

FORD MOTOR CO.

Ford & Mercury (Exc. Pinto & Bobcat)
Lincoln Continental & Mark VI

DESCRIPTION

The rear axle housing is suspended from the frame by two upper control arms which control side to side movement and two lower control arms which control forward and rearward movement. Each coil spring is mounted between a lower seat which is welded to the axle housing, and upper seat which is integral with the frame. The shock absorbers are attached to the spring upper seat at the frame and lower shock bracket which is welded to the axle tube.

ADJUSTMENT

RIDING HEIGHT

See *Riding Height Adjustment and Specifications* in WHEEL ALIGNMENT Section.

PROPELLER SHAFT PINION ANGLE

See *Propeller Shaft Alignment* in DRIVE AXLES Section.

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

COIL SPRING

Removal (All Exc. Capri, Mustang, Fairmont, Zephyr, Thunderbird & Cougar) — Raise vehicle on hoist (supporting axle) and place jack stands under side rails. Disconnect lower shock absorber mounting and brake hose from brake tube. Remove hose bracket clip, and lower hoist and axle housing until coil springs are released. Remove spring and insulator from vehicle.

Installation (All Exc. Capri, Mustang, Fairmont, Zephyr, Thunderbird & Cougar) — Reverse removal procedure and note the following: Ensure coil spring insulator is installed between upper end of spring and frame seat. After installation, bleed brake hydraulic system.

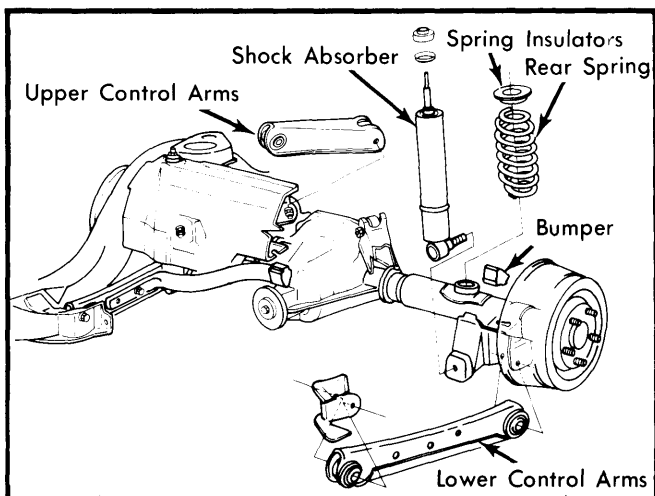


Fig. 1 Coil Spring Type Rear Suspension Assembly (Ford, Mercury, Lincoln Continental & Mark VI)

Removal (Capri, Mustang, Fairmont, Zephyr, Thunderbird, & Cougar) — Raise vehicle and support at rear body crossmember. Lower hoist until shock absorbers are fully extended. Rear axle must be supported by stand. Place transmission jack under lower arm and remove attaching bolts and nuts. Lower transmission jack slowly to release spring load. Remove coil spring and insulator.

NOTE — If one spring must be replaced, both springs must be replaced.

Installation (Capri, Mustang, Fairmont, Zephyr, Thunderbird, & Cougar) — Position internal damper in place and install spring in seat. Slowly raise transmission jack until new pivot bolts can be installed with nut facing outward. Lower transmission jack and raise axle to riding height. Tighten bolts to specifications and remove supports.

LOWER CONTROL ARM

NOTE — When one lower control arm requires replacement, both lower arms must be replaced.

Removal (All Exc. Capri, Mustang, Fairmont, Zephyr, Thunderbird & Cougar) — Raise vehicle on hoist and place jack stands under frame side rails. Lower axle enough to relieve spring pressure. Support axle pinion nose and under axle housing, unbolt lower arm from axle bracket, and disengage arm from mounting. Remove pivot bolt from frame bracket and withdraw arm from vehicle.

Removal (Capri, Mustang, Fairmont, Zephyr, Thunderbird & Cougar) — Raise vehicle and support body at the rear crossmembers. Support axle and lower hoist until shock absorbers are fully extended. Release coil spring load by lowering transmission jack and remove bolt and nut. Lower hoist and remove spring, lower arm attaching bolt and lower arm.

Installation (All Models) — Reverse removal procedure, noting the following: Do not torque bolts until both are in place and axle is raised to riding height.

UPPER CONTROL ARM

NOTE — When one upper control arm requires replacement, both upper arms must be replaced.

Removal (All Exc. Capri, Mustang, Fairmont, Zephyr, Thunderbird & Cougar) — Raise vehicle and place jack stands under frame side rails. Lower axle and support under housing and pinion nose. Detach upper arm from axle housing and unbolt from crossmember. Remove control arm from vehicle.

Installation (All Exc. Capri, Mustang, Fairmont, Zephyr, Thunderbird & Cougar) — Reverse removal procedure and note the following: Raise the suspension with hoist until upper arm rear pivot hole is in position with hole in axle bushing. Install a new pivot bolt and nut with nut facing inboard. Tighten bolts to specifications.

