

Air LiftTM

PERFORMANCE

Kit 75532

Honda Prelude
(1992-2001)



*Cover
illustration
may not depict
actual kit.*

AIR LIFTTM

PERFORMANCE

INSTALLATION GUIDE

For maximum effectiveness and safety,
please read these instructions completely
before proceeding with installation.

*Failure to read these instructions can result in an
incorrect installation.*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Important Safety Notice	2
Notation Explanation	2
 Installing the Performance Kit	 3
Hardware List	3
Preparing the Vehicle	3
Strut Removal	3
Assembling the Strut	4
Spindle Casting Flash	5
Trimming the Upper A-Arm	5
Installing Strut Assembly	6
Before Operating	7
 Maintenance and Servicing	 7
Maintaining and Operating	7
 Warranty and Returns Policy	 8
 Replacement Information	 8
 Contact Information	 8

Introduction

The purpose of this publication is to assist with the installation, maintenance and troubleshooting of this Honda Prelude Performance kit.

It is important to read and understand the entire installation guide before beginning installation or performing any maintenance, service or repair. The information includes a hardware list, step-by-step installation information, maintenance tips, safety information and a troubleshooting guide.

Air Lift Performance reserves the right to make changes and improvements to its products and publications at any time. For the latest version of this manual, contact Air Lift Performance at (800) 248-0892 or visit our website at www.airliftperformance.com.

NOTATION EXPLANATION

Hazard notations appear in various locations in this publication. Information which is highlighted by one of these notations must be observed to help minimize risk of personal injury or possible improper installation which may render the vehicle unsafe. Notes are used to help emphasize areas of procedural importance and provide helpful suggestions. The following definitions explain the use of these notations as they appear throughout this guide.

 DANGER

INDICATES IMMEDIATE HAZARDS WHICH WILL RESULT IN SEVERE PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.

 WARNING

INDICATES HAZARDS OR UNSAFE PRACTICES WHICH COULD RESULT IN SEVERE PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.

 CAUTION

INDICATES HAZARDS OR UNSAFE PRACTICES WHICH COULD RESULT IN DAMAGE TO THE MACHINE OR MINOR PERSONAL INJURY.

NOTE

Indicates a procedure, practice or hint which is important to highlight.

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICES

The installation of this kit does not alter the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) or payload of the vehicle. Check your vehicle's owner's manual and do not exceed the maximum load listed for your vehicle.

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating: The maximum allowable weight of the fully loaded vehicle (including passengers and cargo). This number — along with other weight limits, as well as tire, rim size and inflation pressure data — is shown on the vehicle's Safety Compliance Certification Label.

Payload: The combined, maximum allowable weight of cargo and passengers that the vehicle is designed to carry. Payload is GVWR minus the Base Curb Weight.

 WARNING

DO NOT INFLATE AIR SPRINGS WHILE OFF OF THE VEHICLE. DAMAGE TO ASSEMBLY MAY RESULT AND VOID WARRANTY.

 CAUTION

DO NOT WELD TO, OR MODIFY PERFORMANCE STRUTS/SOCKS IN ANY WAY. DAMAGE TO UNIT MAY OCCUR AND WILL VOID WARRANTY.

HARDWARE LIST

Item	Part #	Description	Qty
A	35066	Strut assembly	2
B	09333	Rubber washer.....	2
C	21263	½" Elbow fitting	2
D	18500	Nyloc nut	2
E	18468	3/8" Flat washer	2

STOP!

Missing or damaged parts? Call Air Lift customer service at (800) 248-0892 for a replacement part.

Installing the Performance Kit

IMPORTANT: Always keep safety in mind when working on your vehicle. Completely read these instructions before installing the kit.

PREPARING THE VEHICLE

- 1. Begin the installation by elevating the car. Secure the frame with jack stands.
- 2. Remove the front wheels.

