



Audi B5 A4/S4 Quattro

Adjustable Coilover Kit

Installation Instructions - [Click HERE to Shop](#)



Skill Level
2 - Moderate
Some Experience
Recommended



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.

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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
- **Punch and Chisel Set**
- **Hex Bit (Allen) Wrenches and Sockets** [ES#11420](#)
- Thread Repair Tools [ES#1306824](#)
- **Open/Boxed End Wrench Set** [ES#2765907](#)

Specialty Tools

- **Spring Compressor** [ES#2918793](#)

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

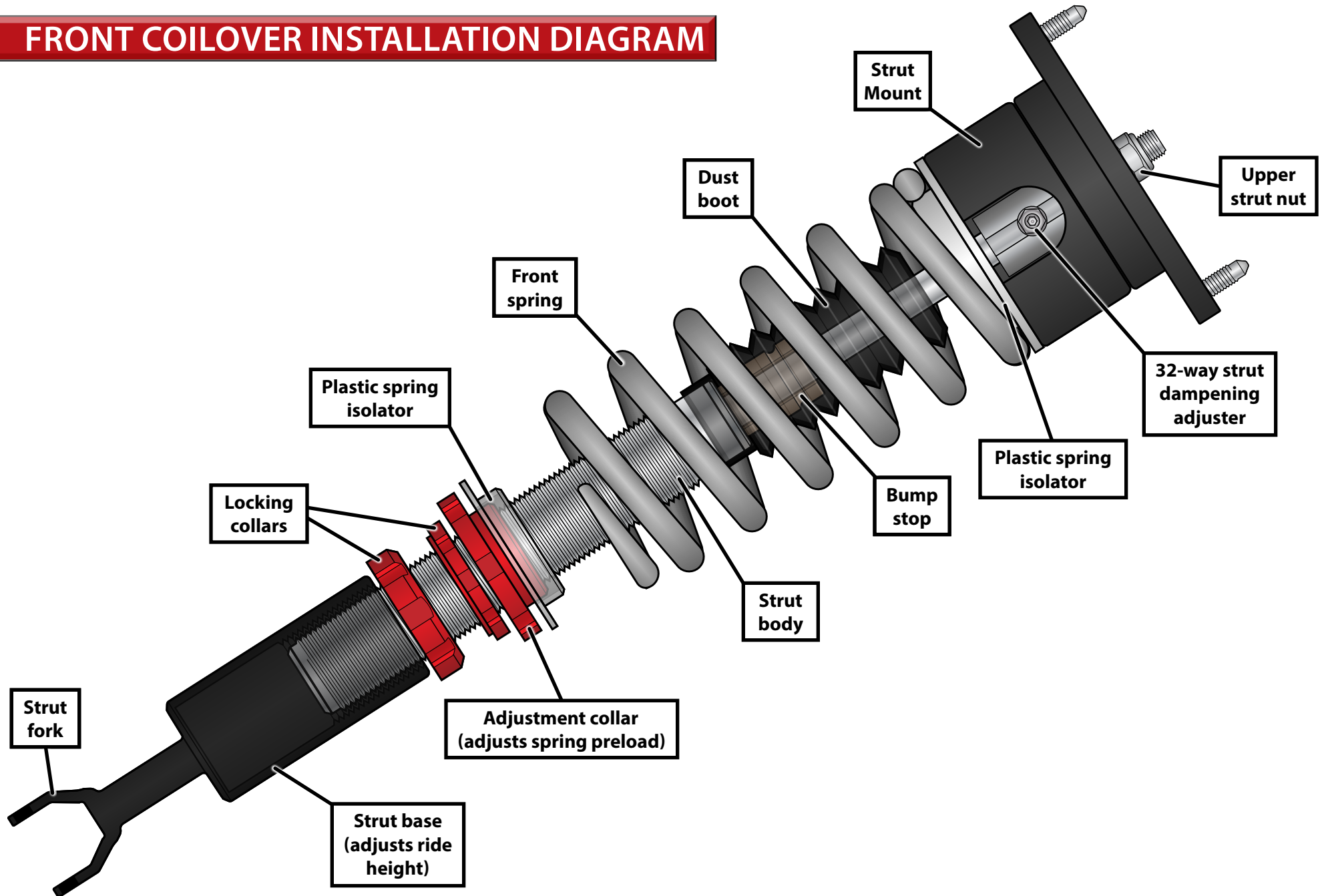
ECS Tuning cares about your health and safety, please read the following safety information. This information pertains to automotive service in general, and while it may not pertain to every job you do, please remember and share these important safety tips.

- 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.

FRONT COILOVER INSTALLATION DIAGRAM



REMOVING THE ORIGINAL FRONT STRUTS

Step 1: Protecta-Sockets & Breaker Bar

Safely lift and support the vehicle and remove all four wheels.



Before you begin your install take a moment to take some baseline measurements. Measure your fender to ground clearance at all four wheels and write it down. This will come in handy later on once you go to adjust the ride height.



Step 2: 18mm Wrench, 18mm Socket & Ratchet

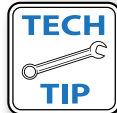
Counter-hold the nut (arrow) while you remove the strut fork bolt. If equipped, disconnect the headlight leveling sensor arm from the LH lower control arm.



