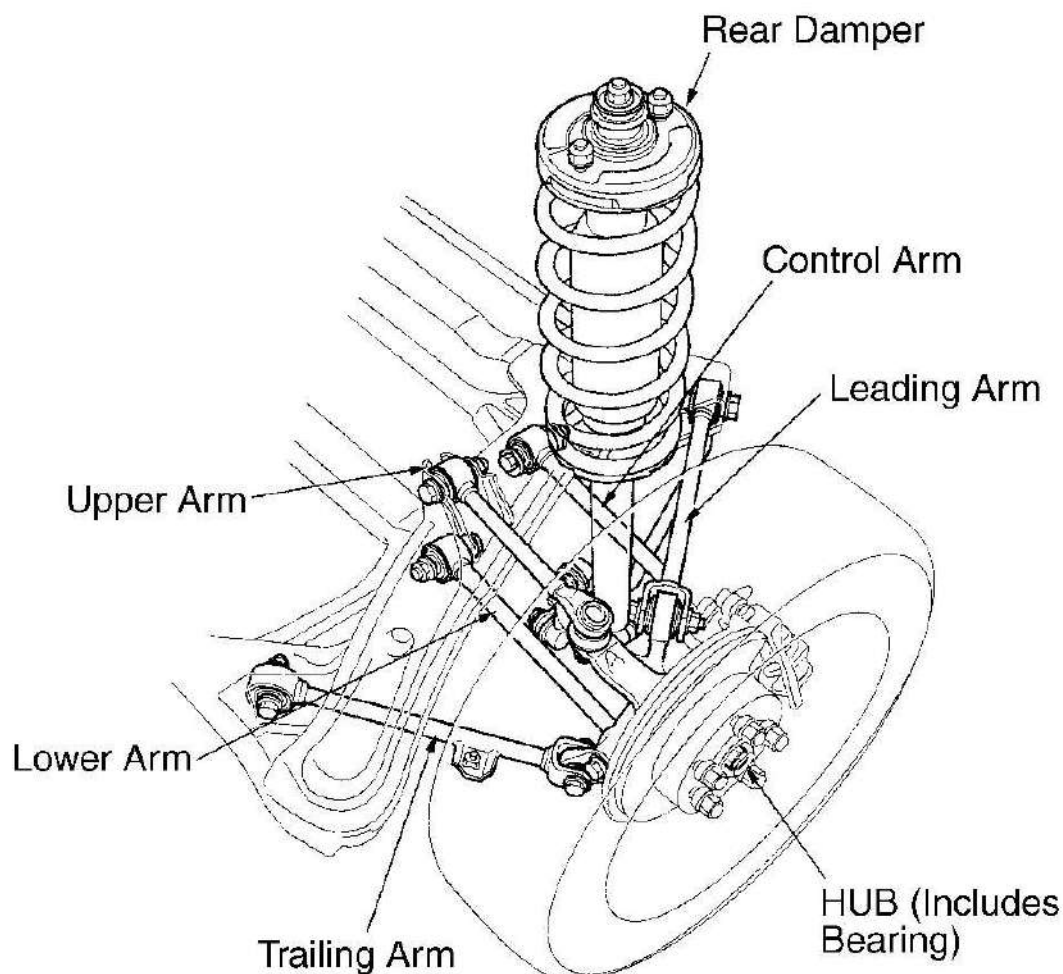


2001-02 SUSPENSION**Rear - MDX, RSX, 3.2CL, 3.2TL & 3.5RL,****DESCRIPTION**

All models use an independent control arm suspension system. Suspension consists of a vertically mounted strut or damper, and coil spring connected to a knuckle/spindle assembly, upper control arm, one or 2 lower control arms, trailing arm, and a stabilizer bar. See **Fig. 1** , **Fig. 2** , **Fig. 3** or **Fig. 4** .

