

# Rear Suspension

## HONDA

**Accord**  
**Civic**  
 Except Wagon  
**Prelude**

### DESCRIPTION

Rear suspension system on all models is an independent type. Major components are: Control arm (lower), shock absorber with coil spring assembly, radius rod (Accord) or radius arm (Civic and Prelude) and rear hub carrier. Prelude models are equipped with a rear stabilizer bar.

### REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

#### SHOCK ABSORBER

**Removal** - 1) Raise vehicle and suitably support on safety stands. Remove rear wheels. Disconnect brake line from bracket on shock absorber housing. Plug open ends and place lines out of way. Disconnect parking brake cable from lever on backing plate.

2) On Prelude, remove nut from stabilizer bar connecting link. On Civic and Prelude, loosen control arm pivot bolt and front radius arm pivot bolt. On Accord, remove cotter pin and loosen outer control arm pivot bolt.

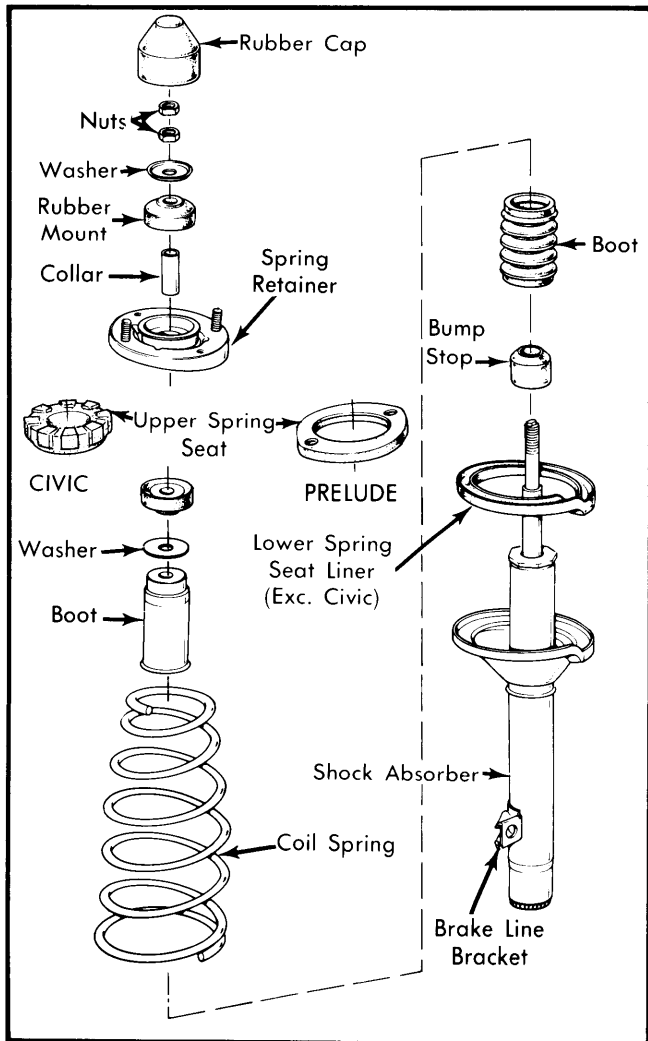
3) On all models, remove bolt mounting shock absorber to hub carrier. Remove 2 upper shock absorber retaining nuts. Lower shock absorber and coil spring from vehicle.

**Disassembly** - Fit spring compressor and slightly compress coils. Remove lock nut and piston rod center nut. Take off upper mounting hardware and coil spring.

**Inspection** - Check piston rod for smooth, even operation. Inspect for signs of oil leaks. Listen for noise or unusual binding during inspection.

**Reassembly** - Select new shock absorber. Fit coil spring to lower spring seat. Refit spring compressor. Collapse coil enough to insert upper mountings and tighten piston rod. Release coil spring.

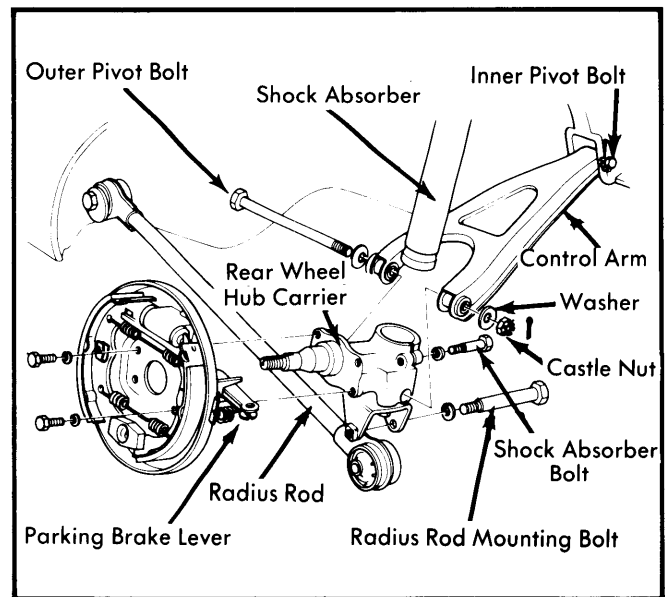
**Installation** - To install, reverse removal procedure and note: Fit top of shock absorber first. Make sure tab on shock absorber engages slot in bearing carrier. Bleed brake system.