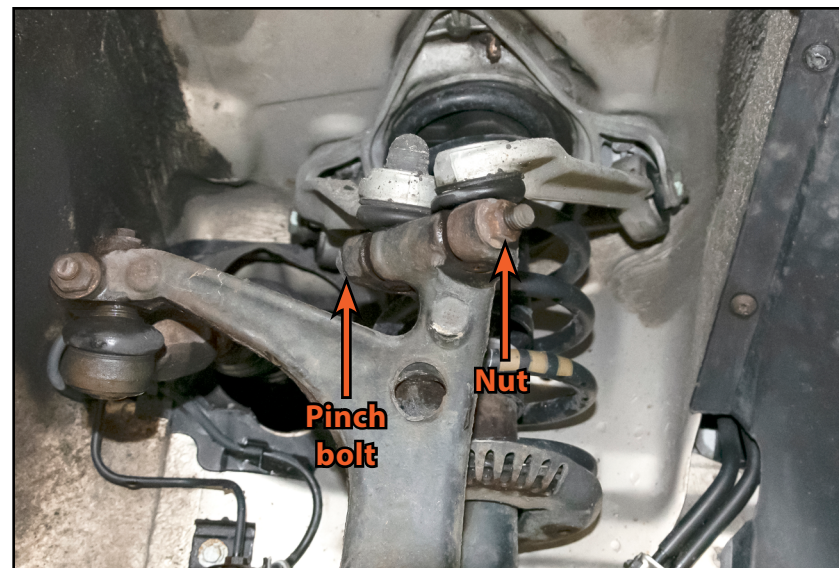
REMOVING THE ORIGINAL FRONT STRUTS

Step 3: 16mm Wrench, 16mm Socket & Ratchet

Counter-hold the nut while you remove the upper control arm pinch bolt.



These pinch bolts are notoriously difficult to remove as they can become fused in the knuckle and often the head will shear off if you attempt to back it out. To give yourself the best chance at removing it first try, remove the nut and spray the bolt with penetrating oil and allow the oil to soak in before attempting to remove it. A torch can also be used for particularly stubborn bolts. If the bolt **still** does not budge, we offer several options of tools [HERE](#) which will help get the job done.



Step 4: Punch, Hammer

Once you have removed the pinch bolt, drive the upper control arms out of the steering knuckle from the bottom.



There is a small retaining clip (**YELLOW** inset photo) on the underside of the strut mounting bracket which must be pried off and discarded prior to removal of the strut assembly.



REMOVING THE ORIGINAL FRONT STRUTS

Step 5:

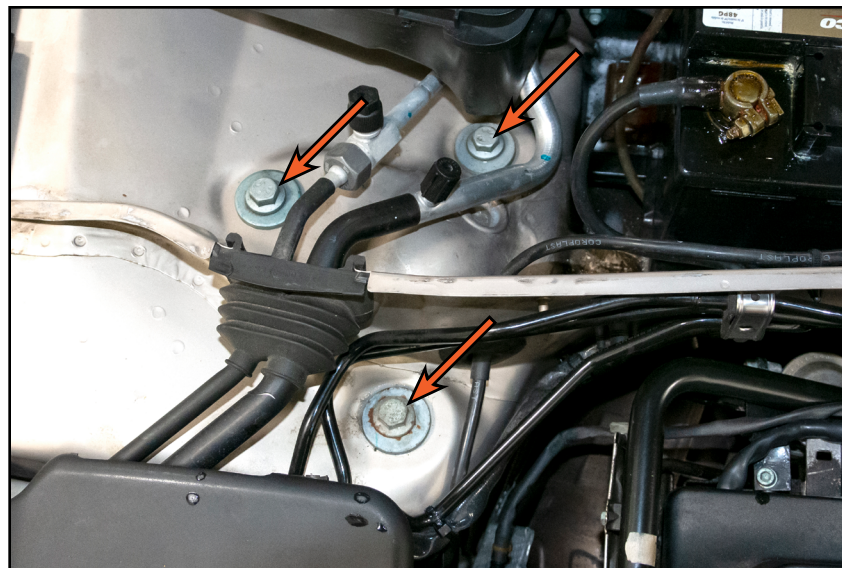
Remove the weather stripping and cowl (highlighted in **RED**).



Step 6:

16mm Socket & Ratchet

Remove the three bolts (arrows) which secure the strut mounting bracket to the body. Carefully guide the strut assembly out of the fenderwell.



INSTALLING THE FRONT COILOVERS

Step 1: 19mm Strut Nut Socket & Torque Wrench, 5mm Hex (Allen)

Before installing the coilovers, ensure the upper strut nut is torqued to 60 Nm (44 Ft-lbs).