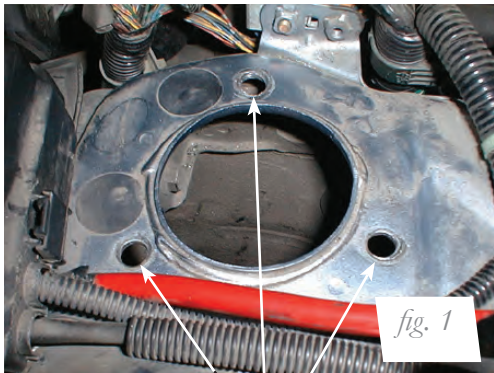
STRUT REMOVAL

- 1. Remove the three nuts on the top of the strut and retain for later use. These are located on the inside of the engine compartment above the strut pocket (fig. 1).
- 2. Remove the anti-rotation bolt that holds the lower strut to the fork and retain for later use.
- 3. Move the fork out of the way.
- 4. Remove the strut assembly and upper strut mount from the vehicle.

NOTE

The upper strut mount and the anti-rotation bolt will be used for reassembly.

- 5. Remove the O.E.M. rubber bumper from the O.E.M. upper strut mount and discard (fig. 2).



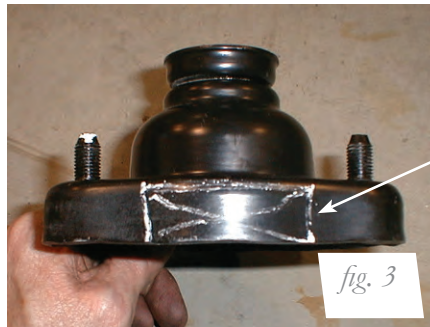
Remove nuts and save for later use.



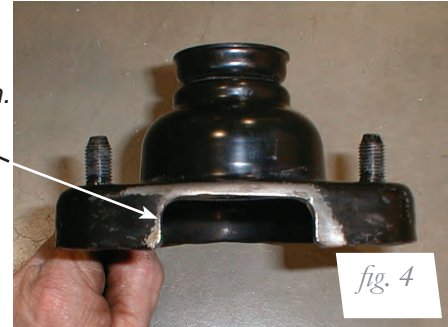
Remove the rubber bumper and discard.

ASSEMBLING THE STRUT

1. Mark a notch on a side of the upper strut mount using the grooves in the top of the strut mount as a guide (fig. 3).
2. Cut out a notch large enough to clear the air fitting when the strut is in place (fig. 4).



Mark and
cut a notch.

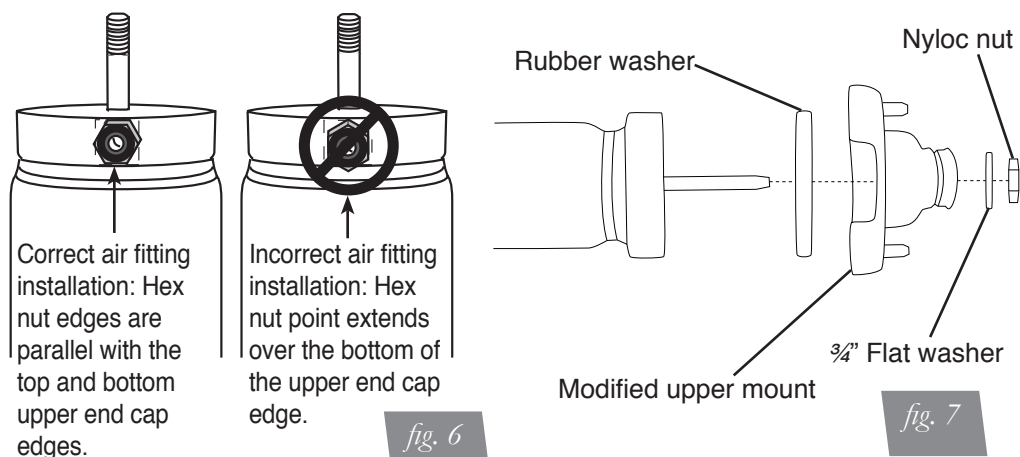
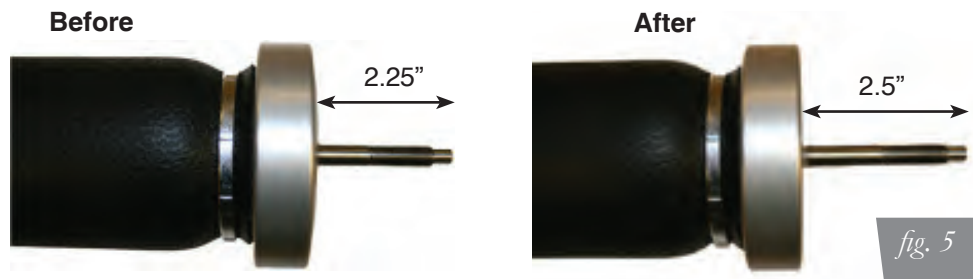