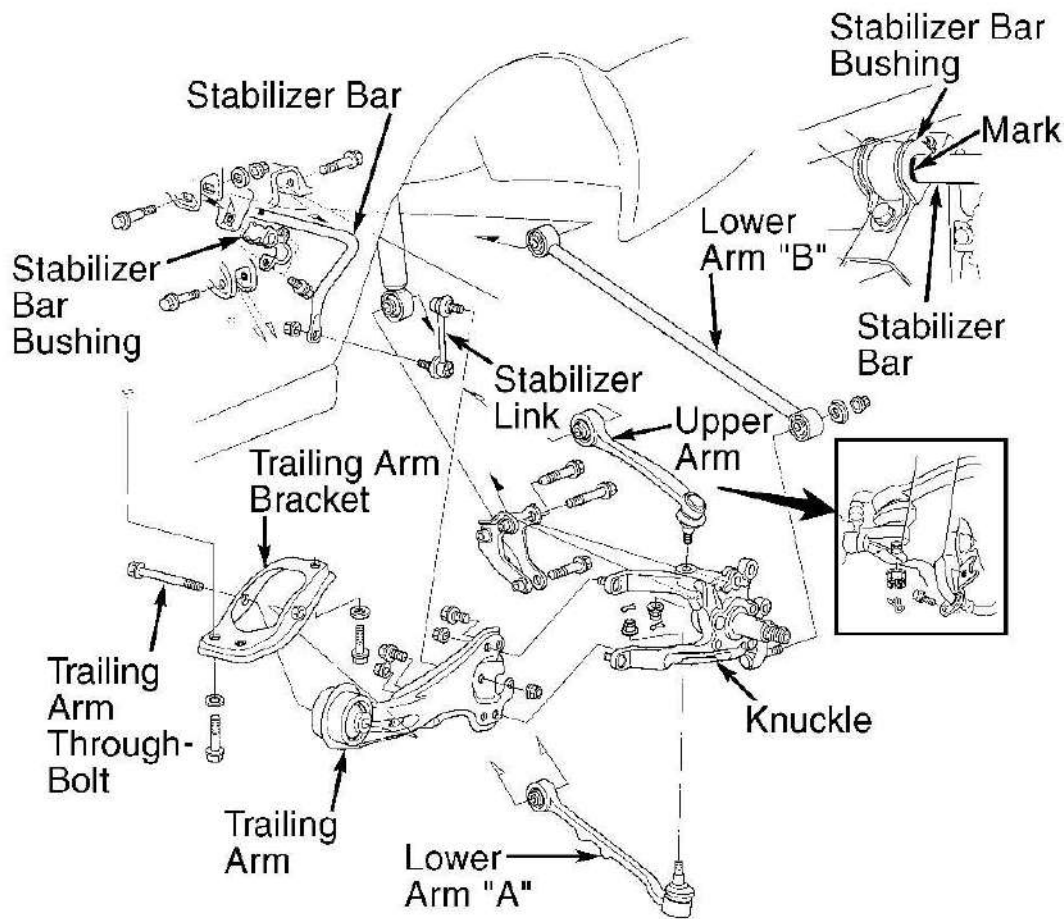


G00040594

Fig. 1: Exploded View Of Rear Suspension (3.2CL & 3.2TL)
Courtesy of AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

2002 Acura MDX

2001-02 SUSPENSION Rear - MDX, RSX, 3.2CL, 3.2TL & 3.5RL,



G96G21002

Fig. 2: Exploded View Of Rear Suspension (3.5RL)
Courtesy of AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

2002 Acura MDX

2001-02 SUSPENSION Rear - MDX, RSX, 3.2CL, 3.2TL & 3.5RL,

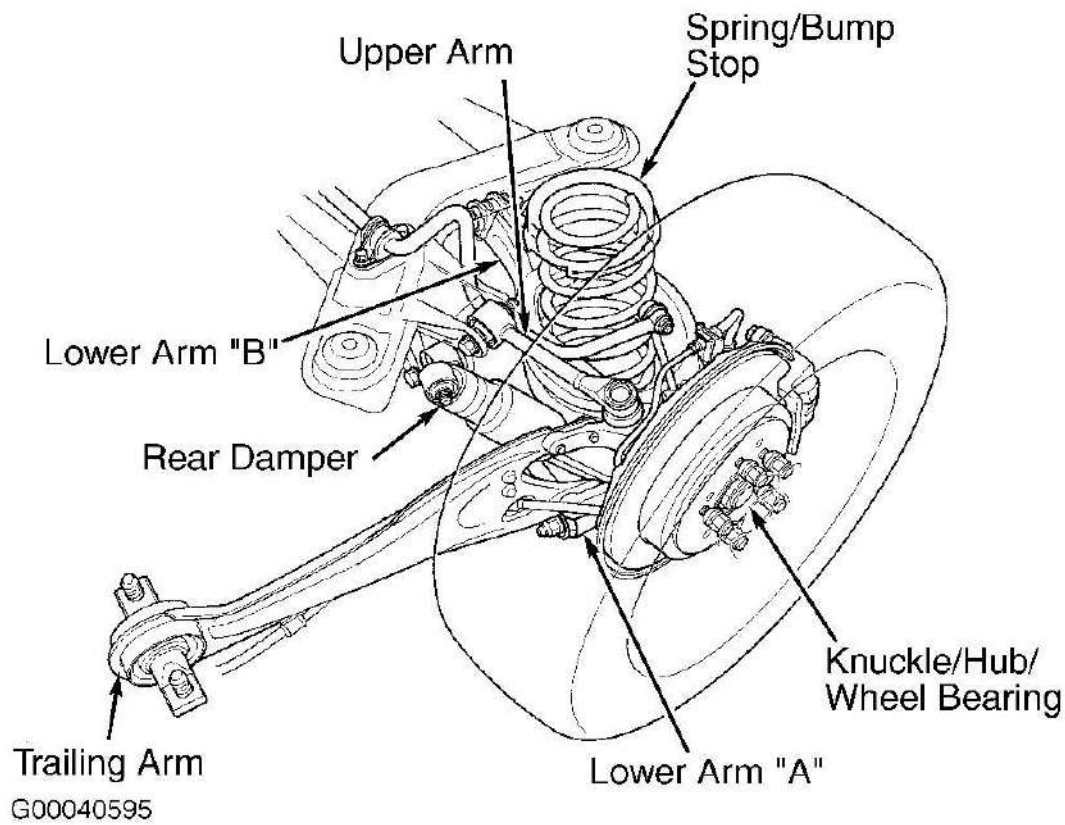


Fig. 3: Exploded View Of Rear Suspension (MDX)
Courtesy of AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