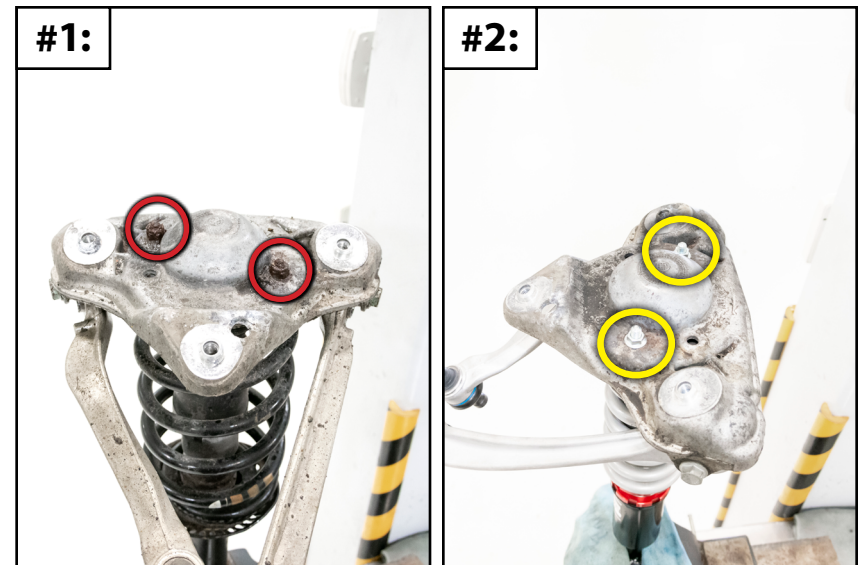


We recommend applying a good quality wax-based lubricant to **ALL** the adjustment threads in this kit to protect them from the elements and help the adjustment collars easily spin up or down without resistance.



Step 2: 13mm Socket, Ratchet, 12mm socket & Torque Wrench

Remove the two nuts (circled in **RED** in photo #1) and remove the mounting bracket off of the strut. Transfer the strut mounting bracket to the coilover and secure it in place with the provided nuts (circled in **YELLOW** in photo #2) torquing them to 20 Nm (15 Ft-lbs).



INSTALLING THE FRONT COILOVERS

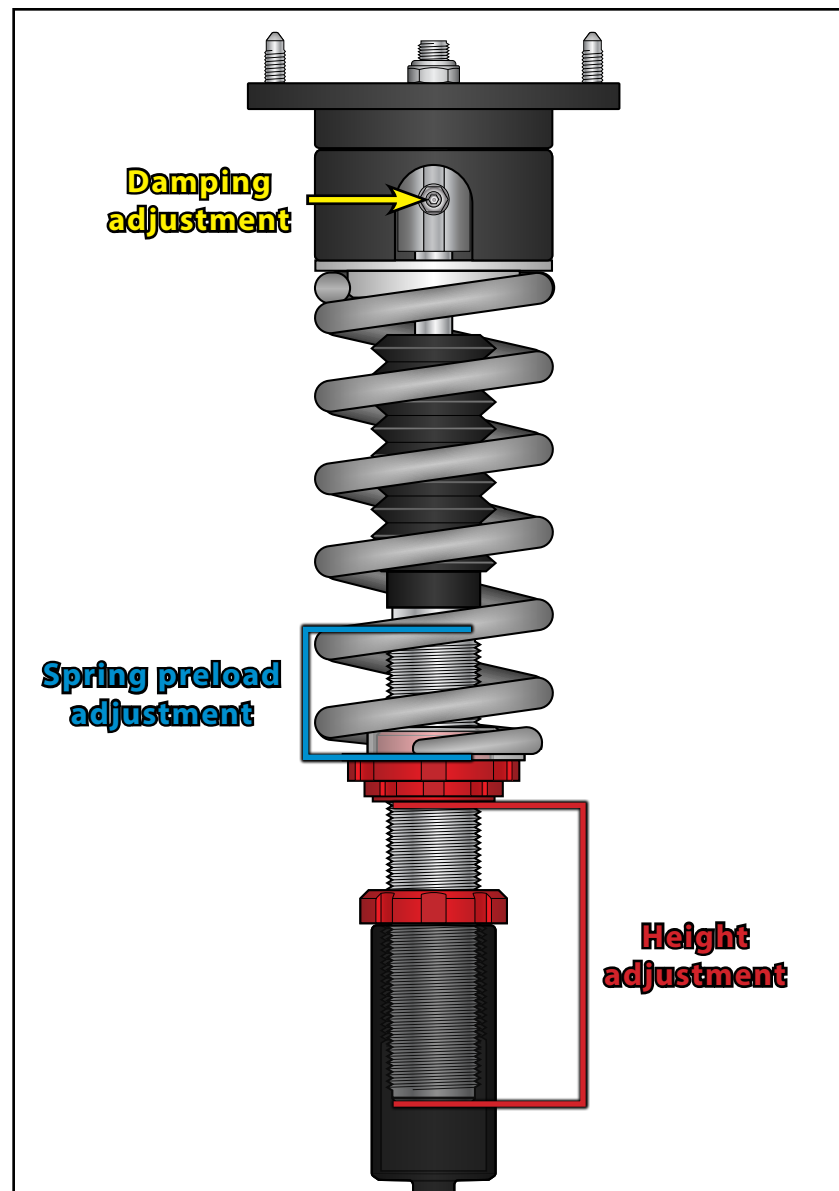
Step 3: Coilover Adjustment Wrenches

Before we install the front coilovers onto the vehicle, it's time to set our baseline adjustment. Once all the coilovers are fully installed we will come back and fine-tune them. Our front coilovers are three way adjustable, meaning you can adjust the damping, height, and spring preload all independently.

To adjust the damping, insert the provided allen key into the adjuster at the top of the strut and rotate it until your desired setting is achieved. We settled on a damping setting of 16 on our vehicle, however this number may need adjusted on your vehicle depending on your suspension setup.