3. Pull up the shaft on the strut to ensure that the o-ring in the end cap is seated (fig. 5). The shaft will move approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ ".
4. Insert the supplied $\frac{1}{2}$ " 90° air fitting (C) into the strut. Tighten the fitting finger-tight plus $1\frac{1}{2}$ turns.

NOTE

Be careful to tighten on the metal hex nut only. The fitting needs to be turned so that a base of the hex nut is parallel to the end cap (fig. 6).

5. Place a supplied rubber washer (B) onto the air assembly at the top of the strut (fig. 7).
6. Put the modified upper strut mount on top of the sleeve assembly. Fasten using a supplied flat washer (E) and nyloc nut (D) (fig. 7).
7. Tighten only finger-tight at this time.



SPINDLE CASTING FLASH

CAUTION

THIS STEP IS CRITICAL TO THE LIFE AND PERFORMANCE OF YOUR AIR BAGS.

1. It will be necessary to grind the inside of the flashing off the spindle arm that attaches to the upper control arm (fig. 8).

CAUTION

FAILURE TO GRIND THE FLASHING MAY CAUSE THE AIR BAG TO RUB AGAINST THE SPINDLE ARM FLASHING AND RUPTURE. THIS WILL VOID THE AIR BAG WARRANTY.

NOTE

Make sure the face is smooth and clear of burrs.



TRIMMING THE UPPER A-ARM

NOTE

It will be necessary to trim the flange off of the upper A-arm in order to make clearance for the flex member (fig. 9).

1. Remove the control arm mounting hardware and replace with bolts (D), flat washers (E), and nyloc nuts (C) being sure to insert them with the bolt heads facing the inside of the control mount in order to provide adequate clearance for the air strut (fig. 9).
2. The inside flange on the upper control arm can be trimmed by using a die grinder with a cut-off wheel or grinding bit. Be sure all sharp edges are removed, and paint the exposed area when complete (fig. 9).
3. The top bar for the upper control arm will also need to be trimmed. Grind 1/8" off of a 3" area (fig. 9).



INSTALLING THE STRUT ASSEMBLY

1. Using the template at the end of the manual, line up the three holes in the template with the three holes in the upper strut tower.
2. Make a mark in the engine compartment where the fourth hole will need to be drilled.
3. Remove the template and drill a hole in the upper strut tower large enough to accommodate the air fitting from the top of the strut (fig. 10).

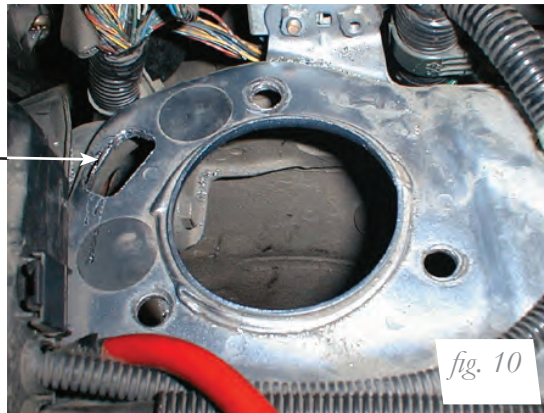
NOTE

Be sure that you have adequate clearance before drilling.

The same template will be used for both sides of the vehicle.

A silicone seal or rubber grommet is recommended to protect the air line where it passes through the strut tower.

Air line hole



4. Place the upper strut mount back into the compartment.

NOTE

Rotate the strut assembly so that the air fitting is through the center previously drilled hole.