2002 Acura MDX

2001-02 SUSPENSION Rear - MDX, RSX, 3.2CL, 3.2TL & 3.5RL,

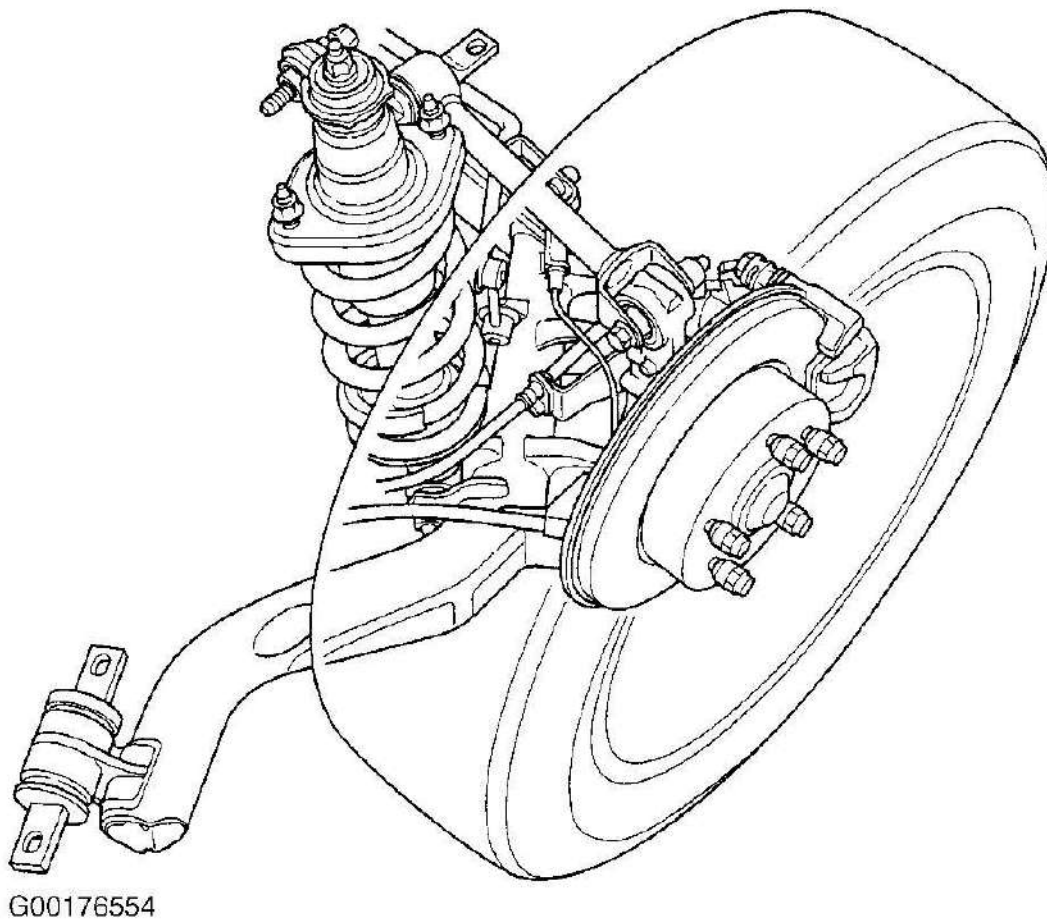


Fig. 4: Exploded View Of Rear Suspension (RSX)
Courtesy of AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

ADJUSTMENTS & INSPECTION

WHEEL ALIGNMENT

NOTE: See SPECIFICATIONS & PROCEDURES .

WHEEL BEARING

Wheel bearings are not adjustable. Remove tire and wheel assembly. Install wheel lug nuts. Check wheel bearing end play using a dial indicator. If rear wheel bearing end play is greater than .002" (.05 mm), replace hub and wheel bearing assembly. See HUB/BEARING ASSEMBLY under REMOVAL & INSTALLATION.

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

COIL SPRING & DAMPER

Removal

1. Loosen wheel nuts. Raise and support vehicle. Remove wheel assembly. Place floor jack under lower arm and compress damper slightly. Remove damper mounting nuts. Compress damper slightly by hand, and then remove.
2. Disconnect stabilizer link from rear knuckle. Remove wheel sensor harness from lower arm. Disconnect lower arm from knuckle. Lower floor jack slowly. Remove coil spring, and upper and lower spring seats. Remove bump stop from body.

Inspection

Check for smooth operation in both compression and extension strokes. Check for abnormal noises or binding. Replace damper as necessary. Inspect bump stop and spring seats for deformation or cracking. Replace as necessary.

Installation

To install, reverse removal procedure. Tighten all fasteners to specification. See **TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS** .

HUB/BEARING ASSEMBLY

Removal & Installation (3.2CL, 3.2TL & 3.5RL)

1. Loosen wheel nuts. Raise and support rear of vehicle. Remove wheel assembly. Pull parking brake lever up. Remove bearing hub cap. Pry spindle nut lock tab away from spindle, and remove nut. Remove brake hose attaching nuts.
2. Remove brake caliper attaching bolts. Wire brake caliper aside. Remove brake disc 6-mm retaining screws. Screw two 8 x 1.25-mm bolts into disc to push disc away from hub. Turn each screw alternately, and remove disc. Remove hub/bearing assembly. See **Fig. 1** or **Fig. 2** . To install, reverse removal procedure. Tighten all fasteners to specification. See **TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS** .

Removal & Installation (MDX)

1. Loosen wheel nuts. Raise and support vehicle. Remove wheel assembly. Pull parking brake lever up. Remove spindle nut cap, and then spindle nut. Release parking brake. Remove brake hose bracket mounting nuts.
2. Remove caliper mounting bolts. See **Fig. 3** . Remove caliper and wire aside. Remove wheel speed sensor and sensor harness. Remove brake disc 6-mm retaining screws. Screw two 8 x 1.25 mm bolts into disc to push disc away from hub. Turn each screw alternately, and remove disc.
3. Remove cotter pin from upper ball joint castellated nut, then loosen nut. Use Ball Joint Separator (07MAC-SL00200) and remove ball joint from knuckle. Remove Lower Arm "A" mounting nut, and then remove arm from knuckle. Remove Trailing Arm-To-Knuckle bolts, and then remove trailing arm from knuckle. Support Lower Arm "B" with a floor jack, remove arm to knuckle bolt, and then remove arm

from knuckle. Remove knuckle and hub assembly from vehicle, taking care not to damage driveshaft.

4. Separate hub from knuckle using press and Hub Brace (07-GAF-SD40100). Remove backing plate and bearing snap ring from knuckle. Remove bearing from knuckle using press and Bearing Sleeve (07749-0010000). Remove bearing inner race from hub using press, bearing separator and hub brace. Wash knuckle in a high flash point solvent prior to reassembly.
5. Press new bearing into knuckle with a press and Knuckle Support (07965-SD90100), use old bearing as a distance piece between press and new bearing. Install snap ring, and then backing plate. Press knuckle onto hub using knuckle support, and bearing press. To complete installation, reverse removal procedure. Use NEW spindle nut and replace cotter pin. Tighten all fasteners to specification. See **TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS** .

Removal & Installation (RSX)

1. Raise and support vehicle. Remove wheel assembly. Release parking brake lever. Remove brake hose mounting bolt. See **Fig. 4** . Remove caliper bracket mounting bolts and hang caliper to one side, using a piece of wire. Remove hub cap, raise the stake and remove spindle nut.
2. Remove brake disc retaining screws. Screw two 8 x 1.25 mm bolts into disc to push it away from hub. Turn each bolt two turns at a time to prevent cocking disc excessively. Remove brake disc. Remove hub bearing unit from spindle. To complete installation, reverse removal procedures. Tighten all mounting bolts to specification. See **TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS** .

