

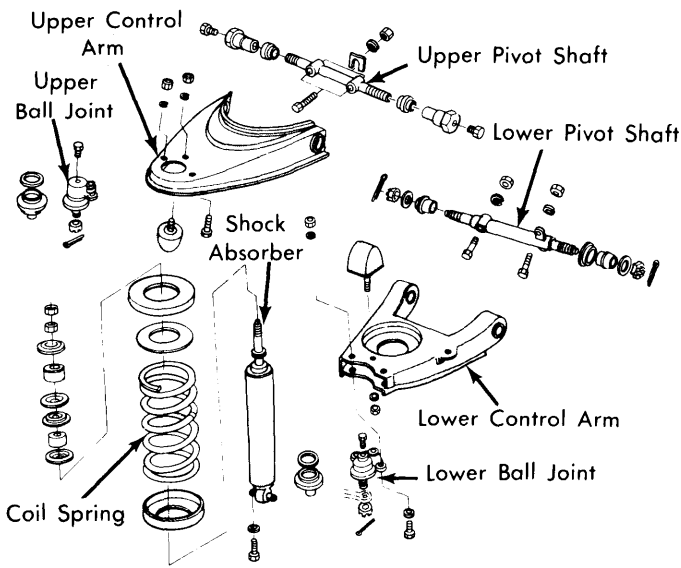
Front Suspension

1972-73 FORD COURIER

Courier (1972-73)

DESCRIPTION

Independent type suspension, consisting of upper and lower control arms and wheel spindle mounted between upper and lower arms by means of ball joints. Upper control arm pivots on a shaft attached to frame, lower control arm pivots on a shaft mounted to crossmember. A coil spring is mounted between lower control arm and frame. Shock absorber is hydraulic double action type, mounted between lower control arm and frame inside coil spring.



2EM8000

COURIER FRONT SUSPENSION COMPONENTS

ADJUSTMENT

WHEEL ALIGNMENT SPECIFICATIONS & PROCEDURES

See *Wheel Alignment Specifications & Procedures* in **WHEEL ALIGNMENT** Section.

WHEEL BEARING ADJUSTMENT

See *Wheel Bearing Adjustment* in **WHEEL ALIGNMENT** Section.

BALL JOINT CHECKING

See *Ball Joint Checking* in **WHEEL ALIGNMENT** Section.

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

SHOCK ABSORBERS

Removal — Remove nut, rubber bushing and washer attaching upper end of shock absorber to crossmember. Remove lower retaining bolts holding shock absorber to lower control arm, and remove shock absorber from vehicle.

Installation — Reverse removal procedure and tighten mounting bolts to specifications.

UPPER BALL JOINT & CONTROL ARM

Removal — Raise vehicle and place safety stands under lower control arm. Lower vehicle until upper arm is off rubber bumper stop. Remove tire and wheel. Remove cotter pin and nut attaching upper ball joint to spindle. Strike tapered fit with a hammer to break loose and separate ball joint from spindle. Remove three retaining nuts and bolts and remove ball joint from control arm. To remove arm, open hood and remove two upper arm retaining bolts and remove control arm from vehicle.

Installation — Position ball joint in upper arm and tighten bolts to specifications. Install control arm in vehicle and tighten bolts to specifications. Install spindle on ball joint, tighten nut to specification and install cotter pin. Install tire and wheel, remove safety stands and lower vehicle. Check caster, camber and toe-in.

LOWER CONTROL ARM, BALL JOINT & COIL SPRING

Removal — Raise vehicle and place safety stands under frame behind both lower control arms. Remove wheel and tire. Remove lower shock absorber bolts and collapse shock absorber up into spring. Remove retaining bolt attaching stabilizer bar to lower control arm. Install a floor jack under spring area of lower arm, and raise arm to relieve spring pressure. Remove cotter pin and nut attaching lower control arm to spindle, strike tapered fit with hammer and separate ball joint from spindle. Remove three bolts and nuts retaining ball joint to lower control arm and remove ball joint. Release jack and lower arm enough to remove coil spring. Remove three bolts and nuts retaining lower arm to crossmember and remove arm from vehicle.

Installation — Place lower arm in position, install three retaining bolts and nuts, do not tighten. Place coil spring in position in lower arm and hold in place with a C-clamp. Place upper end of spring in pocket in frame and raise lower control arm with a jack. Position ball joint in lower arm and tighten bolts to specifications. Raise lower control arm with jack enough to install ball joint in spindle, install nut and tighten to specifications and install new cotter pin. Now tighten three lower arm retaining bolts left loose, to specifications. Pull shock absorber down and tighten retaining bolts to specifications. Install stabilizer bar as previously outlined. Install tire and wheel, remove safety stands and lower vehicle. Check caster, camber and toe-in.

TIGHTENING SPECIFICATIONS

Application	Ft. Lbs. (mkg)
Upper Ball Joint Stud.....	47 (6.5)
Lower Ball Joint Stud.....	65 (9)
Ball Joint-to-Upper Control Arm.....	18 (2.5)
Ball Joint-to-Lower Control Arm.....	65 (9)
Shock Absorbers Mounts.....	22 (3)
Upper & Lower Control Arm-to-Frame.....	69 (9.5)
Lower Control Arm Shaft-to-Control Arm.....	61 (8.5)
Bumper-to-Lower Control Arm.....	65 (9)
Bumper-to-Upper Control Arm.....	18 (2.5)