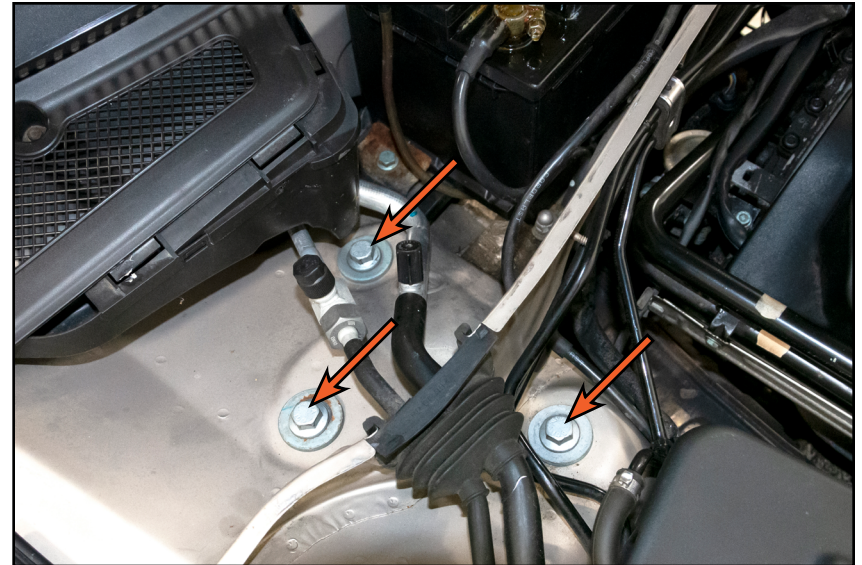
The spring preload can be adjusted by rotating the adjustment collar up until it compresses the spring the desired amount, then tightening the locking collar up against the adjustment collar to lock it in place. We found that a minimal amount of preload was ideal for our vehicle, so we spun the adjustment collar up until it was tight against the bottom of the spring then rotated it up one additional complete turn before locking it in place.

The strut itself can be rotated up or down inside the body to raise or lower the vehicle without affecting the spring preload or damping. We recommend setting the height higher than you want the vehicle to sit, this will leave some room for the suspension to settle, or for you to fine-tune once the coilovers are installed. Once you are happy with the overall height, tighten the locking collar against the strut body to lock it in. We settled on a final ride height that was 1 inch lower than stock ride height in the front.



16mm Socket & Torque Wrench

Lift the coilover assembly up into the strut tower and install the three bolts (arrows) torquing them to 75 Nm (55 Ft-lbs).



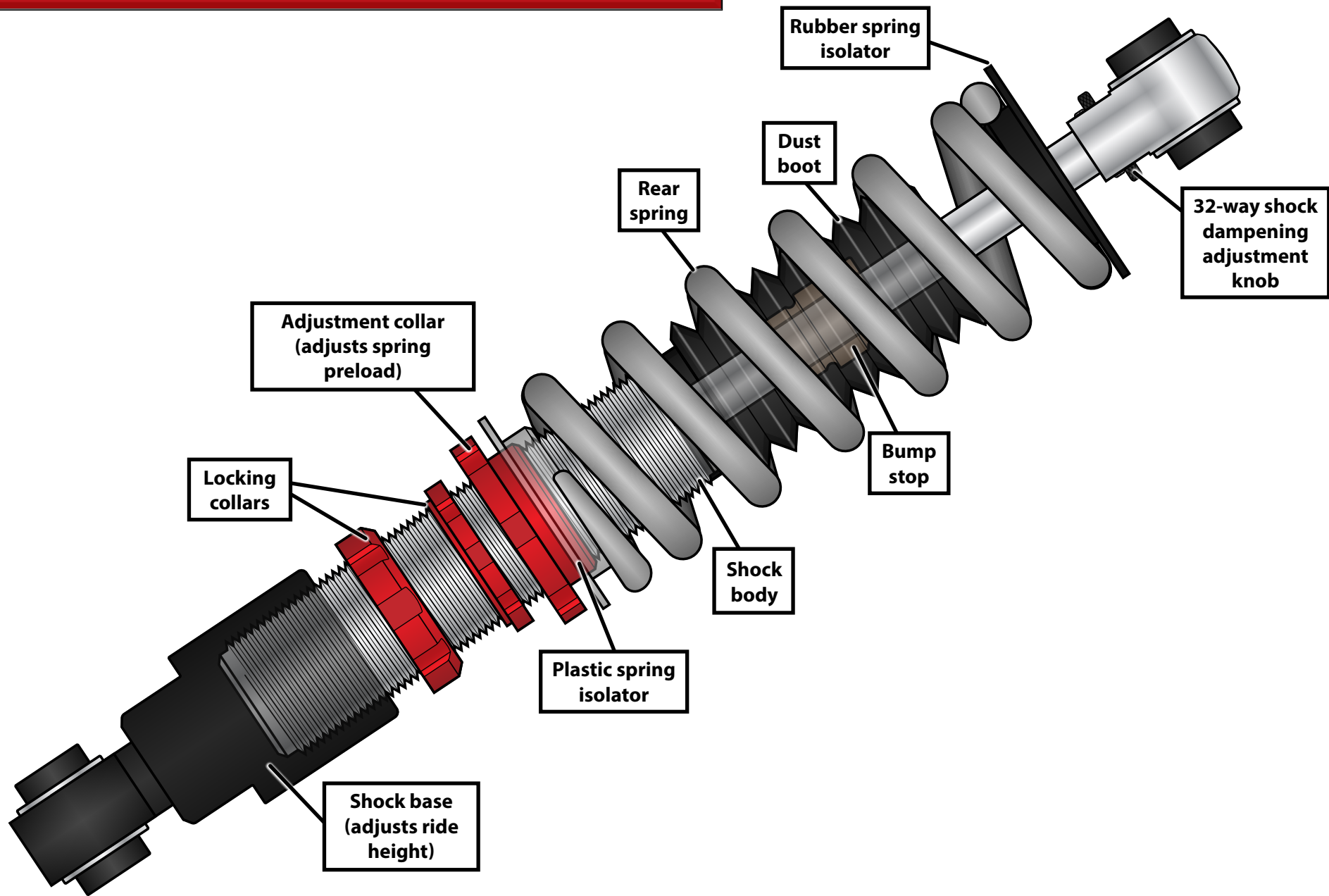
18mm Wrench, 18mm Socket & Torque Wrench