KNUCKLE (RSX)

Removal & Installation

1. Raise and support vehicle. Remove wheel assembly. Remove brake disc and hub bearing unit. See **HUB/BEARING ASSEMBLY** . Remove flange bolts and splash guard from knuckle.

CAUTION: DO NOT place jack against the plate section of lower arm. Be careful not to damage any suspension components

2. Remove wheel sensor, brake hose mounting bracket, and parking cable mounting bracket from knuckle. Place floor jack under trailing arm to support. Remove flange bolt and disconnect the upper arm from knuckle.
3. Mark the cam position of the adjusting bolt and adjusting cam, then remove self-locking nut, adjusting cam, and adjusting bolt. Discard the old self-locking nut. Remove flange bolt and remove the knuckle. See **Fig. 5** .
4. Install knuckle in reverse order of removal. Before fully tightening bolts and nuts, be sure to raise suspension to load it with vehicle's weight. Then, tighten to specified torque. See **TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS** . Check the wheel alignment. See **WHEEL ALIGNMENT** .

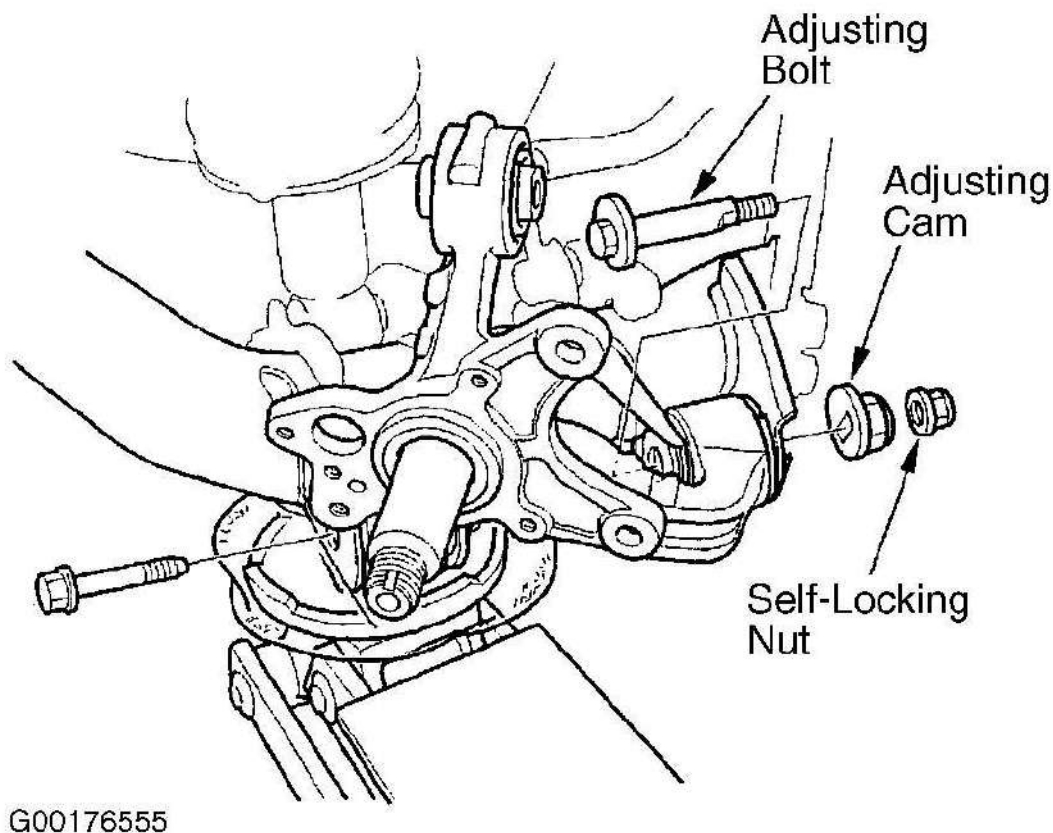


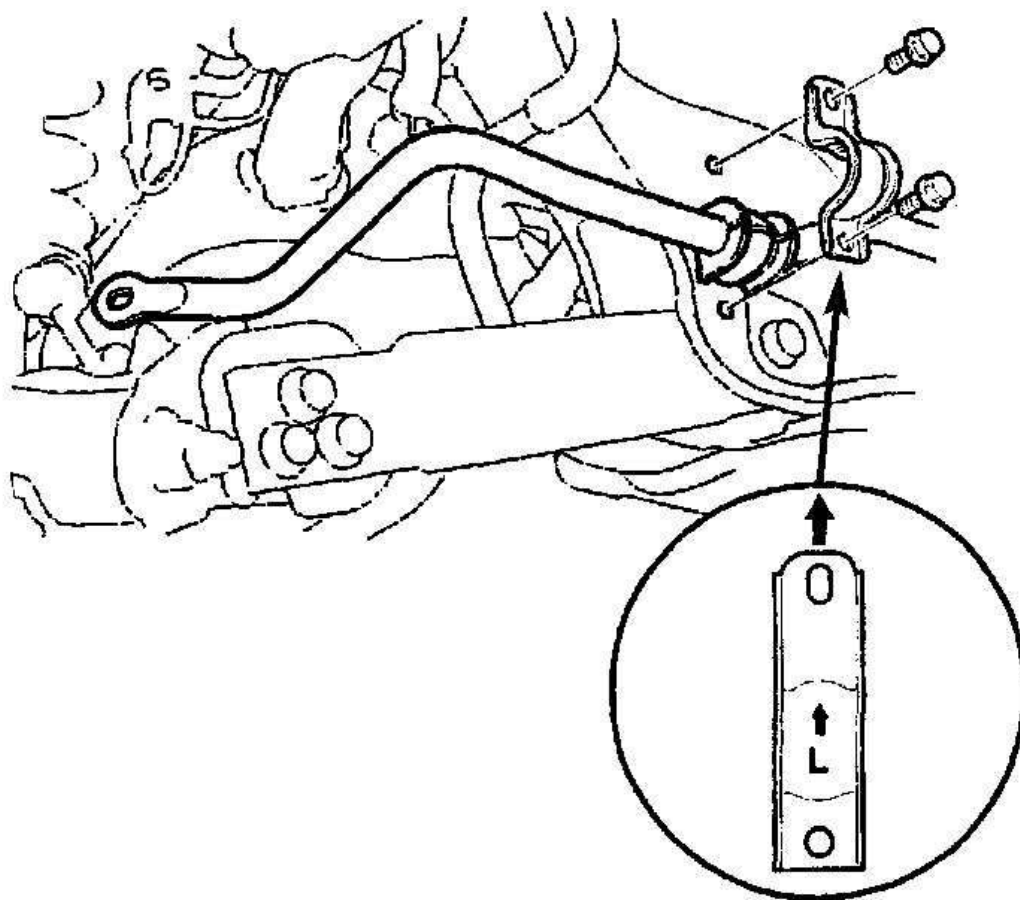
Fig. 5: Removing Knuckle (RSX)

