

## HONDA

Accord  
Civic  
Civic CVCC  
Prelude

## 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. On all models except Prelude, radius rods are attached to crossmember and lower control arms. A stabilizer bar is attached to crossmember and lower control arms (Prelude) or radius rods (all other models).

### 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. Remove brake caliper without disconnecting hydraulic line and support out of way. On Prelude, screw 2 M8 x 1.25 x 12 mm bolts into threaded holes in brake rotor until rotor is pulled off of hub.

2) On all models, install hub puller and slide hammer and remove hub (with brake rotor attached on all except Prelude) from steering knuckle. Disconnect tie rod from steering knuckle using suitable removal tool.

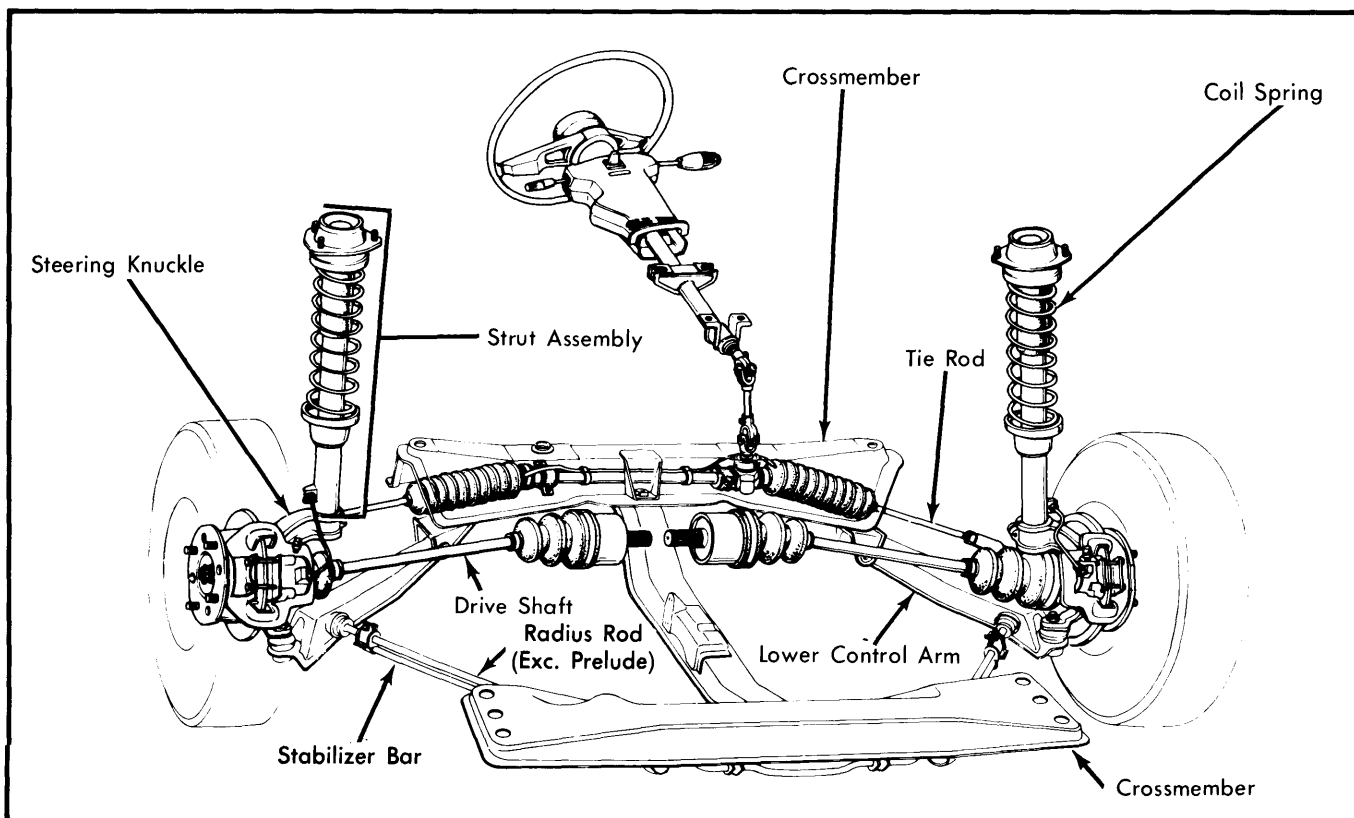
3) Taking care not to damage ball joint seals, detach lower control arm from ball joint at steering knuckle. Loosen lock bolt holding steering knuckle to strut assembly and slide steering knuckle off axle.

