Rear Suspension

CHRYSLER CORP. IMPORTS — FWD MODELS

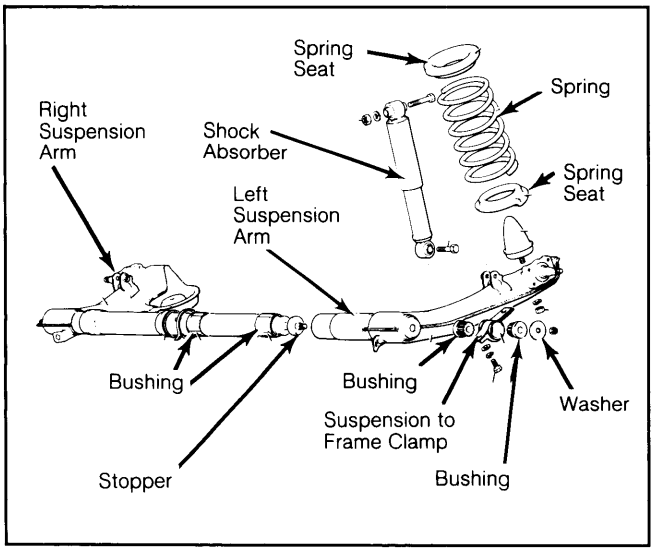
Champ, Colt

DESCRIPTION

Rear suspension is independent design, and consists of left and right suspension arms, shock absorbers, and coil springs. Suspension arms slide together on bushings.

Suspension arms are attached to frame by shock absorbers and a clamp that utilizes bushings. Some models are equipped with a stabilizer bar, which is attached to suspension arms near pivot points.

Fig. 1: Exploded View of Champ and Colt Hatchback Rear Suspension Assembly



ADJUSTMENT

WHEEL ALIGNMENT SPECIFICATIONS & PROCEDURES

See Wheel Alignment Specifications and Procedures in WHEEL ALIGNMENT section.

WHEEL BEARING ADJUSTMENT

Tighten adjusting nut to 14 ft. lbs. (20 N.m). Loosen nut completely, and then retighten to 4 ft. lbs. (5 N.m). Install cotter pin and dust cap.

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

WHEEL BEARING

Removal

1) Raise vehicle, and support with safety stands. Remove wheel assembly. Remove brake drum. Using a screwdriver, remove oil seal from drum.

2) Clean grease from inside hub. Remove bearing outer races, using hammer and drift.

Installation

1) Apply grease to bearing surface. Drive bearing outer races into position. Install inside bearing inner race.

2) Install oil seal, and apply grease to oil seal lips. Apply grease to inside of drum. Install outside bearing inner race. Reverse removal procedures to complete installation.

REAR SUSPENSION ASSEMBLY

Removal

1) Raise and support rear of vehicle, placing safety stands under frame. Remove rear brake assembly. Remove muffler. Using a jack, raise suspension slightly.

2) Remove shock absorber. Lower jack, and remove coil spring. Temporarily install shock absorber to suspension arm. Disconnect and plug brake hose at suspension arm.

3) Remove shock absorber and suspension clamp bolts. Remove suspension assembly from vehicle.

Disassembly

1) With suspension assembly removed from vehicle, loosen nuts at both ends of suspension arms. Remove clamp, washer, and bushings. Remove dust cover (clamp).

2) On models with stabilizer bar, scribe an index mark at each end of bar in alignment with punch marks on brackets.

3) On all models, separate suspension arms. Remove rubber stopper from right arm. Pry first bushing out of left arm. Using a punch and hammer, drive inner bushing out of left arm.

Reassembly

1) Replace any worn or damaged bushings. Apply grease to inside of left suspension arm. Using special installer bar and driver (MB990779 and MB990780), install inner bushing to the depth indicated by notch on installer bar.

2) Install new dust cover to the right suspension arm. Apply grease to the inside surface of the right suspension arm. Install rubber stopper.

3) Slowly push right and left suspension arms together. Wipe off excess grease. On models with stabilizer bar, align index marks on bar ends with punch marks on brackets.

4) On all models, install bushing, clamp and washer on suspension arms. Ensure that washer is installed with toothed side facing bushing.

5) Install nut on suspension arm. Pack dust cover with grease, then secure it to suspension arm with clamp.

Installation

1) With suspension assembly in place, install clamp bolts. Install coil springs and shock absorbers. Temporarily tighten shock absorber bolts

NOTE: Make sure that upper and lower spring seats are installed correctly.

2) Install rear brake assembly. Install wheels. Lower vehicle, and tighten suspension arm end nuts and shock absorber bolts. Bleed and adjust brakes.

TIGHTENING SPECIFICATIONS

Application	Ft. Lbs. (N.m)
Shock Absorber	47-58 (64-79)
Suspension Arm End Nuts	47-54 (64-73)
Suspension Clamp-to-Frame	36-51 (49-69)
Wheel Hub Nut	4 (5)