Jack up the steering knuckle until you can slide the bolt (arrow in photo #1) through the strut fork and loosely install the nut. Install the upper control arms into the steering knuckle, install the pinch bolt and torque the nut (arrow in photo #2) to 40 Nm (29 Ft-lbs), then:

- ☐ Clip the headlight leveling sensor arm to the lower control arm.
- ☐ Reinstall the wheels and torque the bolts to 120 Nm (89 Ft-lbs).
- ☐ With the vehicle at ride height, tighten the nut on the strut fork bolt to 90 Nm (66 Ft-lbs).



REAR COILOVER INSTALLATION DIAGRAM



REMOVING THE ORIGINAL REAR SHOCKS

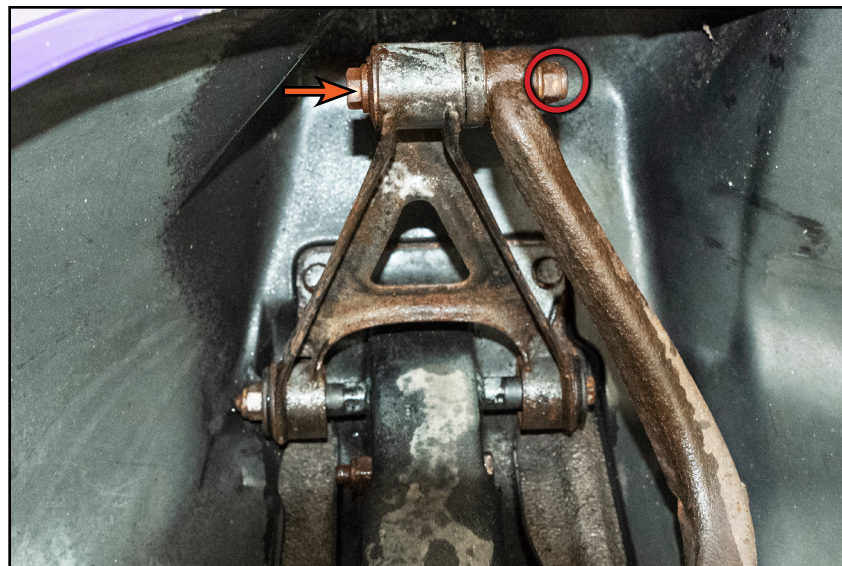
Step 1: 19mm Wrench, 19mm Socket & Ratchet

Remove the nut (arrow), then remove the lower shock bolt.



Step 2: 18mm Wrench, 19mm Socket & Ratchet

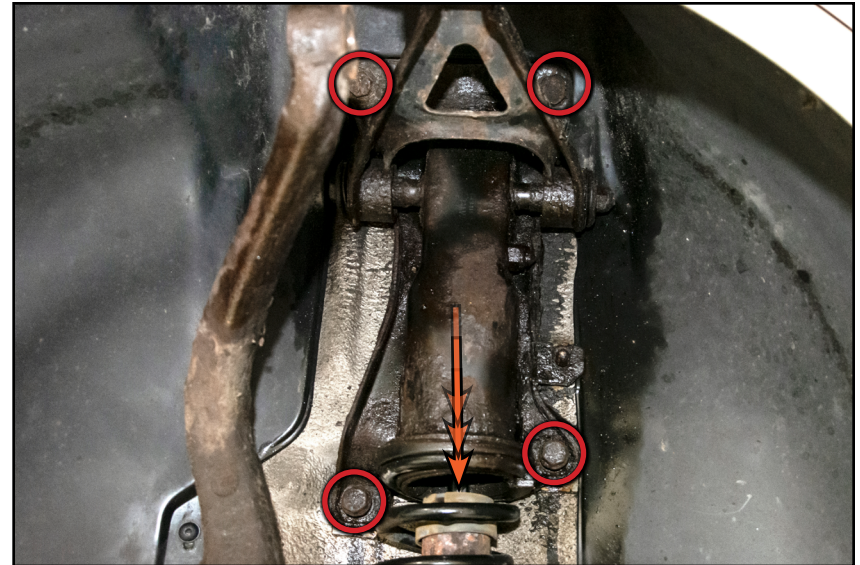
Remove the nut (circled in **RED**), then remove the bolt (arrow) which secures the upper control arm to the spindle housing.



REMOVING THE ORIGINAL REAR SHOCKS

Step 3: 17mm Socket & Ratchet

While supporting the shock mount, remove the four bolts (circled in **RED**) that secure the mount to the body and lower the shock mount assembly and remove it from the vehicle.