Courtesy of AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

STABILIZER BAR (RSX)

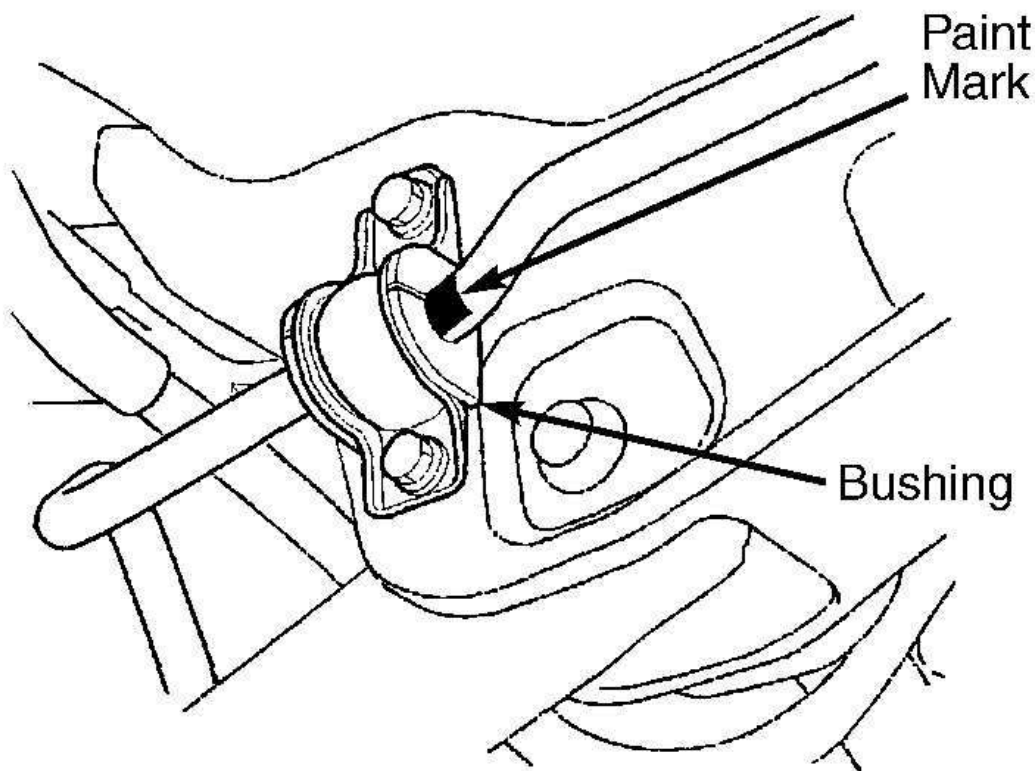
Removal & Installation

1. Raise and support vehicle. Remove wheels. Remove self-locking nuts while holding joint pins with a hex wrench, and disconnect the stabilizer links from the stabilizer bar on the right and left. Remove the flange bolts and bushing holders then remove the bushings and stabilizer bar. See **Fig. 6** .
2. Install the stabilizer bar in reverse order of removal. Use NEW self-locking nuts upon reassembly. Make sure the right and left ends of the stabilizer bar are installed on their respective sides of vehicle. Align the ends of the paint marks on the stabilizer bar with the bushings. See **Fig. 7** .



G00176556

Fig. 6: Inspecting Stabilizer Bar
Courtesy of AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



