

Rear Suspension

FIAT BRAVA & SPIDER 2000

DESCRIPTION

Rear suspension consists of upper and lower struts, shock absorbers, coil springs, and a track bar. Lower struts mount near wheels under axle housing and at brackets on body just ahead of rear wheels. Upper struts mount to bracket on axle housing and to bracket on body. A track bar is connected to axle housing bracket on one end and to a frame bracket on the other. Shock absorber is encased by the coil spring.

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

REAR SUSPENSION ASSEMBLY

Removal — 1) Raise vehicle and support with safety stands. Remove rear wheels. Disconnect propeller shaft from rear axle. Disconnect parking brake cable from cable housing

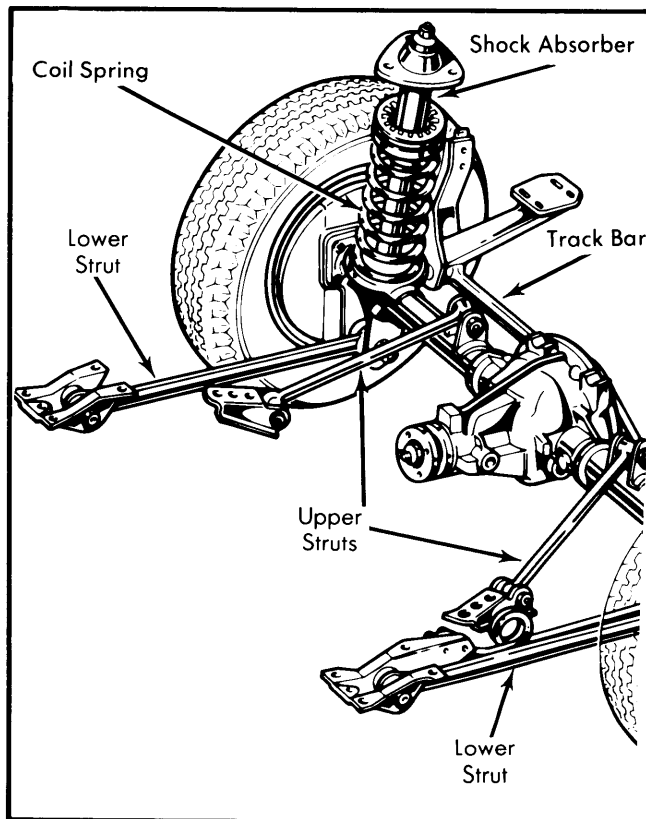


Fig. 1 Fiat Brava & Spider 2000 Rear Suspension Assembly

assembly. Disconnect track bar from body. Place a floor jack under axle assembly. Raise jack just enough to support axle assembly.

2) Disconnect lower strut rods from body bracket. Remove brake hose and brake regulator rod from bracket. Disconnect brake hose from "T" fitting on rear axle. Disconnect upper struts from frame bracket. Disconnect shock absorbers from upper mounts and remove upper mounts from body. Carefully lower rear axle assembly from vehicle.

Installation — To install rear axle, reverse removal procedures and note the following: Tighten nuts and bolts with full weight of vehicle on ground. Bleed brake system after installation.

SHOCK ABSORBERS

Removal — Remove rear suspension assembly. Take out lower shock absorber mounting bolt and remove shock absorber.

CAUTION — Coil spring is under tension.

Installation — To install, reverse removal procedure.

STRUT RODS

Removal (Lower) — Remove nut and bolt mounting strut in rear axle bracket. Disconnect parking brake cable from bracket on strut. Remove strut from front bracket and lift out.

Removal (Upper) — Remove hardware mounting strut in rear bracket, then separate strut from front bracket and remove.

Installation (Upper and Lower) — To install, reverse removal procedure.

TIGHTENING SPECIFICATIONS

Application	Ft. Lbs. (N.m)
Shock Absorber-to-Lower Mount	36 (49)
Shock Absorber-to-Upper Mount	11 (15)
Strut Rod Bolts	58 (79)
Track Bar-to-Body	58 (79)
Track Bar-to-Rear Axle	72 (98)
Upper Shock Mount-to-Body	18 (24)