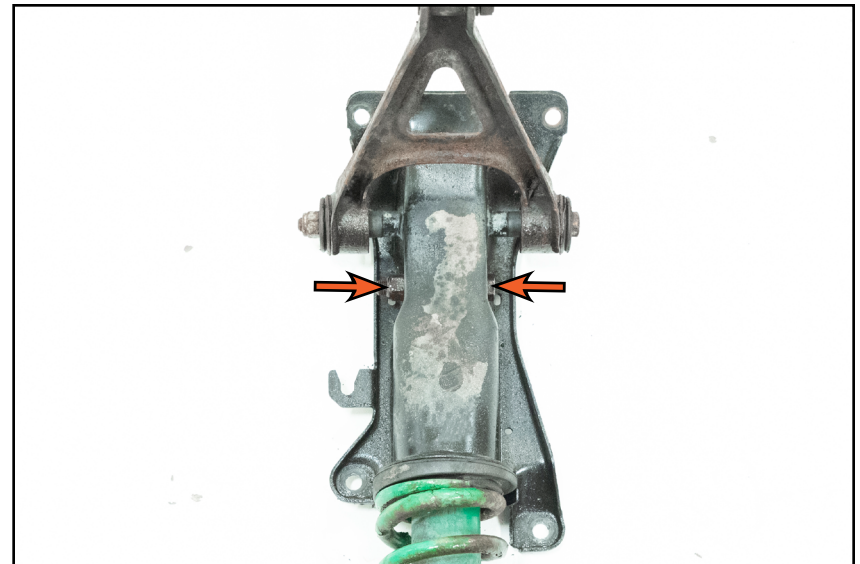


Step 4: 18mm Wrench, 19mm Socket & Ratchet

Install a spring compressor tool, compress the spring, remove the upper shock bolt and nut (arrows), then slide the shock free from the shock mount.



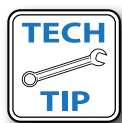
CAUTION: Do not over-compress the spring. Only compress the spring until there is a gap between the top of the spring and the bottom of the shock mount.



INSTALLING THE REAR COILOVERS

Step 1:

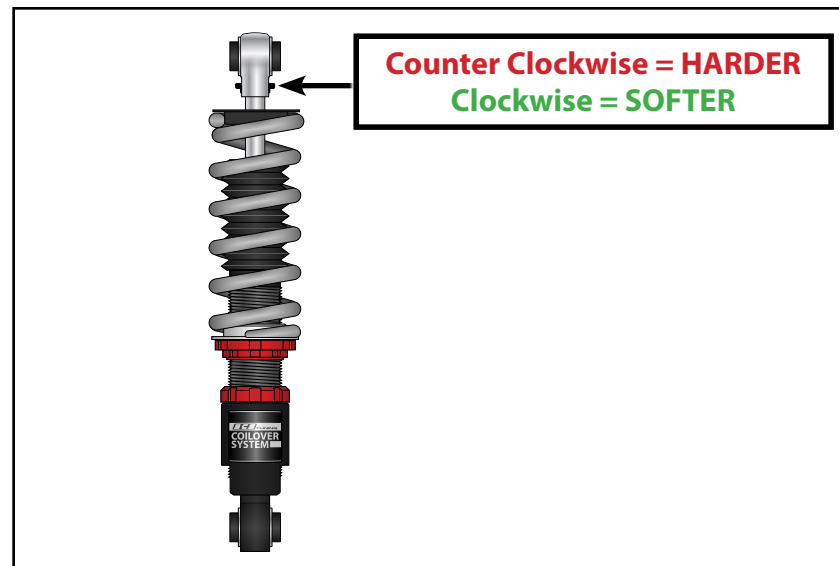
To adjust the damping, rotate the adjustment knob until your desired setting is achieved. We settled on a damping setting of 16 on our vehicle, however this number may need adjusted on your vehicle depending on your suspension setup.



Damping adjustment can only be made with the coilover removed from the upper shock mount.

Step 2: 18mm Wrench, 18mm Socket & Torque Wrench

Slide the coilover into the shock mount, replace the upper shock bolt, then torque the nut to 70Nm (52 Ft-lbs) + 90 degrees.