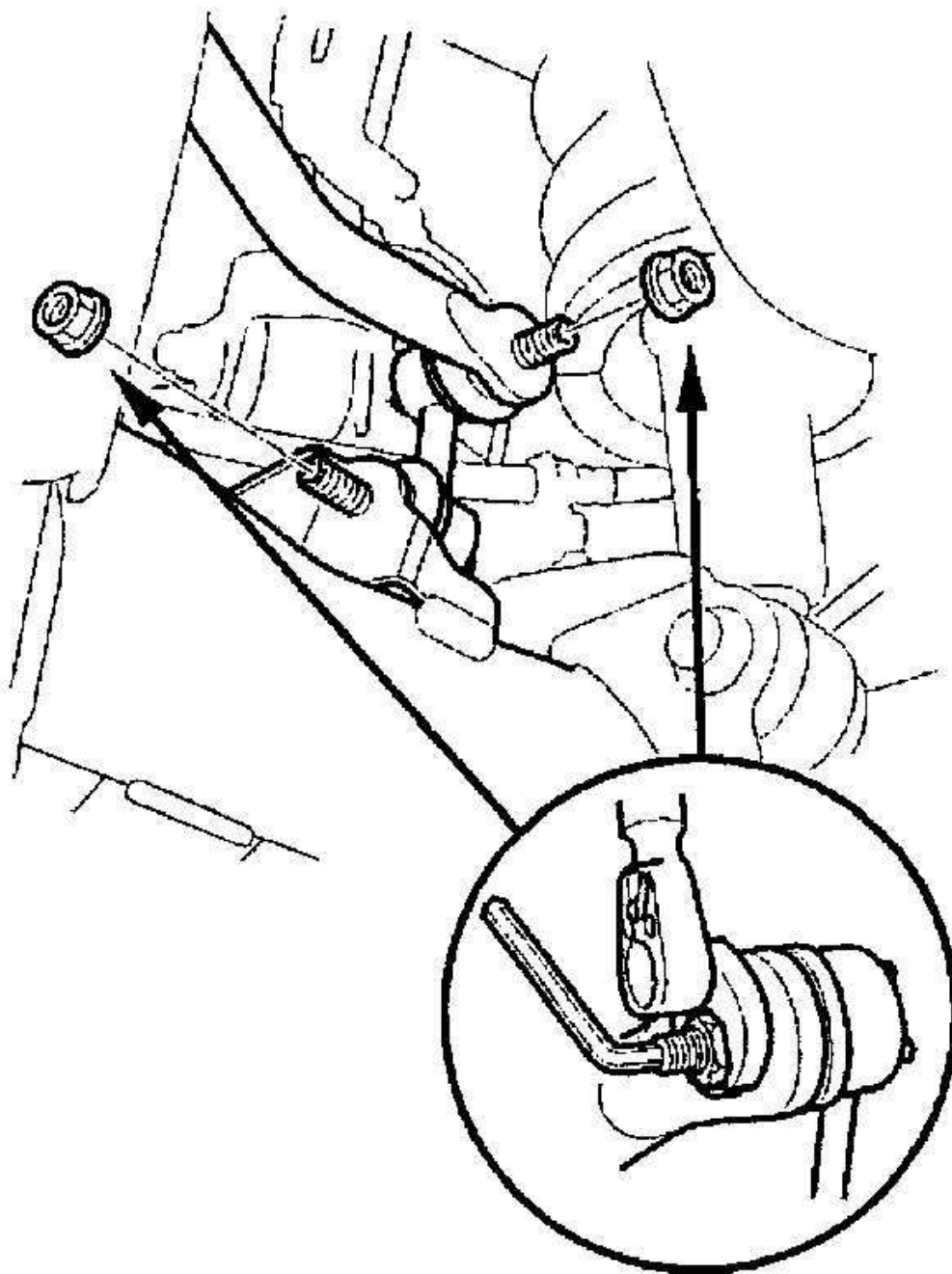
G00176557

Fig. 7: Aligning Stabilizer Bar & Bushings
 Courtesy of AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

STABILIZER LINK (RSX)

Removal & Installation

1. Raise and support vehicle. Remove wheels assembly. Remove self-locking nut and flange nut while holding the respective joint pin with a hex wrench, and remove stabilizer link. See **Fig. 8**.
2. Install stabilizer link on stabilizer bar and trailing arm with joint pins set at center of each moving range. Install a NEW self-locking nut and flange nut and, lightly tighten them. Place a jack under trailing arm at the knuckle side end, and raise the suspension to load it with vehicle's weight.
3. Tighten the NEW self-locking nut and flange nut to specified torque values while holding the respective joint pins with a hex wrench. After five minutes of driving, re-tighten the self locking nut again to specified torque. See **TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS**.



G00176558

Fig. 8: Inspecting Stabilizer Link
Courtesy of AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

2002 Acura MDX

2001-02 SUSPENSION Rear - MDX, RSX, 3.2CL, 3.2TL & 3.5RL,

STRUT ASSEMBLY

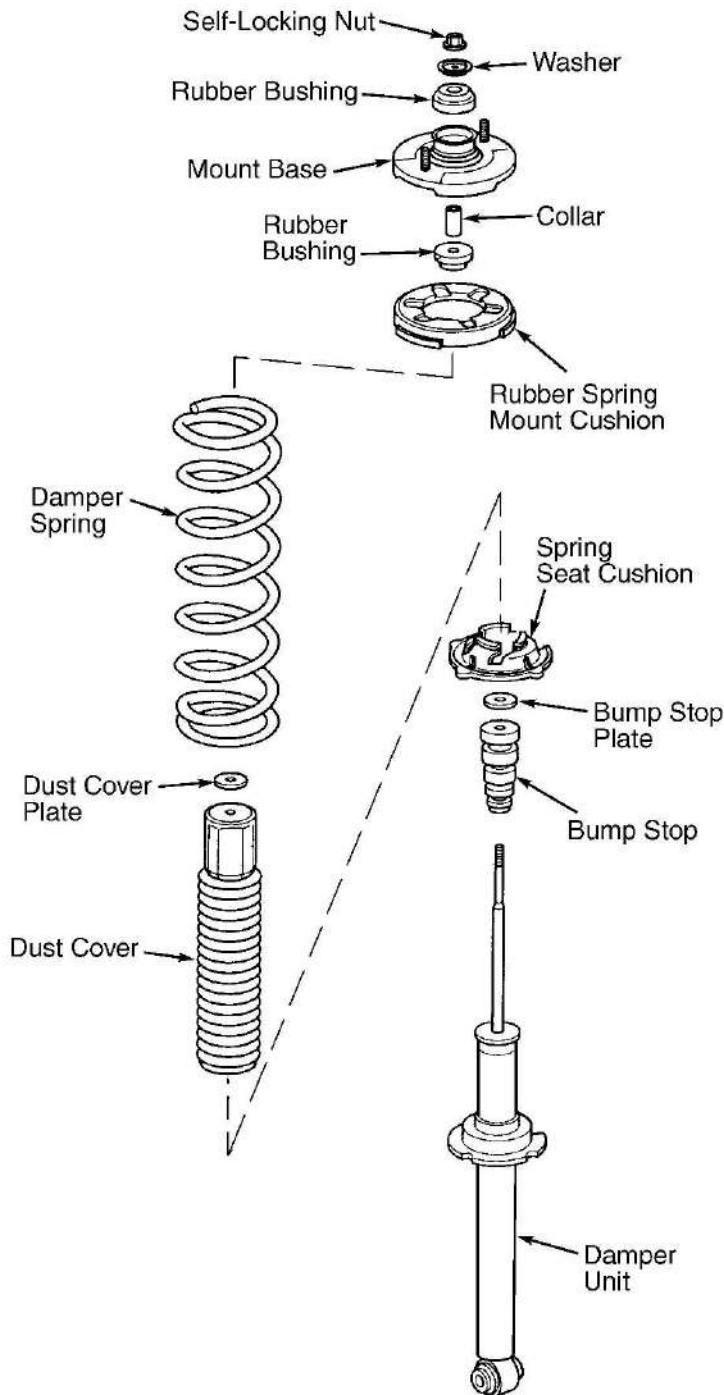
WARNING: Strut contains pressurized nitrogen gas. To dispose of properly, drill a 5/64" (2.0 mm) hole at base of strut. Always wear eye protection when drilling.