5. Fasten the strut using the three previously removed nuts (fig. 11).
6. Tighten the nut at the top of the upper strut mount at this time.
7. Slide the lower end of the strut into the strut fork.
8. Replace the previously removed lower strut mounting bolt (fig. 12). Leave loose at this time.
9. Tighten the lower strut mounting bolt.
10. Securely tighten the three nyloc nuts in the engine compartment.
11. Install the air line at this time (fig. 11).



Install the air line and previously removed nuts.



Lower strut mounting bolt.

BEFORE OPERATING

1. Inflate and deflate system (do not exceed 150 p.s.i.) to check for clearance or binding issues. With air springs deflated, check clearances on everything so as not to pinch brake lines, vent tubes, etc. Clear lines if necessary.
2. Tighten and visually inspect all hardware after 100 miles.
3. The struts for the vehicle come with a nine-position damping dial (fig. 13) for added adjustability. To start, we recommend setting the dial at the third position for the most versatility.
4. Air Lift part #27669 or #27671, AutoPilot V2 Air Management System, is highly recommended for this product.



fig. 13

Maintenance and Servicing

Minimum Air Pressure	Maximum Air Pressure
10 p.s.i.	150 p.s.i.
FAILURE TO MAINTAIN CORRECT MINIMUM PRESSURE (OR PRESSURE PROPORTIONAL TO LOAD), BOTTOMING OUT, OVER-EXTENSION, OR RUBBING AGAINST ANOTHER COMPONENT WILL VOID THE WARRANTY.	

1. Always maintain ride height. Increase or decrease pressure from the system as necessary to attain ride height for optimal ride and handling. Never inflate beyond 150 p.s.i.
2. Driving at low p.s.i can cause the strut to bottom out. Repeated bottoming out can cause the strut to fail. This failure is not covered under warranty.



CAUTION

FOR YOUR SAFETY AND TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO YOUR VEHICLE, DO NOT EXCEED MAXIMUM GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT RATING (GVWR), AS INDICATED BY THE VEHICLE MANUFACTURER. CHECK YOUR VEHICLE'S OWNERS MANUAL AND DO NOT EXCEED THE MAXIMUM LOAD LISTED FOR YOUR VEHICLE.

3. Should it become necessary to raise the vehicle by the frame or do any service work, make sure the system is at minimum pressure (10 p.s.i.) for safety and to reduce the tension on the suspension and brake components.

Warranty and Returns Policy

Air Lift Company warrants its performance products for one year to the original purchaser against manufacturing defects one year from the date of purchase when used on cars and trucks as specified under normal operating conditions. The warranty does not apply to products that have been improperly applied, improperly installed, or which have not been maintained in accordance with installation instructions furnished with all products. The consumer will be responsible for removing (labor charges) the defective product from the vehicle and returning it, transportation costs prepaid, to the dealer from which it was purchased or to Air Lift Company for verification.

Air Lift will repair or replace, at its option, defective products or components. A minimum \$10.00 shipping and handling charge will apply to all warranty claims. Before returning any defective product, you must call Air Lift at (800) 248-0892 in the U.S. and Canada (elsewhere, (517) 322-2144) for a Returned Materials Authorization (RMA) number. Returns to Air Lift can be sent to: Air Lift Company • 2727 Snow Road • Lansing, MI • 48917.

Product failures resulting from abnormal use or misuse are excluded from this warranty. The loss of use of the product, loss of time, inconvenience, commercial loss or consequential damages is not covered. The consumer is responsible for installation/reinstallation (labor charges) of the product. Air Lift Company reserves the right to change the design of any product without assuming any obligation to modify any product previously manufactured.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights that may vary from state-to-state. Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts or allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages. The above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you. There are no warranties, expressed or implied including any implied warranties of merchantability and fitness, which extend beyond this warranty period. There are no warranties that extend beyond the description on the face hereof. Seller disclaims the implied warranty of merchantability. (Dated proof of purchase required.)

Replacement Information

If you need replacement parts, contact the local dealer or call Air Lift customer service at (800) 248-0892. Most parts are immediately available and can be shipped the same day.

Contact Air Lift Company customer service at (800) 248-0892 first if:

- Parts are missing from the kit.
- Broken or defective parts in the kit.
- Need technical assistance on installation or operation.
- Wrong parts in the kit.
- Have a warranty claim or question.