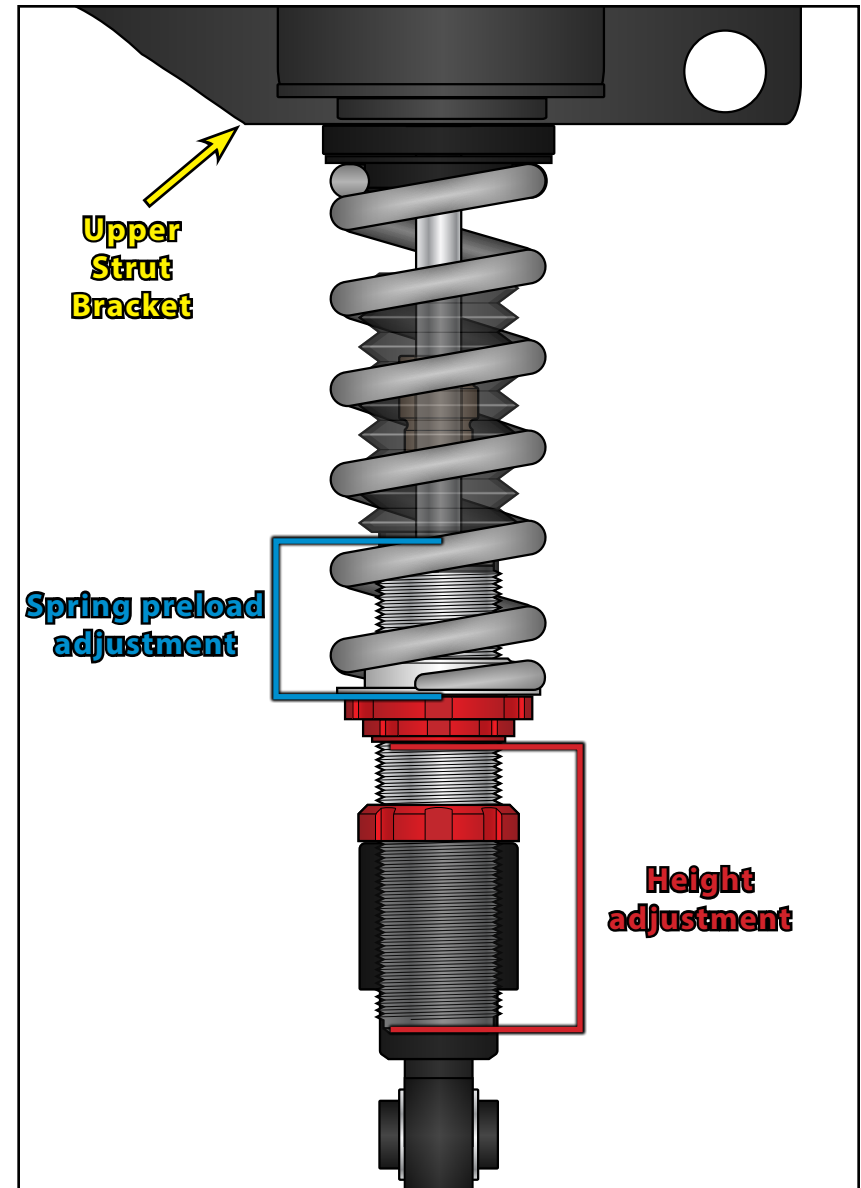
INSTALLING THE REAR COILOVERS

Step 3: Coilover Adjustment Wrenches

Before we install the rear coilovers onto the vehicle, it's time to set our baseline adjustment. Once all the coilovers are fully installed we will come back and fine-tune them. Our rear coilovers are three way adjustable, meaning you can adjust the damping, height, and spring preload all independently.

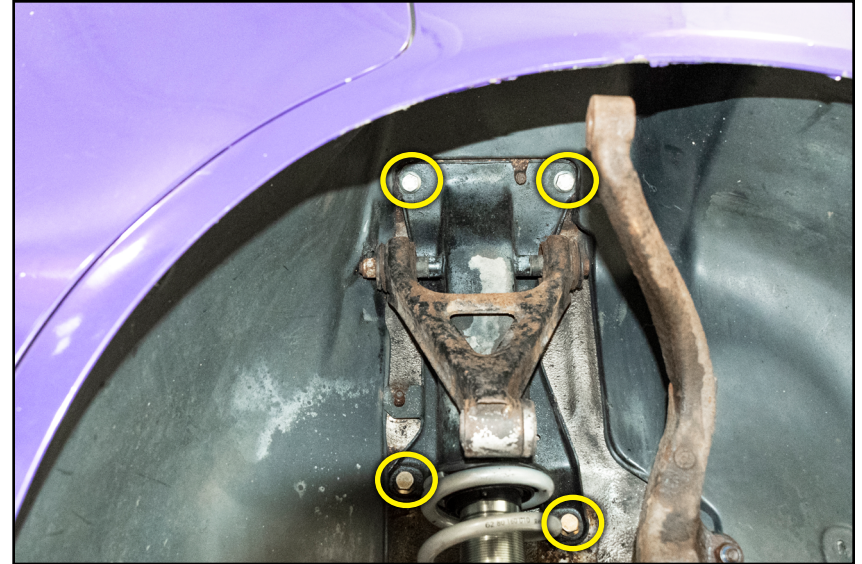
The spring preload can be adjusted by rotating the adjustment collar up until it compresses the spring the desired amount, then tightening the locking collar up against the adjustment collar to lock it in place. We found that a minimal amount of preload was ideal for our vehicle, so we spun the adjustment collar up until it was tight against the bottom of the spring then rotated it up one additional complete turn before locking it in place.

The strut itself can be rotated up or down inside the body to raise or lower the vehicle without affecting the spring preload or damping. We recommend setting the height higher than you want the vehicle to sit, this will leave some room for the suspension to settle, or for you to fine-tune once the coilovers are installed. Once you are happy with the overall height, tighten the locking collar against the strut body to lock it in. We settled on a final ride height that was 1 inch lower than stock ride height in the rear.



