve clamp if you ever chose to go back to stock.

Release both of the muffler hangers (circled in **BLUE** in **Photo #1**), then carefully lower the rear exhaust section.

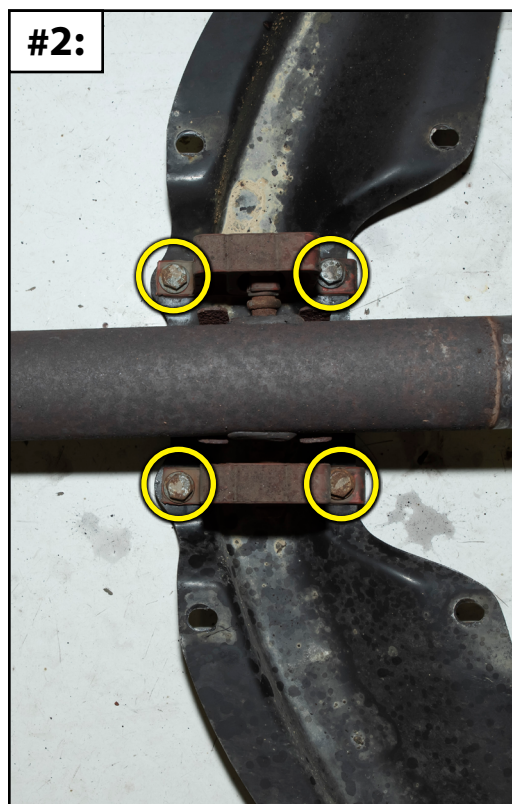
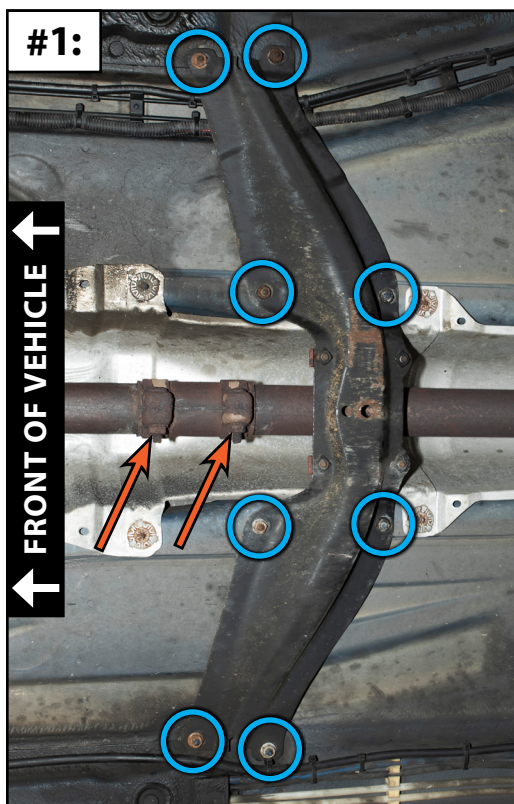


## REMOVING THE STOCK EXHAUST SYSTEM

### Step 2: 13mm Socket & Ratchet, Exhaust Hanger Removal Pliers

Support the rest of the exhaust system from below. Loosen the two nuts on the sleeve clamp (arrows in **Photo #1**), then slide the clamp forward onto the downpipe (not shown). Remove the nuts which secure the cross brace to the vehicle (circled in **BLUE** in **Photo #1**).

Carefully lower the front exhaust section down onto the floor. Locate and remove the four bolts which secure the frontmost exhaust hangers to the cross brace (circled in **YELLOW** in **Photo #2**). Inspect your hangers for signs of wear or damage, as you can see ours were torn and needed to be replaced (see **Photo #3**). Replacement hangers are available [HERE](#).