**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



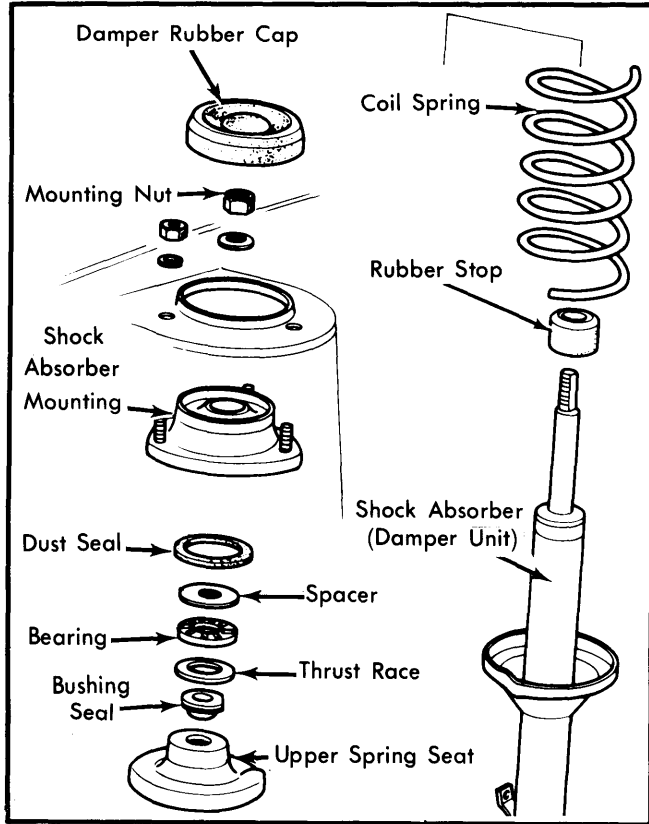
**Fig. 1 Assembled View of Honda Front Suspension Showing Component Relationships (Civic Shown; Other Models Similar)**

# Front Suspension

## HONDA (Cont.)

clip. On Prelude, remove brake caliper without disconnecting hydraulic line and support out of way. On all models, 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.

**Disassembly** — Using suitable tool, compress coil spring to relieve tension from upper shock absorber retaining nut. Remove nut, seals, spacers, etc. (noting arrangement), beneath upper mounting plate. Slowly remove pressure from spring and lift spring off. Shock absorber may now be replaced, if necessary.



**Fig. 2 Exploded View of Honda Strut Assembly (Accord Shown; Other Models Similar)**

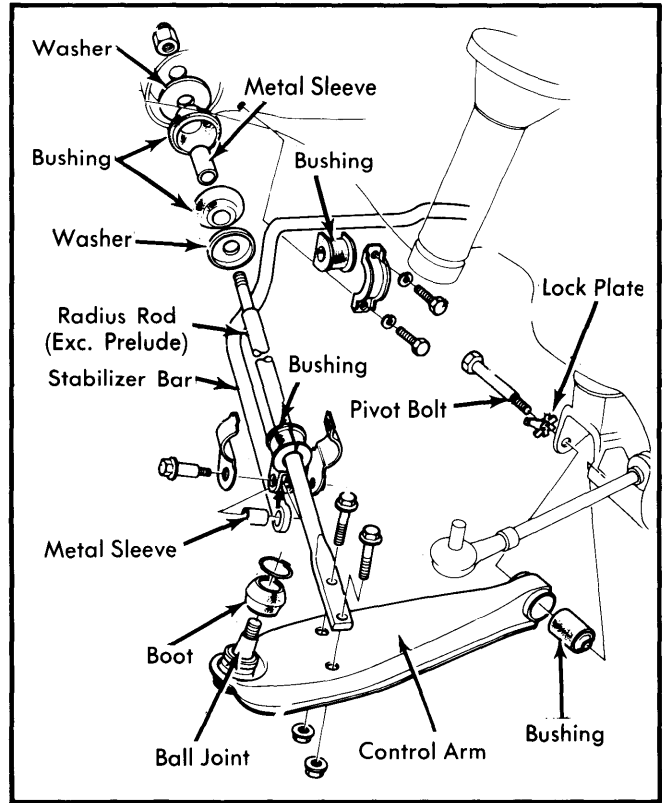
**Reassembly** — Reverse disassembly procedure using Fig. 2 as a guide. Also, make sure shock absorber components do not show any signs of leaking.

**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 front wheel. Disconnect lower ball joint from steering knuckle, using ball joint remover tool. Disconnect stabilizer retaining bolts and nuts from control arm (it may be necessary to loosen front stabilizer retaining brackets). Remove lower control arm pivot bolt and 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.



**Fig. 3 Exploded View Showing Stabilizer Bar and Radius Rod (Accord Shown; Other Models Similar)**

### STABILIZER BAR

**Removal** — Remove stabilizer bar brackets from crossmember. On Prelude, remove stabilizer-to-control arm nuts and remove stabilizer bar. On all other models, remove stabilizer-to-radius rod bolts and remove stabilizer bar.

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

**Installation** — Reverse removal procedure and note the following: On Prelude, install stabilizer bar with white stripe on right side of vehicle. Also note that right side stabilizer bracket bolts are longer than left side bolts.

### TIGHTENING SPECIFICATIONS

Application	Ft. Lbs. (mkg)
Spindle Nut .....	109 (15)
Ball Joint	
Accord & Prelude .....	33 (4.5)
Civic & CVCC .....	25 (3.5)
Control Arm-to-Crossmember	
Accord & Civic .....	36 (5)
CVCC .....	33 (4.5)
Prelude .....	40 (5.5)
Strut-to-Knuckle	
Accord & Prelude .....	47 (6.5)
Civic & CVCC .....	40 (5.5)