Contact the retailer where the kit was purchased:

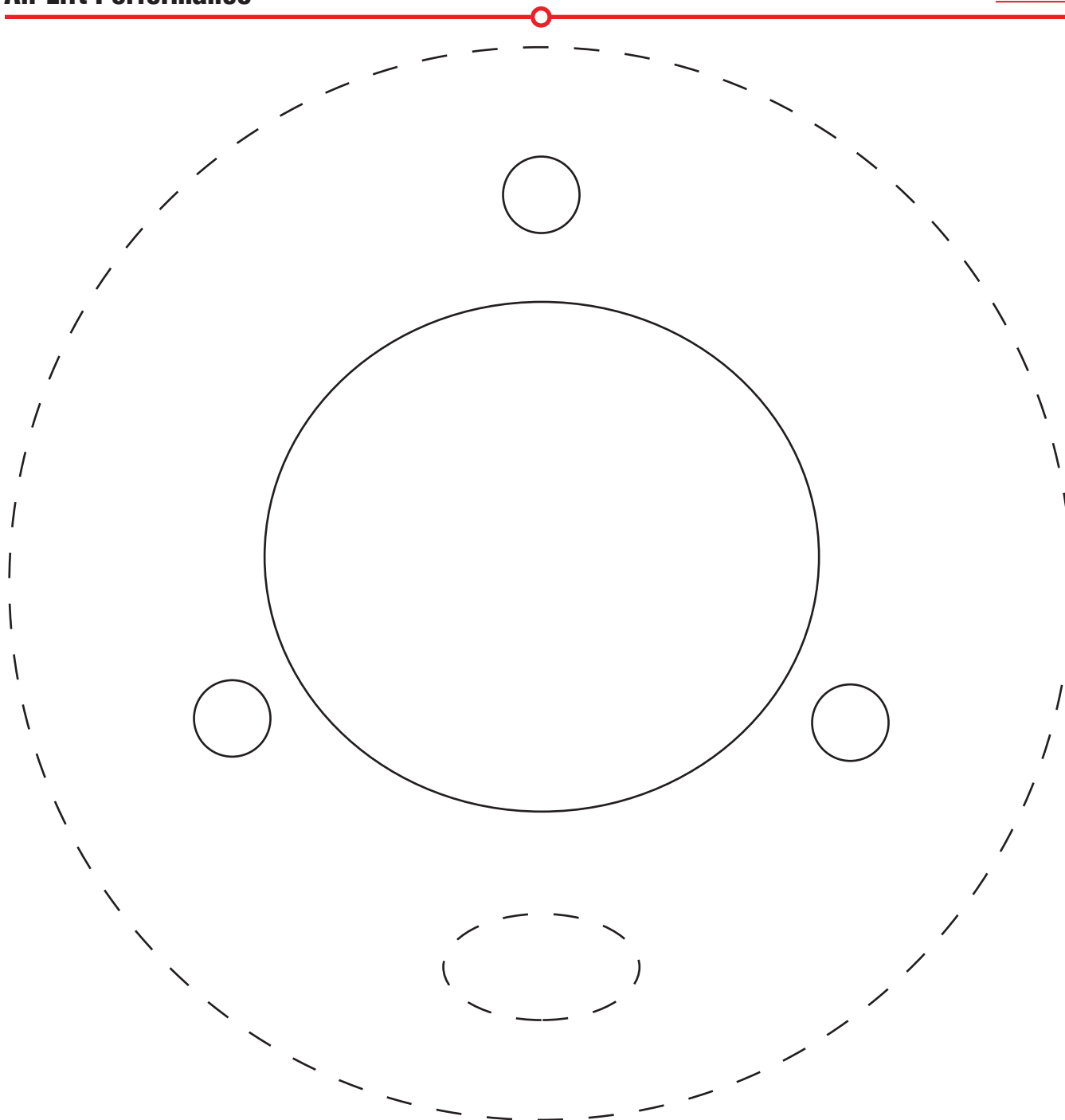
- If it is necessary to return or exchange the kit for any reason.
- If there is a problem with shipping if shipped from the retailer.
- If there is a problem with the price.