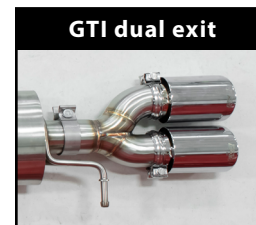
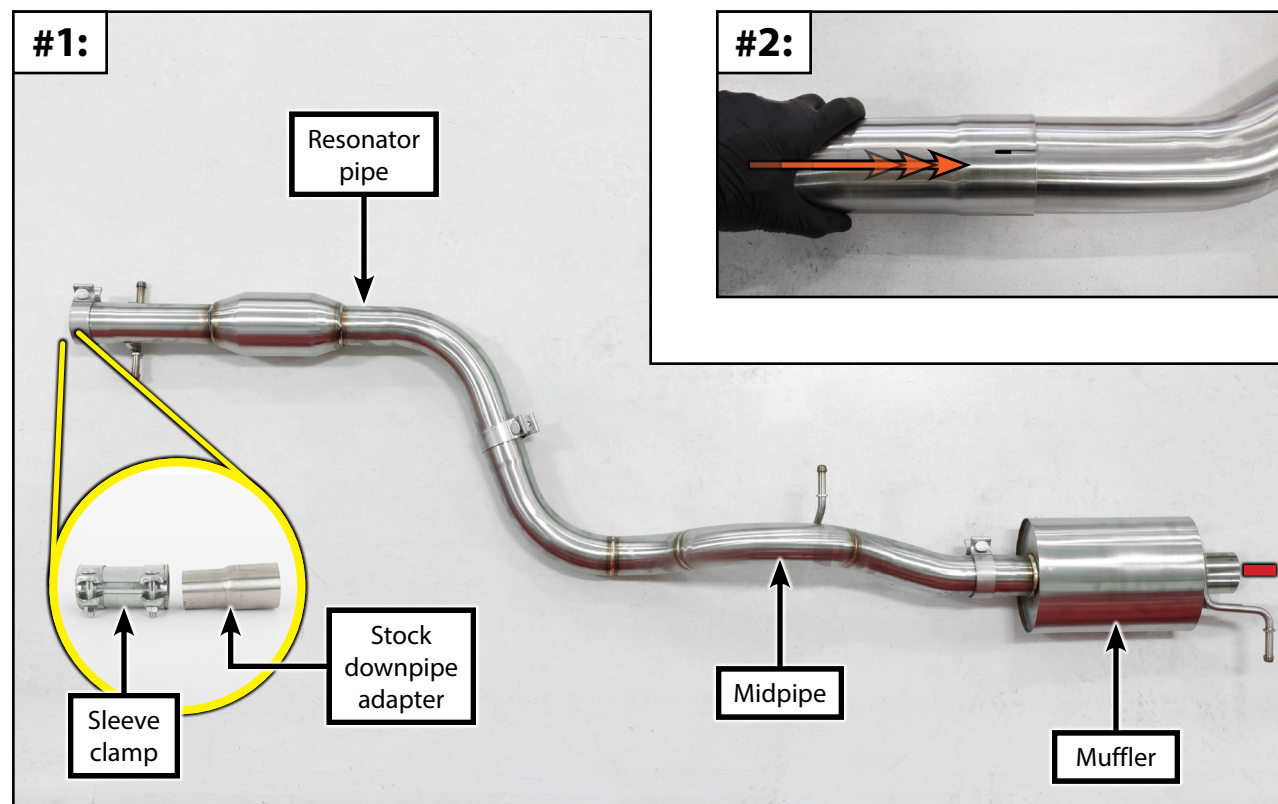


## INSTALLING THE NEW EXHAUST SYSTEM

### Step 1: Ball Pein Hammer

Before we begin it's a good idea to unpack your new exhaust system and carefully lay it out on the floor (**Photo #1**). Inspect all of the slip joints for any signs of damage during shipping. Test fit the pipes together at every slip joint to make sure they slide together easily (**Photo #2**). If they do not slide together easily, gently tap on the ends of the pipes with a ball pein hammer to straighten them, then recheck fitment.

Please note that during this installation, you will be installing the exhaust from front-to-back **WITHOUT** tightening any of the clamps. Once the system is installed, we will then show you how to position the system properly and you will tighten the clamps **AFTER** that is complete. Proceed to the next page once all of the slip joints slide together easily.