**Fig. 1 Exploded View of Shock Absorber Assembly (Civic and Prelude Shown; Accord Similar)**

#### REAR WHEEL HUB CARRIER

**Removal** - Raise vehicle and place on safety stands. Remove wheel and brake drum. Disconnect and plug brake lines. Remove bolt mounting shock absorber to hub carrier. Disconnect control arm and radius rod or arm from hub carrier. Maneuver hub carrier from vehicle.



**Fig. 2 Exploded View of Accord Rear Suspension**

**Installation** - To install hub carrier, reverse removal procedure and note following: Bleed brake system and check rear wheel alignment.

## HONDA (Cont.)

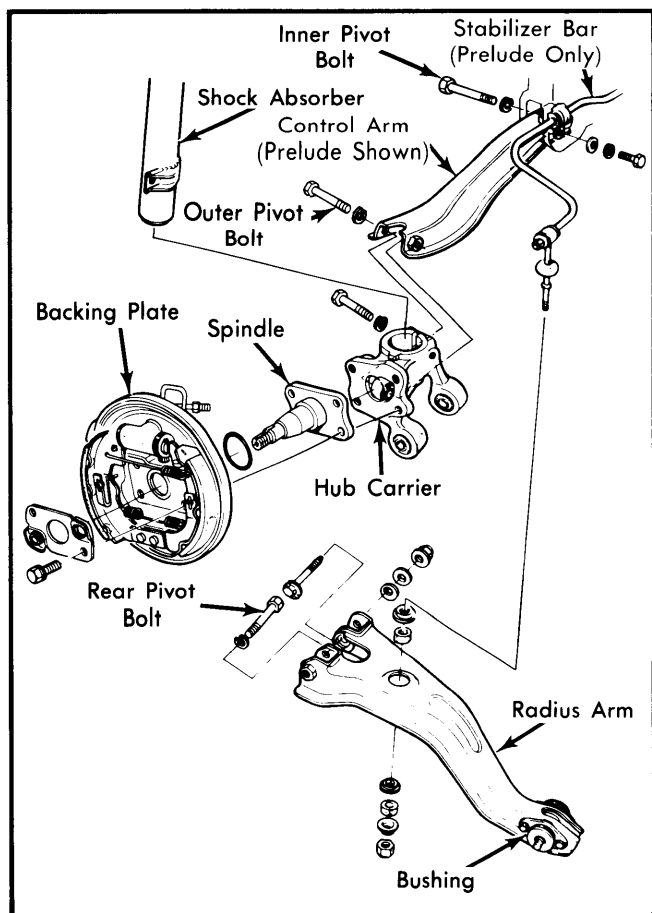


Fig. 3 Exploded View of Civic and Prelude Rear Suspension

### RADIUS ROD OR ARM

**Removal** — Raise and support rear of vehicle. On Prelude, remove stabilizer bar-to-radius arm nuts. On all models, remove bolt(s) mounting radius rod or arm to hub carrier. Remove bolt mounting opposite end of radius rod or arm to body bracket.

**Inspection** — Inspect all bushings and grommets for damage or excessive wear. Replace defective parts. Make sure radius rod or arm adjusting bolt is not damaged.

**Installation** — To install, reverse removal procedure and note: Either lower vehicle to ground or raise rear of vehicle to simulate normal weight before tightening radius rod or arm pivot bolts. Check and adjust wheel alignment as required.

### CONTROL ARM

**Removal** — Raise vehicle and place on safety stands. Remove wheel and brake drum. Remove brake hoses from shock absorber mounting, then plug openings. Remove brake backing plate. Remove bolt mounting shock absorber to hub carrier. Remove both inside and outside control arm pivot bolts. Pull out control arm.

**Inspection** — Inspect all control arm bushings for damage or excessive wear. Replace any parts found defective. Always replace bolt lock tabs.

**Installation** — To install, reverse removal procedure and note following: Bleed brake system and check rear wheel alignment.

### STABILIZER BAR (PRELUDE ONLY)

**Removal** — Remove stabilizer bar-to-radius arm nuts. Remove bolts attaching stabilizer bar to body. Maneuver stabilizer bar out of vehicle.

**Installation** — To install, reverse removal procedure and note the following: Install bar so that outside edges of yellow paint stripes on bar align with outside edges of stabilizer bar bushings.

### TIGHTENING SPECIFICATIONS

Application	Ft. Lbs. (mkg)
Outer Control Arm Pivot Bolt	
Accord .....	60 (8.3)
Civic .....	36 (5.0)
Prelude .....	40 (5.5)
Inner Control Arm Pivot Bolt	
Accord .....	35 (4.8)
Civic & Prelude .....	40 (5.5)
Lower Shock Absorber Bolt .....	40 (5.5)
Shock Absorber Piston Nut .....	24 (3.3)
Radius Rod-to-Hub Carrier	
Accord .....	50 (7.0)
Radius Rod-to-Body	
Accord .....	47 (6.5)
Radius Arm-to-Hub Carrier	
Civic & Prelude	
Outer Bolt .....	74 (10.2)
Inner Nut .....	40 (5.5)
Radius Arm-to-Body	
Civic & Prelude .....	61 (8.5)