Contact Information

If you have any questions, comments or need technical assistance contact our customer service department by calling (800) 248-0892. For calls from outside the USA or Canada, our local number is (517) 322-2144. You may also contact customer service anytime by e-mail at techsupport@airliftperformance.com.

For inquiries by mail, our address is PO Box 80167, Lansing, MI 48908-0167. Our shipping address for returns is 2727 Snow Road, Lansing, MI 48917.

You may also contact our sales team anytime by e-mail at sales@airliftperformance.com or on the web at www.airliftperformance.com.



Trim the outer edge of the template as necessary. Flip the template over for use on the remaining side of the vehicle.

Need Help?

Contact our customer service department by calling (800) 248-0892. For calls from outside the USA or Canada, our local number is (517) 322-2144.



Thank you for purchasing Air Lift Performance products!

Air Lift Performance • 2727 Snow Road • Lansing, MI 48917 or PO Box 80167 • Lansing, MI 48908-0167
Toll Free (800) 248-0892 • Local (517) 322-2144 • Fax (517) 322-0240 • www.airliftperformance.com

Printed in
the USA

***Please read these instructions completely
before proceeding with installation***



Warranty Information

1. All goods come with a one year manufacturer's warranty against defects.
2. Warranty will be void if the strut is altered for any reason and/or adapted to applications other than those suggested.
3. Any abrasions or rub marks on the spring portion of the strut will not be covered under warranty. The customer is responsible for all repair charges.
4. Driving at low PSI can cause the strut to bottom out. Repeated bottoming out can cause the strut to fail. Failure resulting from repeated bottoming out is not covered under warranty.
5. The customer is responsible for all shipping costs to Air Lift Company for all warranty claims.
6. Please call tech support at 1-800-248-0892 before shipping a product to Air Lift Company.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

Hardware

Item	P/N	Description	Qty.
A	35056	Prelude Strut Assembly	2
B	09333	Protector	2
C	17264	Bolt M10-1.5	2
D	18494	Flat Washer M10	4
E	18495	Nylock Nut M10-1.5	2
F	21261	1/4" NPT x 1/2" Tube Straight	2

IMPORTANT: Always keep safety in mind when working on your vehicle. Completely read these instructions before installing the kit.

I. Preparing the Vehicle

1. Jack the vehicle up and support the body on jackstands.
2. Remove the rear wheels (Figure 1).

II. Strut Removal

1. Remove the bolt in the lower strut mount and discard (Figure 2).
2. Remove the two nuts from the upper strut mount and retain for re-installation.

NOTE: These are located behind the back seats in the trunk compartment on the inside of the vehicle.

3. Remove strut assembly.
4. Using a spring compressor, remove the O.E.M retaining nut, 1 flatwasher, and the rubber bushings from the upper strut mount (Figure 3). Retain the flat washer and rubber bushing for later use.

III. Cutting the Upper Strut Mount

1. Make a relief cut on the mount (Figure 7) to allow adequate clearance for the air fitting.

NOTE: Failure to cut this relief will cause serious damage to the air fitting.

2. Once upper mount modifications are complete, reinstall the upper strut mount to its O.E.M. position using the previously removed O.E.M. upper strut mounting hardware.

IV. Drilling the Hole for the Air Line

1. Hold the strut up to the vehicle where it will be in place and make a mark on the inner fenderwell where the air fitting will pass through it.
2. Remove the strut and drill at least a 3/4" hole.

NOTE: *Drilling the hole at least 1/4" larger than the size of the air line prevents the air line from rubbing on the fenderwell.*

3. After installing the air line to the strut and through the previously drilled hole, use a rubber grommet or silicone caulk to prevent the air line from rubbing on or against the hole in the inner fenderwell.

NOTE: *See Section VI for air fitting installation.*



Figure 5

V. Strut Assembly Installation

1. Insert the air fitting (F) into the strut.
2. Tighten the fitting finger-tight plus 1 1/2 turns being careful to tighten on the metal hex nut only.