Removal

1. Loosen lug nuts slightly. Raise and support vehicle. Remove wheel assembly. On 3.5RL, remove rear speaker and strut cover. On 3.2CL and 3.2TL, remove rear shelf. On RSX, top flange mounting nuts are located inside trunk. On MDX, there are no special instructions
2. On 3.5RL, place floor jack under lower control arm and compress strut slightly. On all models, remove strut mounting base-to-body nuts. See **Fig. 9** , **Fig. 10** or **Fig. 11** . Remove strut lower mounting nut. Lower rear suspension. Remove strut assembly.

2002 Acura MDX

2001-02 SUSPENSION Rear - MDX, RSX, 3.2CL, 3.2TL & 3.5RL,

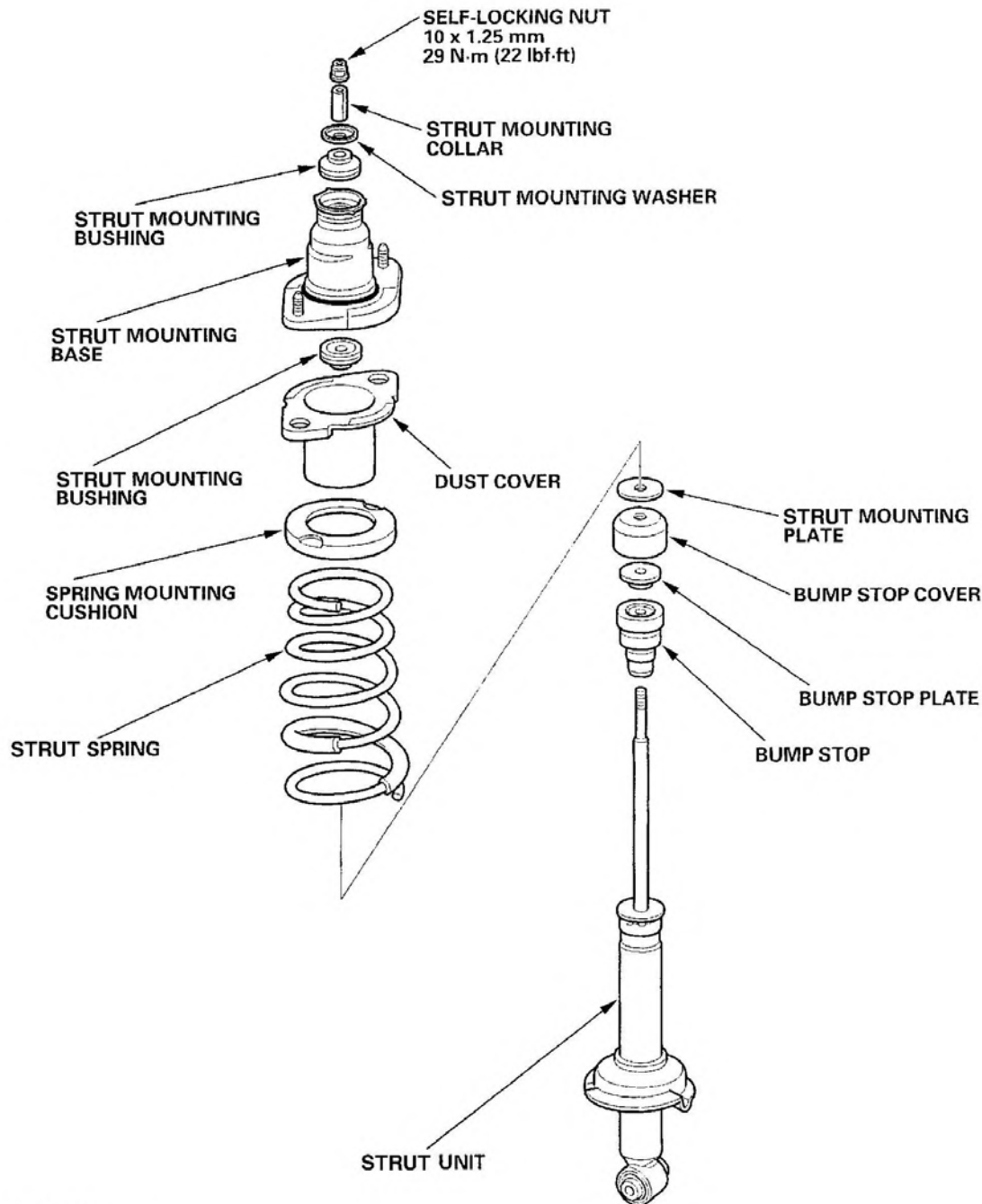


G00014078

Fig. 9: Exploded View Of Strut Assembly (3.2CL & 3.2TL Shown; 3.5RL Is Similar)
Courtesy of AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

