

Front Suspension

FIAT STRADA

DESCRIPTION

Suspension is independent, strut type. Consists of double-action shock absorbers with surrounding coil springs. Strut assemblies are mounted to inner fender panel at top and to steering knuckle at bottom. Steering knuckle is also bearing carrier for drive axles. Lower control arm is connected to knuckle by ball joint. On models with manual transmission, a reaction strut is connected to chassis and lower control arm. On models with automatic transmission, a stabilizer bar is used in place of reaction struts.

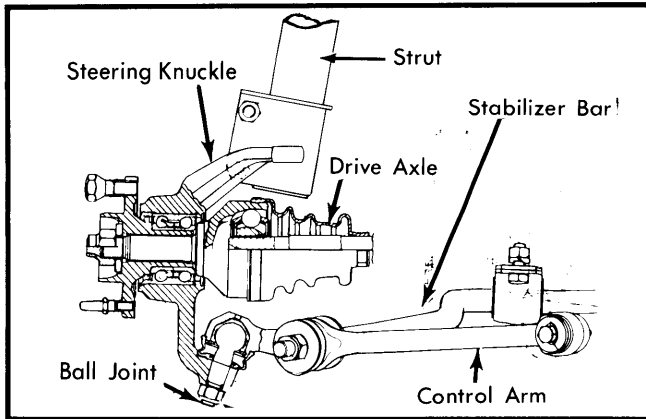


Fig. 1 Strada Front Suspension (Auto. Trans. Model Shown)

ADJUSTMENTS

WHEEL ALIGNMENT SPECIFICATIONS & PROCEDURES

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

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

COMPLETE SUSPENSION ASSEMBLY

NOTE — This procedure is for complete suspension assembly on one side only.

Removal — 1) Raise and support front of vehicle. Remove wheel. With brakes applied, remove hub nut and washer. Remove brake caliper, without detaching brake hose, and suspend out of way (be sure there is no strain on hose or line).

2) Remove nut from tie rod end stud and separate tie rod end from steering knuckle. Remove nut from reaction strut or stabilizer bar at control arm. Note any shims at this connection.

3) Remove control arm pivot bolt from chassis mount, and pull control arm away from reaction rod or sway bar. Note the number and location of shims. Remove nut securing control arm to steering knuckle. Remove bolts securing strut to steering knuckle.

4) Detach upper strut assembly mount from fender panel and remove strut assembly. Disconnect drive shaft rubber boot

from steering knuckle. Separate steering knuckle/brake assembly from drive shaft, and remove suspension assembly.

Installation — To install, reverse removal procedure, tightening axle nut before lowering vehicle and tightening all other nuts and bolts with vehicle resting on ground. Be sure all shims are in proper position.

STRUT ASSEMBLY

Removal — Raise and support front of vehicle. Detach upper strut mount from fender panel. Remove bolts holding strut to steering knuckle. Pull knuckle down to separate and remove strut assembly.

Disassembly and Reassembly — Install suitable spring compressor and compress spring enough to remove upper strut nut. Slowly release spring and remove upper mount, bearing seat, thrust washer, thrust bearing and spring cap. To reassemble, reverse disassembly procedure and note the following: Pack thrust bearing with grease before installing on spring cap.

NOTE — If replacing coil springs, be sure same color-coded class of spring is installed (different colors show different weights).

Installation — To install, reverse removal procedure, tightening nuts to specifications. Be sure lower mount nuts are tightened after vehicle is at curb weight.

CONTROL ARM, BUSHINGS & BALL JOINTS

Removal — Remove complete suspension assembly as outlined. Remove ball joint stud nut and separate from steering knuckle.

Disassembly — To replace control arm bushings, drill out metal sleeve from inside rubber bushings and remove bushings. If ball joint is defective, replace entire control arm assembly.

Reassembly — Place outer washer, bushing and sleeve on centering pin of suitable bushing installation tool. Place control arm over bushing. Position inner bushing and washer on control arm. Place this assembly in a vise and press into place. Sleeve will bellow out over washers, securing bushings in control arm.

Installation — To install, reverse removal procedure.

TIGHTENING SPECIFICATIONS

Application	Ft. Lbs. (mkg)
Front Axle-to-Hub Nut	159 (22.0)
Control Arm Pivot Bolt	29 (4.0)
Stabilizer Bar-to-Control Arm	51 (7.0)
Stabilizer Bar-to-Chassis	36 (5.0)
Ball Joint Nut	40 (5.5)
Strut Assembly Mount	
Upper	25 (3.5)
Lower	43 (6.0)