NOTE: *The fitting needs to be turned so that a base of the hex nut is parallel to the end cap (Figure 9).*

3. Place the supplied protector (B) onto the threaded end of the strut.
4. Place the threaded end of the strut into the upper strut mount and attach using the O.E.M. rubber bushing and O.E.M. flat washer and a supplied nylock nut. Tighten securely.

NOTE For Driver-Side: *The air fitting will face towards the inside of the vehicle (Figure 10).*

NOTE For Passenger-Side: *The air fitting will face towards the inside of the vehicle (Figure 10).*

5. Place the clevis on the lower strut over the O.E.M. lower strut mount.
6. Insert the supplied bolt (C) through one flat washer (D), the strut mount, the other flat washer (D) and attach using the supplied nylock nut (E) (Figure 11).
7. Tighten all upper and lower strut mounting hardware at this time.



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8

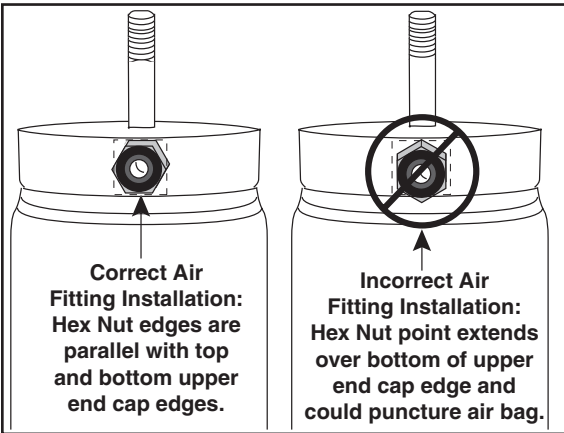


Figure 9



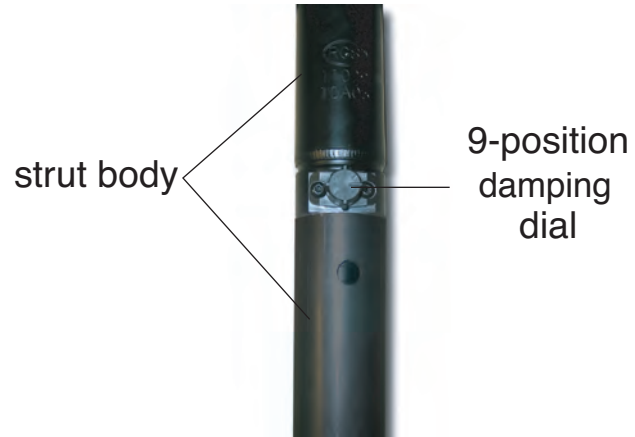
Figure 10



Figure 11

VI. Before Operating

1. Tighten and visually inspect all hardware after 100 miles.
2. The struts for this vehicle come with a nine-position damping dial (**shown below**) for added adjustability. To start, we recommend setting the dial at the third position for the most versatility.



3. Air Lift part #27669 or #27671, AutoPilot V2 Air Management System, is highly recommended for this product.
4. Please continue by reading the Maintenance and Operation section.

NOTES

NOTES

VII. Maintenance and Operation:

Minimum Pressure	Maximum Pressure
10 p.s.i.	150 p.s.i.
<i>Failure to maintain correct minimum pressure (or pressure proportional to load), bottoming out, overextension, or rubbing against another component will void the</i>	

By following these steps, vehicle owners should obtain the longest life and best results from their air-struts.

1. Always maintain Ride Height.
2. Always adjust the air pressure to maintain Ride Height. Increase or decrease pressure from the system as necessary to attain Ride Height for optimal ride and handling.
3. Should it become necessary to raise the vehicle by the frame or do any service work, make sure the system is at minimum pressure (10 p.s.i.) for safety and to reduce the tension on the suspension/brake components.

Thank you for purchasing Air Lift Performance Products

Mailing Address:
AIR LIFT COMPANY
P.O. Box 80167
Lansing, MI 48908-0167

Street Address:
AIR LIFT COMPANY
2727 Snow Rd.
Lansing, MI 48917

Local Phone: (517) 322-2144
Fax: (517) 322-0240



For Technical Assistance call 1-800-248-0892