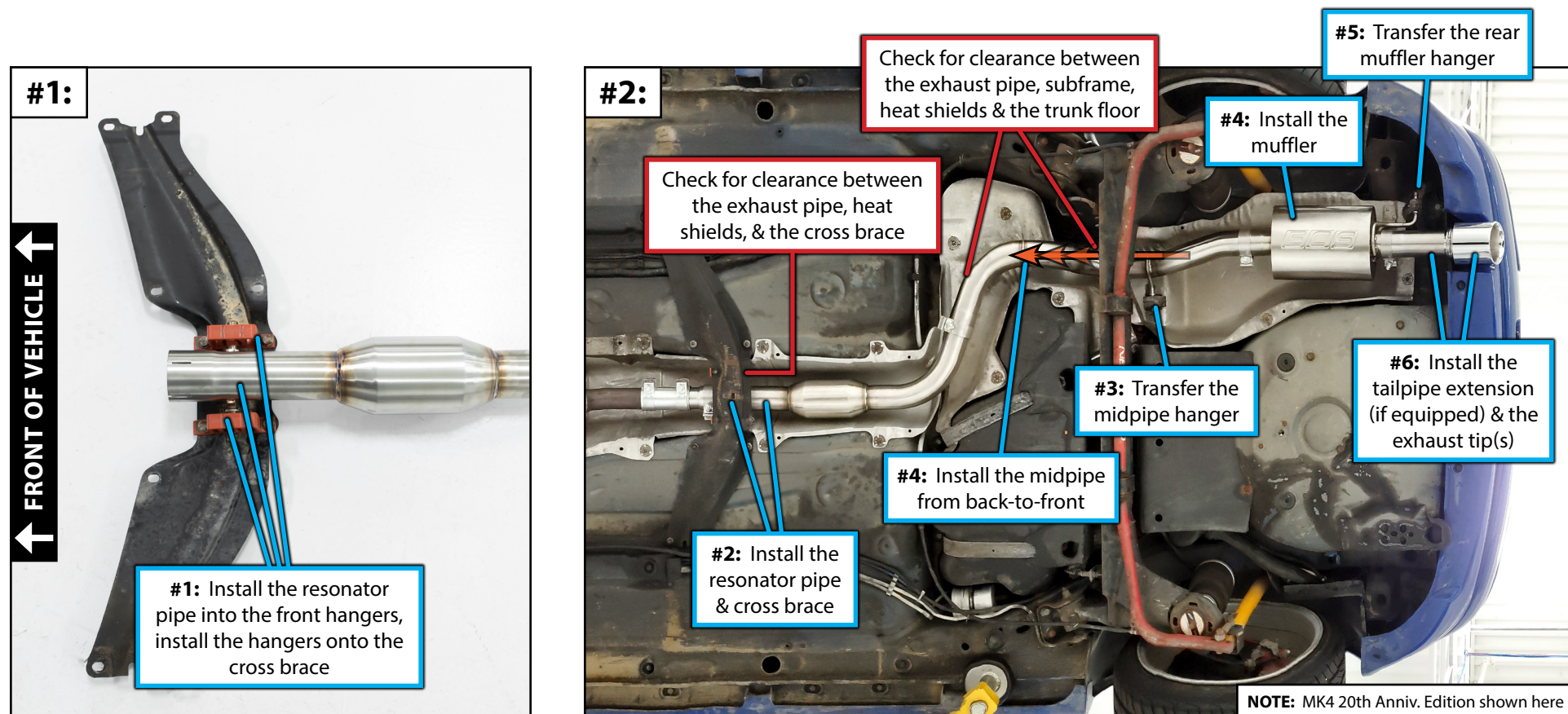
## INSTALLING THE NEW EXHAUST SYSTEM

### Step 2:

Install the exhaust system in the order shown in **Photo #1 & Photo #2** below. Check the wiring harness for the rear oxygen sensor and confirm that there is sufficient slack in it.

Next, we'll need to adjust the exhaust system for proper fitment. The key to proper adjustment is patience, take your time and **DO NOT** fully tighten any of the clamps until **AFTER** instructed to do so on Page 10.

Closely inspect the exhaust system from front-to-back, we need to check for clearance between the pipes and nearby chassis components.