STABILIZER BAR

Removal (All Exc. Capri, Mustang, Fairmont, Zephyr, Thunderbird and Cougar) — Raise vehicle on a hoist, and place jack stands under frame side rails. Lower hoist and axle housing until the shock absorbers are fully extended. Remove four bolts, nuts, and spacers attaching stabilizer bar to lower arms, remove stabilizer bar.

Rear Suspension

FORD MOTOR CO. (Cont.)

Installation (All Exc. Capri, Mustang, Fairmont, Zephyr, Thunderbird & Cougar) — Install color coded end of bar on right side of vehicle. Align four holes in stabilizer bar with holes in lower arms. Install four new bolts and nuts, and tighten to specifications.

Removal (Capri, Mustang, Fairmont, Zephyr, Thunderbird & Cougar) — Raise vehicle on hoist and support body at rear crossmember. Remove four bolts attaching stabilizer bar to brackets in lower arms, remove stabilizer bar.

Installation (Capri, Mustang, Fairmont, Zephyr, Thunderbird & Cougar) — Install color coded end of bar on right side of vehicle. Align four holes in stabilizer bar with holes in lower arms. Install four new bolts and nuts, and tighten to specifications.

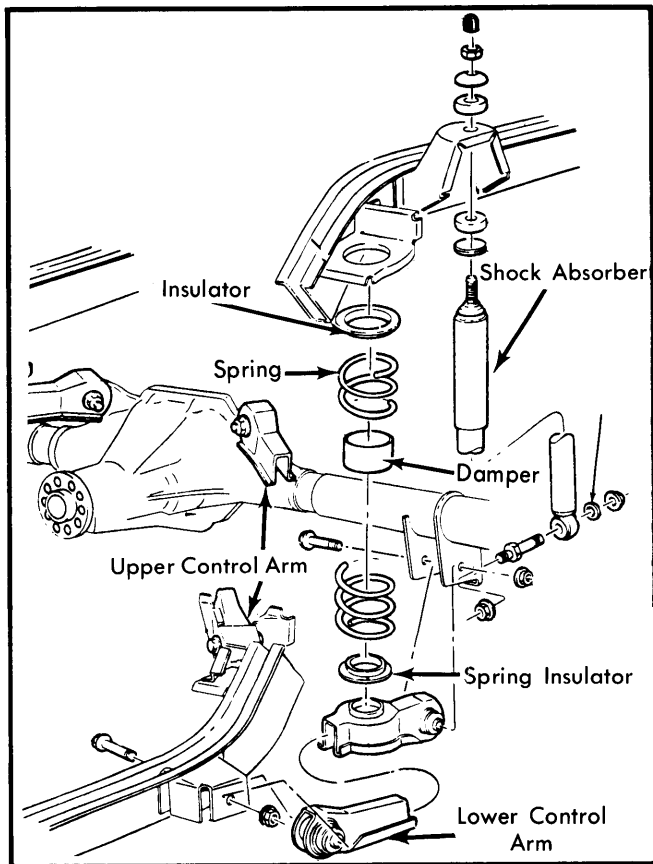


Fig. 2 View of Rear Suspension (Capri, Mustang, Fairmont, Thunderbird & Cougar)

TIGHTENING SPECIFICATIONS

Application	Ft. Lbs.
Shock Absorber Upper	
Ford, Mercury,	
Lincoln Continental	
Mark VI	14-26
Capri, Mustang, Fairmont,	
Zephyr, Thunderbird, Cougar	14-26
Shock Absorber Lower	
Ford, Mercury,	
Lincoln Continental	
Mark VI	55-85
Capri, Mustang, Fairmont,	
Zephyr, Thunderbird, Cougar	40-55
Upper Arm-to-Axle	
Ford, Mercury,	
Lincoln Continental	
Mark VI	103-133
Capri, Mustang, Fairmont,	
Zephyr, Thunderbird, Cougar	70-100
Lower Arm-to-Axle	
Ford, Mercury,	
Lincoln Continental	
Mark VI	103-133
Capri, Mustang, Fairmont,	
Upper Arm-to-Frame	
Ford, Mercury,	
Lincoln Continental	
Mark VI	103-133
Capri, Mustang, Fairmont,	
Zephyr, Thunderbird, Cougar	70-100
Lower Arm-to-Frame	
Ford, Mercury,	
Lincoln Continental	
Mark VI	103-133
Capri, Mustang, Fairmont,	
Zephyr, Thunderbird, Cougar	70-100
Stabilizer Bar-Rear	
Ford, Mercury,	
Lincoln Continental	
Mark VI	70-92
Stabilizer Bar-to-Lower Arm	
Capri, Mustang, Fairmont,	
Zephyr, Thunderbird, Cougar	15-25