

Rear Suspension

1966-73 OPEL

Kadette (1966-72)
GT (1969-73)
1900 (1971-73)
Manta (1972-73)

DESCRIPTION

All models utilize a three-link rear suspension arrangement, consisting of coil springs, track rod, shock absorbers and lower control arms. The coil springs are set just ahead of the axle housing. The track rod is used to control lateral stability of rear axle assembly. Station wagons and models equipped with 1500 and 1900 cc engines, except GT models, have a stabilizer bar mounted to frame and connected at ends to rear axle. Lower control arms comprise two links of the suspension system, controlling the fore and aft movement of the rear axle. The third link is the torque tube. It is attached to the differential carrier and underbody through rubber bushings. All three links of the suspension system absorb all acceleration and braking torque.

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

COIL SPRINGS

Removal — Raise rear of vehicle with floor jack under differential carrier and support with jack stands under side brackets. Remove rear wheels. Disconnect shock absorbers from rear axle. Detach stabilizer and shackles (if equipped) from frame. Lower rear axle assembly as far as possible without straining brake hoses. If necessary, tilt rear axle and remove coil springs. Note upper and lower rubber damper rings.

Installation — Ensure lower damper rings are properly positioned and insert springs. Properly install rings on upper end of springs. Raise rear axle assembly to compress springs and attach shock absorbers. Reconnect stabilizer shackles to axle brackets. Install rear wheels and lower vehicle.

LOWER CONTROL ARM

Removal — *NOTE* — This operation may be performed with vehicle free-standing or elevated. Disconnect parking brake cable from bracket on control arm. Loosen and remove front and rear control arm attaching bolts and remove control arm.

Installation — On all except GT models, place a load of approximately 350 lbs. (159 kg) in luggage compartment. On GT models, place approximately 150 lbs. (68 kg) on driver's seat. Tighten control arm attaching nuts and bolts. Reconnect brake cable to control arm bracket.

STABILIZER BAR (If Equipped)

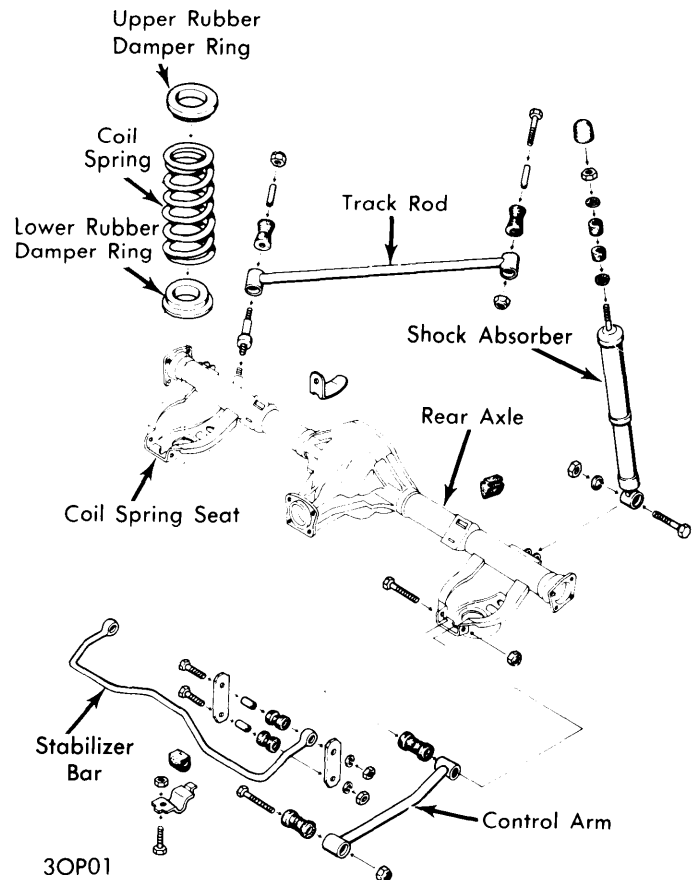
Removal — Raise and support rear of vehicle. Disconnect stabilizer bar-to-shackle bolts. Disconnect stabilizer bar-to-underbody retainers and work bar out from under vehicle.

Installation — Work stabilizer bar into position and loosely attach stabilizer bar-to-underbody retainers. Connect stabilizer bar to shackles. With vehicle standing on its wheels, tighten stabilizer bar-to-underbody bracket bolts.

TRACK ROD

Removal — Lift rear of car and suitably support. Disconnect track rod from rear axle and frame sidemember.

Installation — Loosely connect track rod first to sidemember. On all except GT models, load luggage compartment with approximately 350 lbs. (159 kg) of weight. On GT models, place approximately 150 lbs. (68 kg) on driver's seat. Tighten track rod attaching bolts.



OPEL REAR SUSPENSION COMPONENTS

TIGHTENING SPECIFICATIONS

Application	Ft. Lbs. (mkg)
Control Arm Attaching Nut	
GT Models	18 (2.5)
All Other Models	23 (3.2)
Stabilizer Bar-to-Underbody Retainers	15 (2)
Stabilizer Bar-to-Axle Bracket	25 (3.5)
Side Strut Rod Bolts	24 (3.3)
Shock Absorber Lower Mount	
GT Models	15 (2)
All Other Models	47 (6.5)