

Front Suspension

1971-73 RENAULT R-12, R-15 & R-17

R-12 R-1172 (1971-73)
 R-12 R-1331 (1971-73)
 R-15 R-1302 (1972-73)
 R-17 R-1313 (1972-73)
 R-17 R-1323 (1972-73)

DESCRIPTION

Independent type front suspension with coil springs. Wheel is supported by steering knuckle mounted between upper and lower control arms by means of ball joints. Hydraulic, double acting shock absorbers are mounted between upper control arm and chassis with coil spring attached to upper portion of shock. A strut rod is connected to chassis and upper control arm. A stabilizer bar is bolted to chassis and fastened to ball joint of upper control arm link. Upper and lower control arms pivot on chassis.

ADJUSTMENT

WHEEL ALIGNMENT SPECIFICATIONS & PROCEDURES

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

WHEEL BEARINGS

See *Wheel Bearings* in **WHEEL ALIGNMENT** Section.

BALL JOINT CHECKING

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

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

FRONT SUSPENSION ASSEMBLY

Removal — Raise and support vehicle. Remove wheel and disconnect steering arm at rack end. Install spring compressor and disconnect top of shock absorber. Loosen lock nut at bottom of shock absorber and unscrew shock absorber until it can be removed with coil spring attached. Disconnect strut rod and stabilizer bar from upper control arm. Remove nuts and bolts securing upper control arm. Remove nuts and bolts securing lower control arm. Remove hub and brake assembly without disconnecting brake hose. Slowly pull suspension assembly from vehicle separating steering knuckle from axle. **NOTE** — Do not pull axle from gear box.

Installation — Coat axle splines with Molykote and reverse removal procedures. Tighten all nuts and bolts.

UPPER CONTROL ARM & BALL JOINTS

Removal — Raise and support vehicle. Remove wheel and disconnect strut rod and stabilizer bar from upper control arm. Using suitable tool (T.Av 476), remove steering arm ball joint and steering knuckle ball joint. Remove bolts and nuts securing control arm hinge pin, disconnect shock absorber from control arm and remove control arm.

Installation — To install, reverse removal procedure. Coat control arm hinge pin with suitable grease and tighten all nuts and bolts.

LOWER CONTROL ARM & BALL JOINT

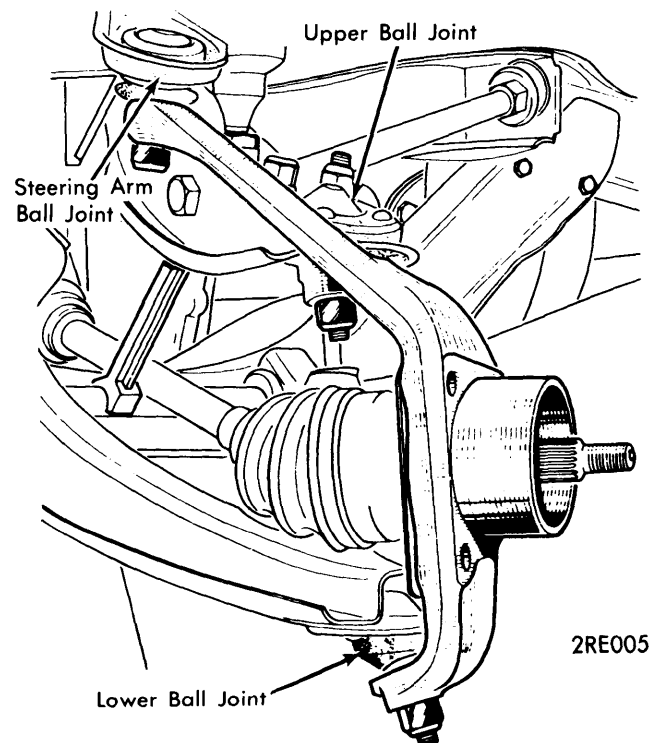
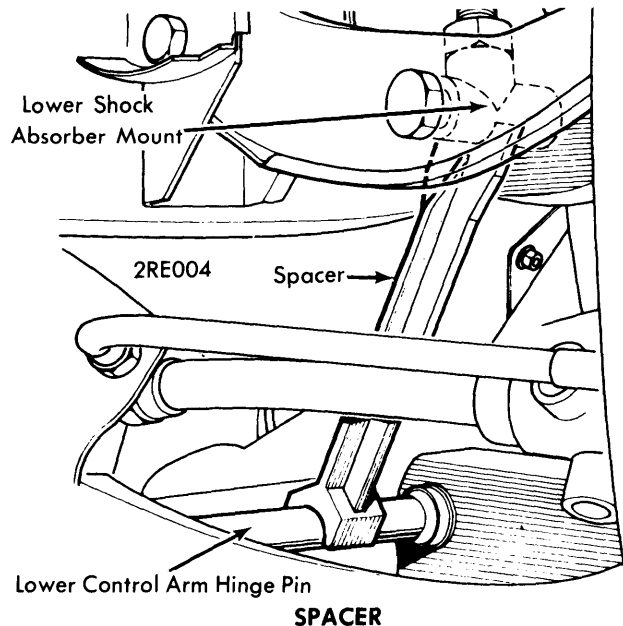
Removal — Raise and support vehicle. Remove wheel and using suitable tool (T.Av 476) disconnect lower control arm ball joint. Remove nuts and bolts securing lower control arm hinge pin and remove lower control arm.

Installation — To install, reverse removal procedure. Coat control arm hinge pin with suitable grease and tighten all nuts and bolts.

UPPER & LOWER BALL JOINTS

Removal — Using suitable tool (T.Av 476), disconnect ball joint. Drill out rivets securing ball joint and remove.

Installation — To install, reverse removal procedure, replacing rivets with nuts and bolts. **NOTE** — Place bolt head on same side as the bellows.



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STEERING KNUCKLE ASSEMBLY

1971-73 RENAULT R-12, R-15 & R-17 (Cont.)

STEERING KNUCKLE

Removal — Raise and support vehicle. Remove wheel and place spacer between lower shock absorber mount and lower control arm hinge pin. Remove hub and brake assembly without disconnecting brake hose. Separate three ball joints using suitable tool (T.Av 476). After disconnecting ball joints, remove steering knuckle. **NOTE** — *Do not pull axle from gear box.*

Installation — Coat axle splines with Molykote and reverse removal procedure. Tighten all nuts and bolts.

TIGHTENING SPECIFICATIONS

Application	Ft. Lbs. (mkg)
Upper Control Arm-to-Chassis	75 (10.4)
Lower Control Arm-to-Chassis	80 (11.1)
Steering Arm Ball Joint	25 (3.5)
Upper Ball Joint	35 (4.8)
Lower Ball Joint	35 (4.8)
Shock Absorber Lower Lock Nut	45 (6.2)