

FIAT STRADA

DESCRIPTION

Independent type rear suspension utilizing a transverse leaf spring. Wheel bearing carriers are supported by control arms connected to chassis and by hydraulic double action shock absorbers connected at top to inner fender panel. Transverse leaf spring is connected to chassis at center and to control arms at outside.

ADJUSTMENT

WHEEL ALIGNMENT SPECIFICATIONS & PROCEDURES

See *Wheel Alignment Specifications & Procedures* in **WHEEL ALIGNMENT** Section.

WHEEL BEARING ADJUSTMENT

Tighten spindle nut to 159 ft. lbs. (216 N.m) and stake collar of spindle nut to spindle.

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

SHOCK ABSORBER & CONTROL ARM

Removal – 1) Raise rear of vehicle, position safety stands under chassis and remove rear wheels. Disconnect and plug brake flex line. Disconnect retainer to remove torsion bar from connecting link. Disconnect parking brake cable from lever on back of backing plate.

2) Position a jack under control arm, raise slightly and disconnect upper shock absorber mount (accessible from inside luggage compartment). Lower control arm and repeat for the other side. Remove leaf spring rubber bumper. Remove 2 nuts to disconnect control arm pivot shaft from chassis and remove control arm from chassis, keeping track of shims as control arm is removed.

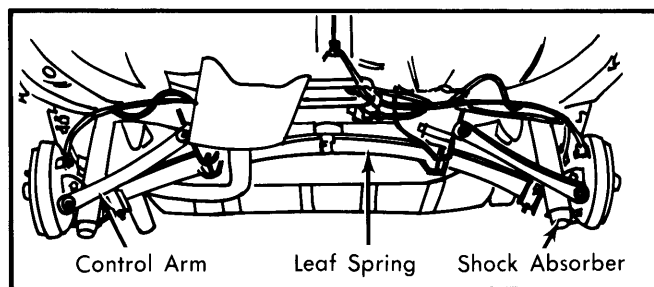


Fig. 1 Installed View of Rear Suspension Assembly

Installation – To install control arm and shock absorber, reverse removal procedure. Bleed brake hydraulic system. Tighten control arm pivot shaft nuts with weight of vehicle on rear wheels.

CONTROL ARM BUSHINGS

Removal – 1) Remove shock absorber and control arm as previously outlined. Remove pivot bolt securing control arm to bearing carrier and shock absorber mount.

2) Remove inner pivot shaft nuts at control arm. Using a press and suitable mandrel, press out on pivot shaft until bushing is partially removed. This allows for removing tool to properly center on opposite bushing.

3) Using same procedure, remove other bushing. Remove control arm from press and extract remaining bushing. Use a puller to remove bearing carrier bushings from control arm.

Installation – 1) Using same tools as used for removal in addition to a suitable spacer installed between inner legs of control arm, press bushings into control arm and onto pivot shaft. Use same tool used for removal to reinstall bearing carrier bushings into control arm.

2) Reinstall control arm, bearing carrier and shock absorber as previously outlined. Tighten control arm-to-bearing carrier pivot bolt with weight of vehicle on rear wheels.

TRANSVERSE LEAF SPRING

Removal – Raise rear of vehicle, position on safety stands and remove wheels. Place a jack under left end of spring and raise enough to release spring from rubber mounting pad on control arm. Remove cotter pin and disconnect rod linking spring to brake regulator (if equipped). Remove mount for rubber pad on bottom of control arm and lower jack to release spring. Repeat same procedure for opposite side. Remove two guides securing spring to chassis and remove spring.

Installation – Inspect spring making sure there are not any cracked or broken leaves. Inspect all rubber mounts and inter leaf shims for wear or damage. To install transverse leaf spring, reverse removal procedure.

TIGHTENING SPECIFICATIONS

Application	Ft. Lbs. (N.m)
Backing Plate-to-Bearing Carrier	18 (24)
Control Arm Pin Nuts	30 (41)
Control Arm-to-Bearing Carrier Pivot Bolt	58 (79)
Control Arm-to-Chassis Pivot Bolt	36 (49)
Leaf Spring Mounting Pad-to-Control Arm	22 (30)
Lower Shock Absorber Mount	43 (58)
Rear Wheel Spindle Nut	159 (216)
Upper Shock Absorber Mount	18 (24)