

## VOLKSWAGEN DASHER

### Dasher

#### DESCRIPTION

Volkswagen Dasher is front wheel drive with independent strut type front suspension. Axles are supported by lower control arms, vertically mounted strut assemblies, and a stabilizer bar. Strut assemblies consist of double action shock absorbers with coil springs mounted over the outside. The top part of strut is attached to the inner fender panel and the lower portion is attached directly to steering knuckle. Tie rods are connected to supports under coil springs. Stabilizer bar is connected to lower control arms at each end and to crossmember below engine.

#### 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

#### STRUT & COIL SPRING ASSEMBLY

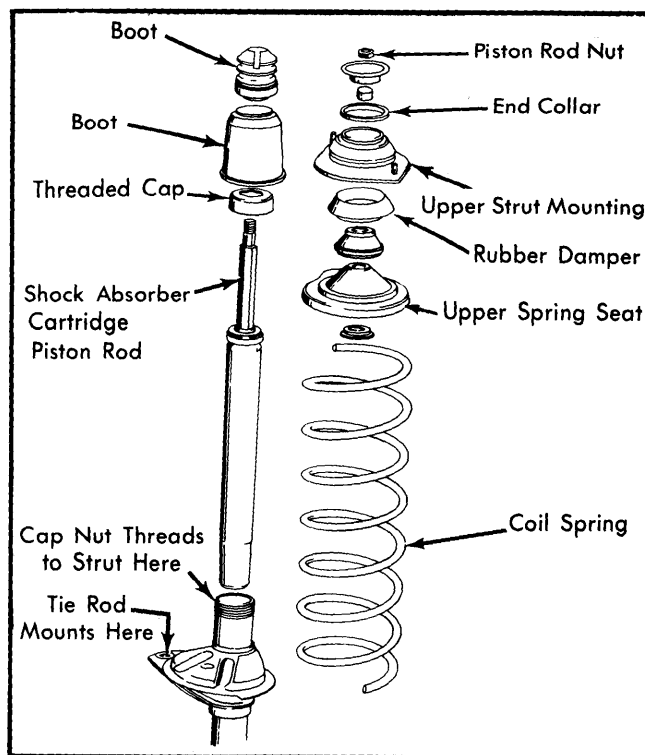
**Removal** – 1) Loosen axle nut and wheel lugs. Raise and support vehicle; remove wheel and tire. Remove brake hose clips, disconnect brake caliper and move out of way.

2) Loosen bolt holding suspension ball joint stud in bottom of strut assembly. Using suitable tool, remove tie rod end from mounting under coil spring seat. Disconnect stabilizer bar from lower control arm.

3) Force lower control arm down until ball joint stud is removed from suspension strut. Remove axle nut. Support axle drive shaft so it won't fall. Pull strut outward until off axle drive shaft. Remove both upper mounting nuts. Guide strut from vehicle.

**Disassembly** – 1) Place strut in a vise and install coil spring compressor. Tighten compressor until pressure is taken off upper retainer. Remove upper collar mounting nut. Take off upper mounting hardware. Release spring compressor and remove coil spring.

2) Hold shock absorber cartridge center shaft with suitable tool. Loosen and remove threaded cap nut. If shock absorber cartridge will not easily pull front strut tube, thread a nut on center shaft and tap until corrosion breaks free.



**Fig. 1 Exploded View of Front Suspension Strut**

**Reassembly** – To reassemble, reverse disassembly procedure, noting the following:

- Coil springs may be replaced one at a time, but paint color codes must be matched. Original springs will have 1 or 2 stripes of orange or 1, 2 or 3 stripes of gray paint. Replacement springs all have 2 stripes of paint. Match to original gray or orange color.

**Installation** – To install, reverse removal procedure and note the following. When assembling ball joint to lower control arm always use a new bolt and nut. Face bolt head toward front of vehicle.

#### LOWER CONTROL ARM

**Removal** – 1) Raise vehicle so that front wheel and suspension are not supported.

2) Disconnect stabilizer bar at control arm and subframe. Slide stabilizer bar out of vehicle.

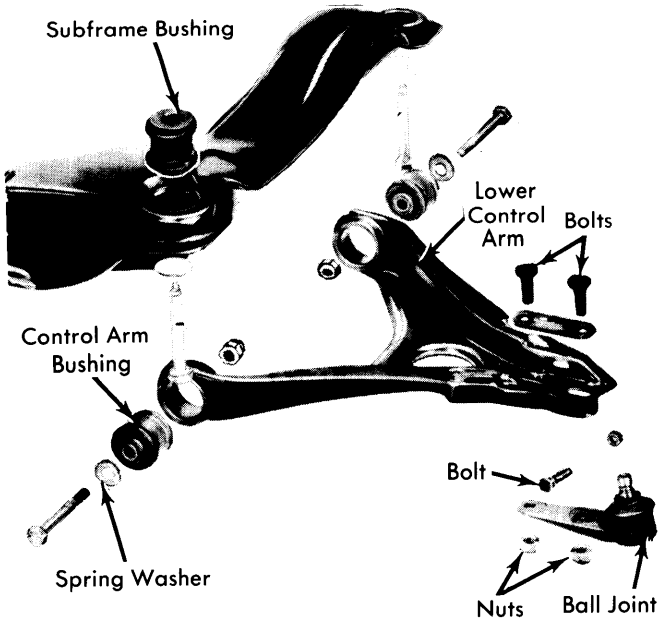
3) Loosen ball joint clamp bolt. Force lower control arm down until ball joint stud is removed from suspension strut. Remove bolt mounting control arm to subframe. Guide arm from vehicle.

**Bushing Replacement** – 1) Check bushing in control arm for signs of excessive wear or damage. If bushings are bad they can be replaced.

2) Support wide points on control arm. Press bushings from each side of control arm.

# Front Suspension

## VOLKSWAGEN DASHER (Cont.)



**Fig. 2 Exploded View of Lower Control Arm**

**3)** Select new bushings. Lightly coat each bushing with brake paste. Press bushing into position in control arm. Make sure bushing does not twist when pressing into place. Use bushing guide if necessary.

**Installation** — Reverse removal procedure and note: Use water pump pliers to compress clamps around bushing when trying to start bolts. Check front wheel alignment.

### STABILIZER BAR

**Removal** — 1) Raise vehicle and suitably support with safety stands. Remove brackets mounting stabilizer bar to lower control arm .

2) Loosen and remove "U" brackets mounting stabilizer bar to subframe. Guide stabilizer bar from vehicle. Inspect rubber bushings for damage or excessive wear and replace as necessary.

**Installation** — To install, reverse removal procedure.

### TIGHTENING SPECIFICATIONS

Application	Ft. Lbs. (mkg)
Axle Nut	
18 mm Nut.....	145 (20.0)
20 mm Nut.....	175 (24)
Lower Control Arm-to-Subframe.....	50 (7.0)
Upper Strut Assembly-to-Body.....	18 (2.5)
Stabilizer Bar-to-Subframe.....	7 (.9)
Piston Rod Nut.....	43 (6)
Shock Absorber Cap Nut.....	108 (15.0)
Stabilizer Bar-to-Lower Control Arm.....	7 (.9)
Ball Joint-to-Suspension Strut.....	36 (5.0)
Tie Rod Castle Nut.....	29 (4.0)
Ball Joint-to-Lower Control Arm.....	47 (6.5)