## INSTALLING THE NEW EXHAUST SYSTEM

### Step 3: 13mm & 15mm Sockets, Ratchet

Check the hangers on the muffler and the tail pipes to ensure that they are sitting level side-to-side (**Photo #1 & Photo #2 below**).

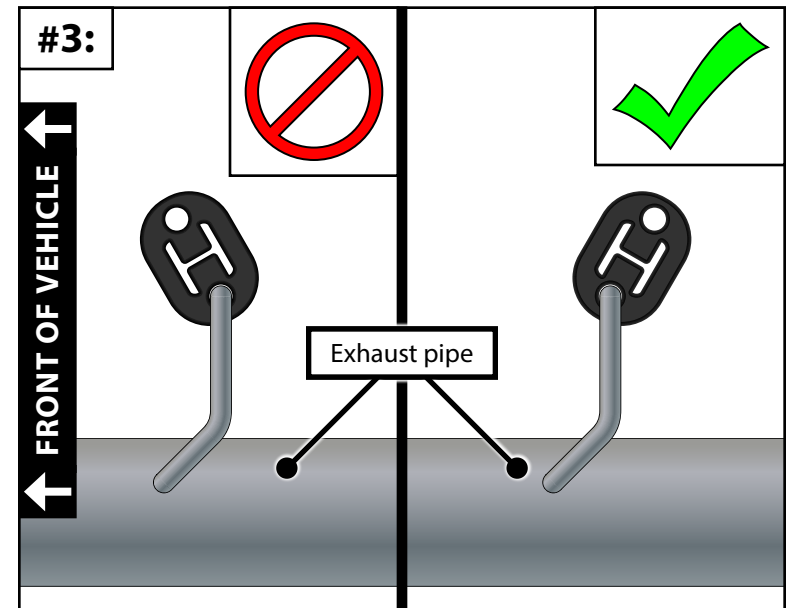
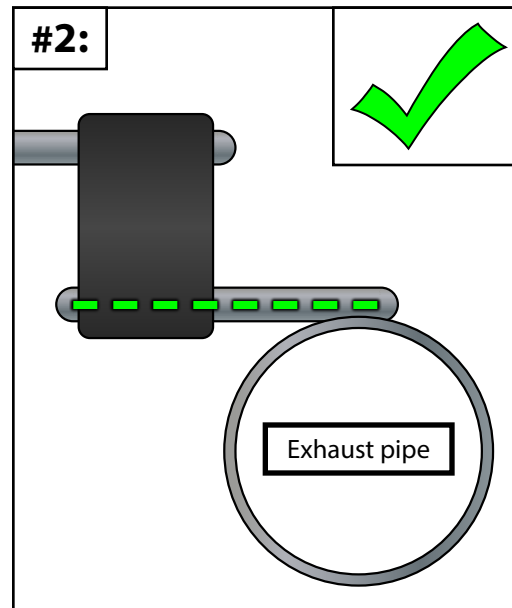
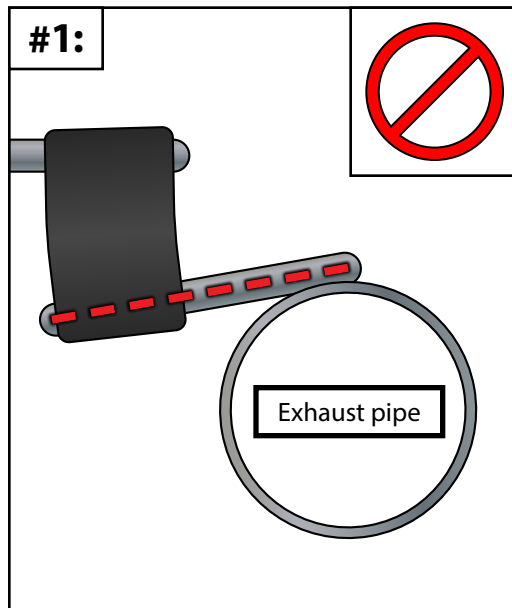
Finally, we want to ensure that the exhaust hangers are rotated at least slightly toward the front of the vehicle (**Photo #3 below**). The exhaust hangers should be inclined toward the front of the vehicle so that lower hole is approximately 10-15mm forward of the upper hole, this will allow the hangers to pivot backwards as the system heats up and expands.



