

Rear Suspension

FIESTA

Fiesta

DESCRIPTION

Rear suspension assembly components mount on a tubular steel axle and consist of separately mounted coil springs, shock absorbers, transverse rod, trailing arms and a stabilizer bar (some applications).

ADJUSTMENTS

WHEEL ALIGNMENT SPECIFICATIONS & PROCEDURES

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

WHEEL BEARING ADJUSTMENT

See *Wheel Bearing Adjustment* in *WHEEL ALIGNMENT* section.

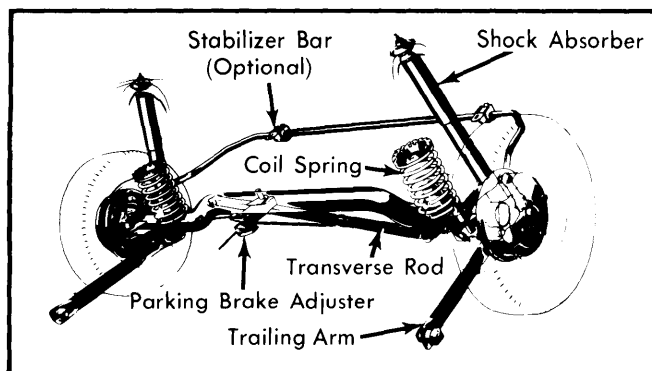


Fig. 1 Assembled View of Fiesta Rear Suspension

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

REAR AXLE & SUSPENSION ASSEMBLY

Removal — 1) Raise and support vehicle. Detach parking brake cable from adjuster. Remove bolts holding transverse rod to body and axle and remove transverse rod.

2) Detach flexible brake lines from axle connections and plug openings. Working from engine compartment, disconnect exhaust pipe from manifold, then from both rear supports. Remove pipe.

3) Place jack under center of rear axle. Remove bolts holding trailing arms to body. Remove stabilizer bar-to-body bolts.

4) Raise tailgate and package tray, remove plastic caps and remove shock absorber upper retaining nuts. Slowly lower jack (watching coil springs) and remove complete axle and suspension assembly.

Installation — 1) Position axle assembly and, with coil springs in position, support with jack and attach trailing arm-to-body bolts.

2) Install and tighten shock absorber top mounts. Reposition stabilizer bar and tighten locknuts. Loosely install trailing arm-to-axle bolts. Remove jack.

3) Install transverse rod and secure both ends. Connect handbrake cable to adjuster and set to proper operating tension. Reconnect brake lines and bleed brake system. Install exhaust pipe.

4) Lower vehicle to ground and fully tighten trailing arm bolts and nuts.

COIL SPRINGS

Removal — 1) Raise and support vehicle. Remove rear wheels. Position a jack below center of rear axle.

2) From beneath package tray, remove shock absorber top mountings. Remove trailing arm-to-axle bolts. Detach 2 stabilizer bar-to-body nuts.

3) Slowly lower jack and remove coil springs and insulators.

Installation — To install, reverse removal procedure, but do not fully tighten trailing arm-to-axle bolts until vehicle is resting on ground.

TRAILING ARM

Removal — Raise and support vehicle. Remove trailing arm-to-body bolts. Remove trailing arm-to-axle bolts and remove arm.

Installation — To install, reverse removal procedure, noting the following:

- Be sure trailing arm flanges point toward centerline of vehicle.
- Do not fully tighten trailing arm-to-axle bolts until vehicle is resting on ground.

STABILIZER BAR

Removal — Remove nuts from body mounting brackets. Remove bolts at each end of stabilizer bar (same as lower shock absorber mounting). Remove stabilizer bar.

Installation — To install, reverse removal procedure.

NOTE — Right end of stabilizer bar is stamped with an arrow and the word "TOP".

SHOCK ABSORBERS

Removal — 1) Raise and support vehicle. Remove rear wheels. Position a jack below rear axle and raise slightly. From beneath package tray, remove mounting pieces, noting position of upper insulators for reinstallation reference.

2) Remove nut and bolt from lower mounting. Use a lever and pry lower end of shock absorber from locating peg. Remove from vehicle.

Installation — To install, reverse removal procedure.

TIGHTENING SPECIFICATIONS

Application	Ft. Lbs. (mkg)
Transverse Rod Bolts	40-48 (5.4-6.4)
Trailing Arm Bolts	40-48 (5.4-6.4)
Shock Absorber	
Upper	18-22 (2.5-3.5)
Lower	40-48 (5.4-6.4)
Stabilizer Bar-to-Body	15-18 (2.1-2.5)