

Front Suspension

1970-74 CHRYSLER CORP. COIL SPRING TYPE

Dodge (1970-74)
Plymouth (1974)

NOTE — Some models use other units. See Chrysler Corp. Leaf Spring Type in this Section.

DESCRIPTION

Independent front suspension consists of upper and lower control arms, steering knuckles, coil springs, and hydraulic shock absorbers. Upper control arms are mounted to frame side rails, while lower control arms are mounted to a removable crossmember. Steering knuckles are mounted between upper and lower control arms by conventional ball joints. Coil springs are mounted between seat in frame and lower control arm. Double-acting shock absorbers mount inside coil springs, and are fastened to lower control arms and frame.

ADJUSTMENT

WHEEL ALIGNMENT SPECIFICATIONS & PROCEDURES

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

WHEEL BEARING ADJUSTMENT

See *Wheel Bearing Adjustment* in *WHEEL ALIGNMENT* Section.

BALL JOINT CHECKING

See *Ball Joint Checking* in *WHEEL ALIGNMENT* Section.

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

SHOCK ABSORBER

Removal — Raise and support vehicle. Turn wheels to allow best access to upper shock absorber mount. Remove upper mounting nut, and remove shock absorber-to-control arm attaching bolts. Remove shock absorber from vehicle.

Installation — To install, fully extend shock absorber, and reverse removal procedure.

COIL SPRING

Removal — Raise and support vehicle, and remove wheel. Remove shock absorber from vehicle, and disconnect strut rod at lower control arm. Using suitable spring compressor tool (DD-1278), compress coil spring. Remove cotter pin, and nut from lower ball joint stud. Install suitable separator tool (C-3564-U), and tighten to obtain tension between ball joint studs. Strike steering knuckle to loosen ball joint from steering knuckle. Remove separator tool, and carefully loosen spring compressor tool until all tension is relieved from coil spring. Remove spring from vehicle.

Installation — To install, reverse removal procedure, and tighten all nuts and bolts.

LOWER CONTROL ARM

Removal — Raise and support vehicle, and remove wheel. Remove coil spring as previously described. Remove lower control arm pivot bolt, and remove lower control arm from vehicle.

Installation — To install, reverse removal procedure. Do not tighten lower control arm pivot bolt until vehicle weight is supported by front suspension. Check wheel alignment.

UPPER CONTROL ARM

Removal — Raise and support vehicle under frame, and remove wheel. Remove shock absorber from vehicle. Using suitable spring compressor tool (DD-1278), compress coil spring. Remove cotter pin and nut from upper ball joint, and position suitable separator tool (C-3564-U) on vehicle. Tighten separator until upper ball joint stud is under pressure, then tap on steering knuckle to loosen stud from knuckle. Remove separator tool, and remove upper control arm-to-frame attaching bolts. Remove control arm from vehicle.

Installation — To install, reverse removal procedure. Do not tighten control arm pivot bolts until vehicle weight is supported by front suspension. Check wheel alignment.

LOWER BALL JOINT

Removal — Raise and support vehicle under frame, and remove wheel. Remove lower control arm from vehicle as previously described. Using an arbor press, remove ball joint from control arm.

Installation — Using an arbor press and a suitable sleeve, press new ball joint into control arm, being sure it is fully seated. Install new ball joint dust seal. Install control arm on vehicle as previously described.

UPPER BALL JOINT

Removal — Raise and support vehicle under lower control arm, and remove wheel. Remove cotter pin and nut from ball joint stud, and install suitable separator tool (C-3564-U) between upper and lower ball joint studs. Tighten tool to free upper ball joint stud from steering knuckle. Using suitable removal tool (C-3561), unscrew ball joint from control arm.

Installation — To install, reverse removal procedure, and tighten all nuts and bolts.