16mm socket & Torque Wrench

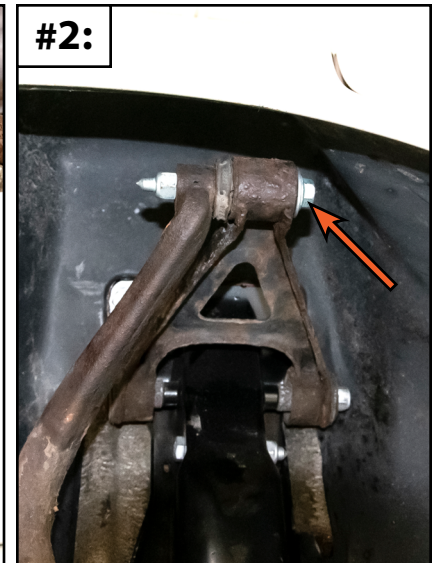
Install the coilover assembly into the vehicle, install the four shock mount bolts (circled in **YELLOW**), then torque the bolts to 55 Nm (41 Ft-lbs).



18mm Wrench, 18mm Socket & Torque Wrench

Jack up the lower control arm until you can slide the lower shock bolt into place, then install the nut (arrow in photo #1). Install the rear upper control arm bolt (arrow in photo #2) then install the nut. Then:

- ☐ Reinstall the wheels and torque the bolts to 120 Nm (89 Ft-lbs).
- ☐ Torque the upper control arm nut to 50 Nm (37 Ft-lbs) at final ride height.
- ☐ Torque the nut for the lower shock bolt to 70 Nm (52 Ft-lbs) + 90 degrees at final ride height.



FINAL INSTALLATION STEPS

Step 1: Coilover Adjustment Wrenches

Set the vehicle on the ground and allow the suspension to settle, give it a few jounces for good measure, then ensure clearance for surrounding suspension components and fenders. Remove the wheels and re-adjust the height as needed until you are happy with the final ride height then tighten the locking collars.



Step 2:

Immediately perform a four-wheel alignment on your vehicle and take the car for a spin! Keep an eye (and ear) out for any rubbing or otherwise unusual noises before giving your vehicle the green light. Remember, at any time you can remove the wheels and fine-tune your coilovers to match your vehicle equipment, driving environment and style of driving, so keep those adjustment wrenches handy!

Congratulations, your installation is complete!



TORQUING TIPS

Torque to Yield or “Stretch” Bolts

Many bolts will have a torque specification listed in the format - xx Nm (xx Ft-lbs) + xx degrees. These bolts are torque to yield bolts, commonly referred to as “stretch” bolts. The correct procedure for torquing these bolts is:

Stage One - Torque the bolt(s) to the initial Nm or Ft-lb specification. If there is more than one, be sure to torque them in the correct sequence.

Stage Two - Tighten or “stretch” the bolt(s) the additional specified number of degrees. If there is more than one, be sure to follow the correct sequence.

Note - Some bolts may have two or more stages of torquing before the final stage of “stretching” the bolts.

When tightening more than one bolt in a specified sequence, be sure to mark each fastener with paint **immediately** after performing the final stage or “stretching” of the bolts. This will ensure that you keep track of which bolts have already been “stretched”.

All Torque to Yield bolts should only be used once and should be replaced each time they are removed. If they are reused, they will not be able to achieve the proper clamping force with the specified torque.

Lubrication

Torque specifications are always listed for a dry fastener (**no** lubrication) unless specified otherwise.

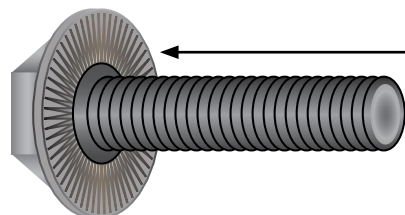
Some fasteners require lubrication on the threads -or- on the contact surface while torquing. These fasteners will be listed with the specific location and type of lubrication required. Always follow manufacturers recommendations exactly.

Lubricating a fastener that is intended to be installed dry and then torquing it to factory specifications will increase the clamping force and stress on the fastener and components, which can result in damage or failure.

Do not lubricate the threads of any fastener unless it is specifically recommended by the manufacturer.

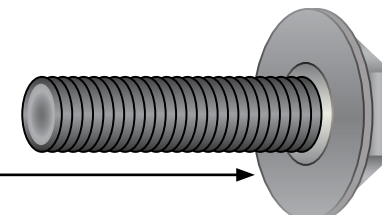
Ribbed vs. Non-Ribbed Bolts

Ribbed and Non-Ribbed bolts in the same location generally require a different torque specification.



A ribbed bolt is identified by the ribs on the contact surface

A non-ribbed bolt is identified by the smooth contact surface



TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS

Front Upper Strut Nut	60 Nm (44 Ft-lbs)	(Page 9)
Front Upper Strut Mounting Bracket Nuts	20 Nm (15 Ft-lbs)	(Page 9)
Front Upper Strut Mounting Bracket Bolts	75 Nm (55 Ft-lbs)	(Page 11)
Front Upper Control Arms Pinch Bolt	40 Nm (29 Ft-lbs)	(Page 11)
Front Strut Fork Bolt	90 Nm (66 Ft-lbs)	(Page 11)
Rear Upper Shock Bolt	70 Nm (52 Ft-lbs) + 90°	(Page 15)
Rear Upper Shock Bracket Bolts	55 Nm (41 Ft-lbs)	(Page 17)
Rear Lower Shock bolt	70 Nm (52 Ft-lbs) + 90°	(Page 17)
Rear Upper Control Arm Nut	50 Nm (37 Ft-lbs) + 90°	(Page 17)
Wheel Bolt	120 Nm (89 Ft-lbs)	(Page 17)

Your Adjustable Coilover Kit installation is complete!



These instructions are provided as a courtesy by ECS Tuning

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.

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