Due to differences in manufacturing, as well as variations from one car to another, you might not be able to get all of your hangers to pitch forward. This is acceptable as long as they are at least close to vertical.



**CAUTION:** You can tighten the exhaust clamps until they are “snug”, but **DO NOT USE AN IMPACT WRENCH** and do not fully tighten them yet!



## INSTALLING THE NEW EXHAUST SYSTEM

### Step 4: 13mm & 15mm Sockets, Ratchet

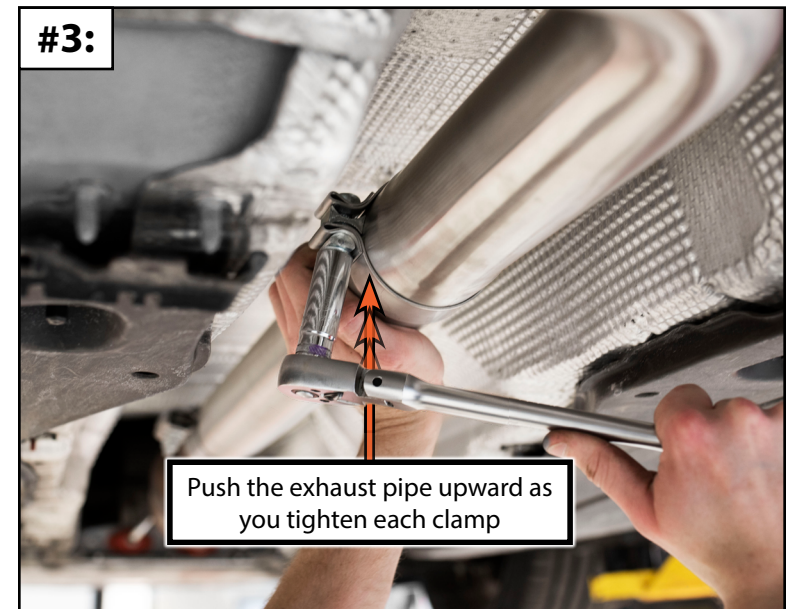
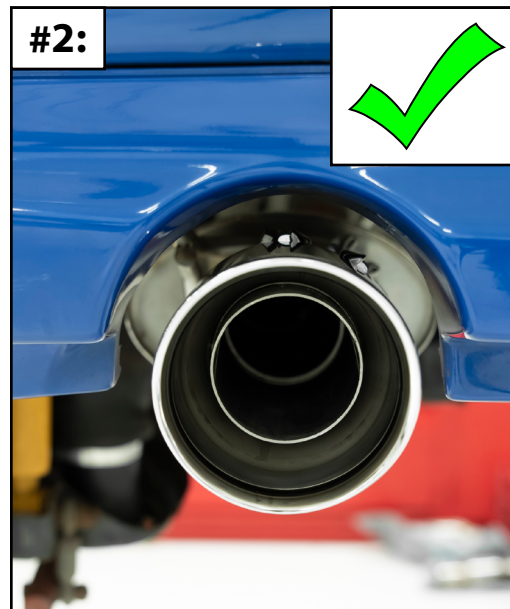
Center and level the exhaust tip(s) inside the bumper cut out(s) (**Photo #1 & Photo #2**).

Once the system is all adjusted, it's time to fully tighten down the clamps. Starting at the front and moving rearward, push upward on the exhaust system as you fully tighten each clamp (**Photo #3**), then let go and allow the exhaust to settle. Tighten the clamps on the exhaust tips to 19 Nm (14 Ft-lbs). Check again for clearance around all pipes.

Wipe any oil, grease, or fingerprints from the exhaust system.

Reinstall the belly pans and chassis cross brace.

Recheck all fasteners after the vehicle has been driven 500 miles.





## Your ECS Exhaust System installation is complete!



### These instructions are provided as a courtesy by ECS Tuning

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