

Front Suspension

HONDA

Civic
Civic CVCC
Accord

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

DESCRIPTION

Strut type front suspension consisting of a vertically mounted strut assembly. Strut assembly is mounted to body at the top by means of a thrust bearing. Lower end of strut is connected to steering knuckle which is mounted to lower control arm by means of a ball joint. Strut assembly consists of a shock absorber built into strut outer tube and a coil spring mounted to outside upper portion of strut tube. A two-piece stabilizer bar (with spring coil) is attached to crossmember and connected at ends to lower control arms. Control Spring mounts with brackets to stabilizer bars and crossmember.

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.

STEERING KNUCKLE

Removal — 1) Raise and support vehicle and remove wheel. Remove spindle nut and brake caliper. Install hub puller with slide hammer and remove hub with brake disc attached, from steering knuckle.

2) Disconnect tie rod from steering knuckle using ball joint remover tool. **CAUTION** — Care should be taken not to damage ball joint seals. Use ball joint remover tool to detach lower control arm from steering knuckle. Loosen lock bolt securing steering knuckle to strut assembly. Pull steering knuckle from strut assembly, slide off of axle and remove steering knuckle.

NOTE — Since removing hub assembly involves use of slide hammer and subjects wheel bearings to severe loads, both inner and outer wheel bearings must be replaced each time hub assembly is removed.

Installation — To install, reverse removal procedure and note. Wheel bearing and seal must be replaced. Press out old bearing, then insert new one using a press to fully seat bearing and seal.

STRUT ASSEMBLY

Removal — Raise and support vehicle then remove wheel. Disconnect brake line at strut assembly and remove retaining clip. Loosen lock bolt securing strut assembly to steering knuckle and separate knuckle from strut. Remove nuts retaining upper end of strut to body and remove strut.

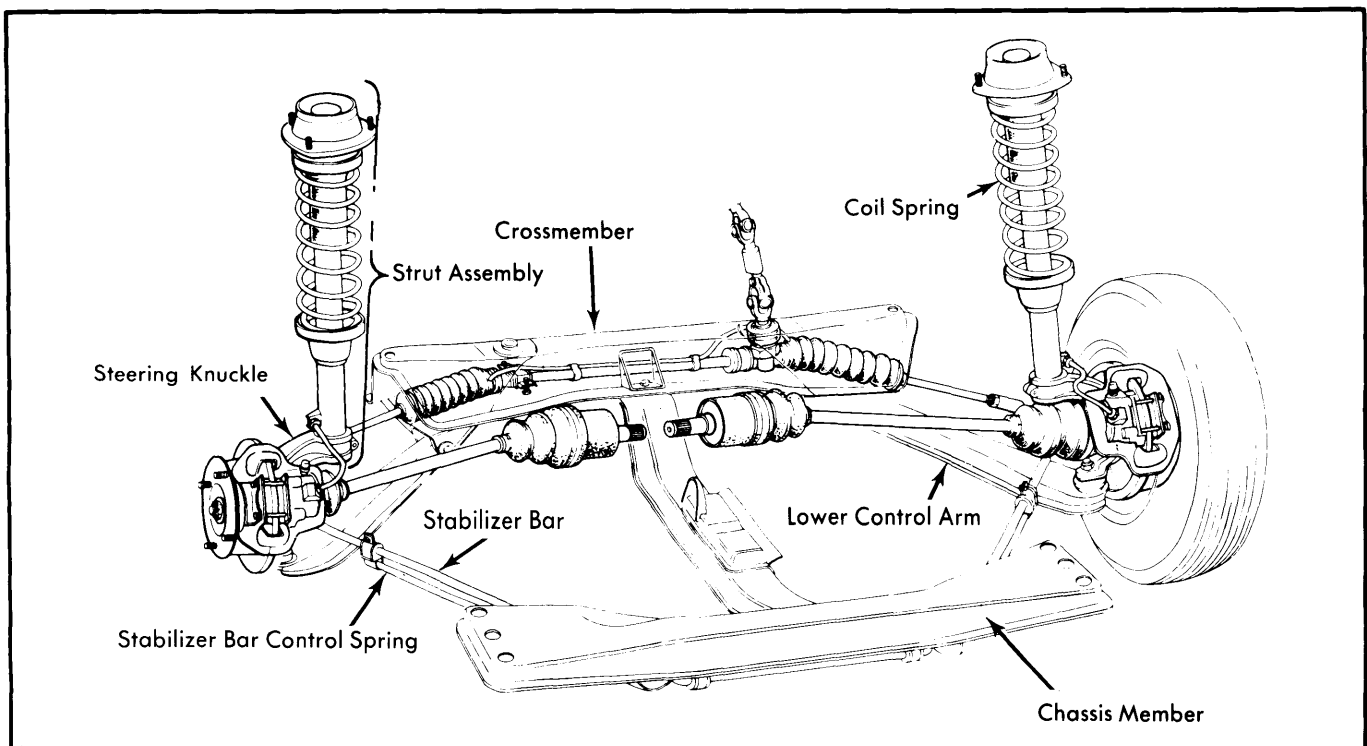


Fig. 1 Assembled View of Honda Front Suspension Showing Component Relationships
Honda Civic Shown

HONDA (Cont.)

Disassembly — Assemble strut assembly to special spring compressor tool, and compress shock absorber approximately 2" (51 mm). Remove rubber cover and loosen self-locking nut on end of piston rod. Remove tool and upper mount, thrust bearing assembly and coil spring.