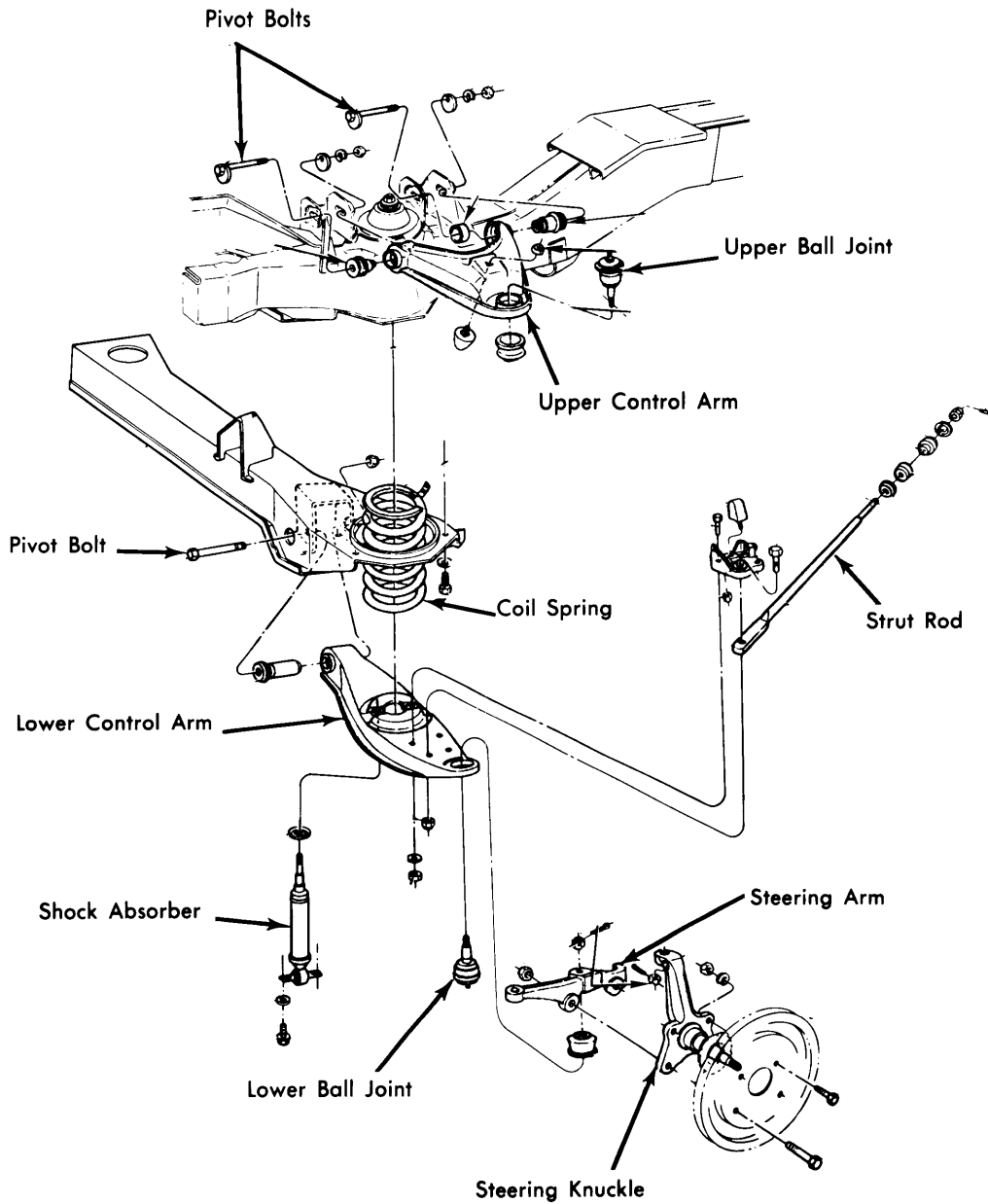
STEERING KNUCKLE

Removal — Raise and support vehicle under lower control arm, and remove wheel. Disconnect tie rod end at steering knuckle. See *Steering Linkage* in *STEERING* Section. Remove brake drum, and brake backing plate. Separate ball joint studs from steering knuckle as previously described. Remove steering knuckle from vehicle.

Installation — To install, reverse removal procedure, and tighten all nuts and bolts.

Front Suspension

1970-74 CHRYSLER CORP. COIL SPRING TYPE (Cont.)



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FRONT SUSPENSION ASSEMBLY