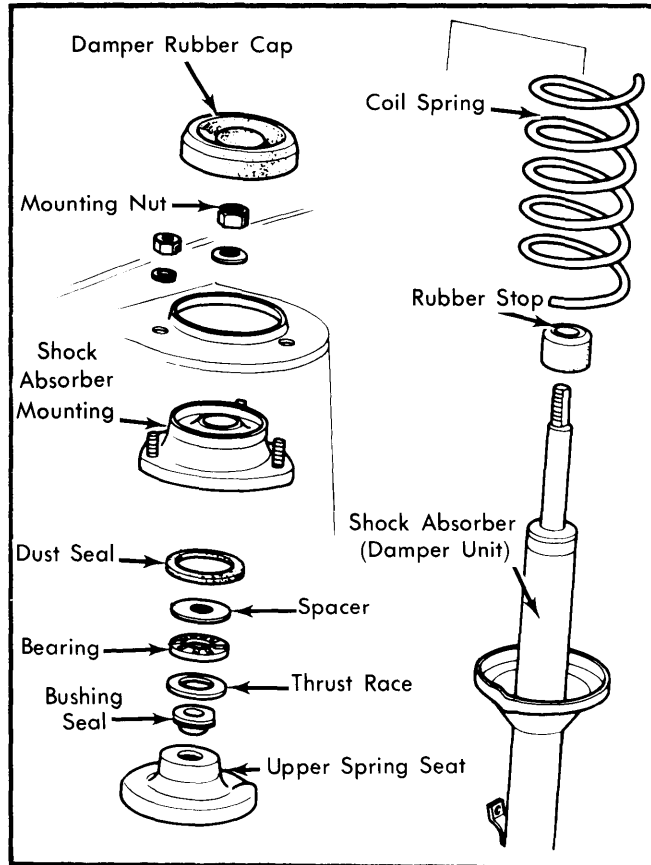


Fig. 2 Exploded View of Accord Strut Assembly. All Struts are Similar. Major Difference in Struts is Hardware Between Upper & Lower Spring Seats.

Reassembly — Reverse disassembly procedure using Fig. 2 as a guide. Also, make sure shock absorber components do not show any signs of leaking.

Installation — Reverse removal procedure and note: Make sure slot in steering knuckle is engaged in tab on shock (strut) housing before seating it into steering knuckle.

LOWER CONTROL ARM

Removal — Raise and support vehicle. Remove wheel. Disconnect lower ball joint from steering knuckle using ball joint remover tool. Disconnect stabilizer retaining brackets and remove stabilizer bar. Remove lower control arm pivot bolt and disconnect radius rod (if equipped). Remove control arm.

Installation — To install, reverse removal procedure and note: On Accord models only, make sure bolt mounting lower control arm to crossmember is tightened with weight of vehicle on jack. This simulates normal riding height.

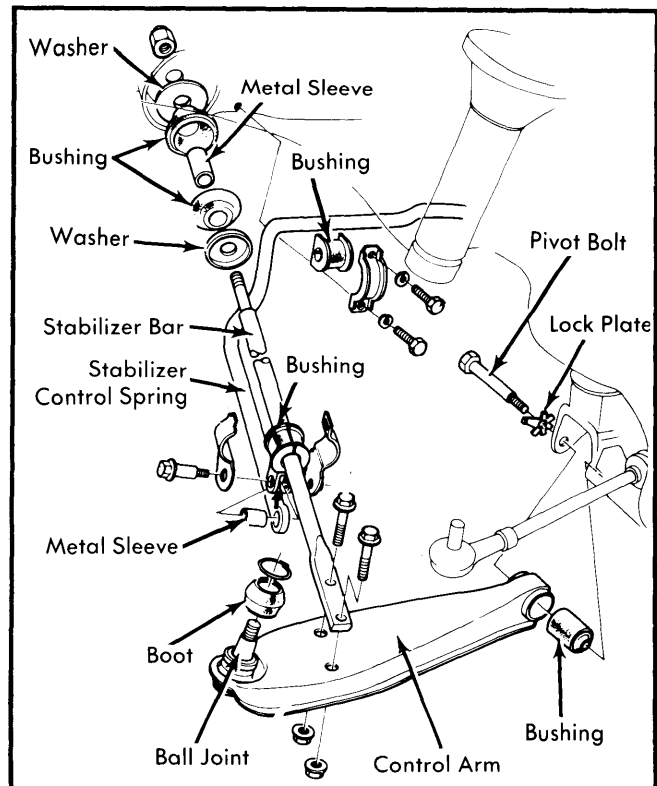


Fig. 3 Exploded View Showing Stabilizer Bar and Control Spring (Sway Bar). Note Mounting Locations. Accord Model Shown

STABILIZER BAR & CONTROL SPRING

Removal — Disconnect stabilizer bar mounting at lower control arm on both sides. Separate bracket and bushing mounting stabilizer bar control spring to stabilizer bar. Remove bracket securing control spring to crossmember. Loosen and remove stabilizer bar mounting at crossmember and slide both pieces from vehicle.

Inspection — Inspect all rubber bushings and metal sleeves for excessive wear or damage.

Installation — To install stabilizer and control spring, reverse removal procedure.

TIGHTENING SPECIFICATIONS

Application	Ft. Lbs. (mkg)
Spindle Nut	
Civic & Accord	87-130 (12-18)
CVCC	109 (15)
Ball Joint	
Civic	22-29 (3-4)
CVCC	25 (3.5)
Accord	29-36 (4-5)
Strut-to-Knuckle	
Civic	36-43 (5-6)
CVCC	40 (5.5)
Accord	43-51 (6-7)