2002 Acura MDX

2001-02 SUSPENSION Rear - MDX, RSX, 3.2CL, 3.2TL & 3.5RL,

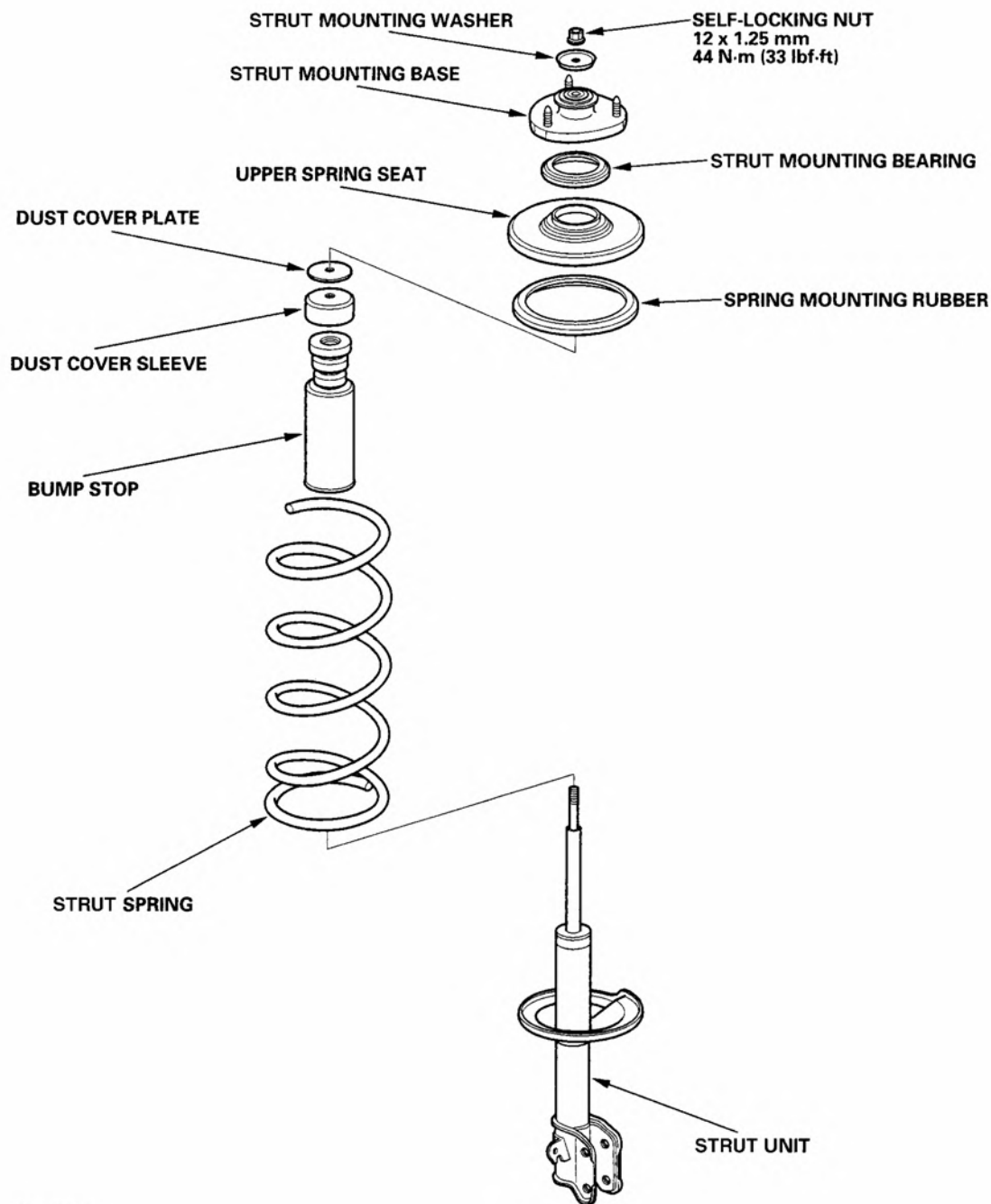


G00176559

Fig. 10: Exploded View Of Strut Assembly (RSX)
Courtesy of AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

2002 Acura MDX

2001-02 SUSPENSION Rear - MDX, RSX, 3.2CL, 3.2TL & 3.5RL,



G00176561

Fig. 11: Exploded View Of Strut Assembly (MDX)
Courtesy of AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

Disassembly

1. Compress strut spring with spring compressor. DO NOT compress spring more than necessary to remove 10-mm self-locking nut. Remove 10-mm self-locking nut from strut assembly.

2. Remove spring compressor. Note component locations, and complete disassembly by removing components according to exploded views of strut. See **Fig. 9** , **Fig. 10** or **Fig. 11** .

Inspection

Check for smooth operation in both compression and extension strokes. Check for oil leaks, abnormal noises, or binding. Replace strut as necessary.

Reassembly & Installation

To reassemble, reverse disassembly procedure. To install, reverse removal procedure. Tighten nuts to specifications. See **TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS** .

TRAILING ARM

CAUTION: Vehicle suspension should be under vehicle load before performing final tightening of any bolts or nuts connected to rubber mounts or bushings.

Removal & Installation

To remove components, refer to illustration. See **Fig. 1** , **Fig. 2** , **Fig. 3** or **Fig. 4** . Mark position of components for installation. To install, reverse removal procedure. Tighten nuts and bolts to specification. See **TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS** .

UPPER & LOWER CONTROL ARMS

CAUTION: Vehicle suspension should be under vehicle load before performing final tightening of any bolts or nuts connected to rubber mounts or bushings.

Removal

To remove components, refer to illustration. See **Fig. 1** , **Fig. 2** , **Fig. 3** or **Fig. 4** . Mark position of components for instillation. Components are not interchangeable from side to side.

Installation

Inspect components and bushings for deterioration and damage. Replace worn or damaged parts. Check for location marks before installing components. Tighten bolts and nuts to specification. See **TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS** . Check alignment. See **WHEEL ALIGNMENT** .

TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS

TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS (3.2CL & 3.2TL)

Application	Ft. Lbs. (N.m)
Brake Hose Mounting Bolts	16 (22)

2002 Acura MDX

2001-02 SUSPENSION Rear - MDX, RSX, 3.2CL, 3.2TL & 3.5RL,

Brake Caliper Bracket Bolt	41 (55)
Control Arm Bolts	43 (58)
Leading Arm Bolts	43 (58)
Lower Arm Bolts	43 (58)
Lower Strut Mounting Bolts	43 (58)
Spindle Nut	134 (182)
Stabilizer Link Nut	29 (39)
Stabilizer Mounting Bolts	16 (22)
Strut Center Nut	22 (30)
Strut-To-Body Nuts	37 (50)
Trailing Arm Bolts	43 (58)
Upper Arm Attaching Bolts	43 (58)
Upper Ball Joint Nut	36-43 (49-58)
Wheel Lug Nut	80 (108)
INCH Lbs. (N.m)	
Brake Disc Retaining Screws	89 (10)

TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS (3.5RL)

Application	Ft. Lbs. (N.m)
Ball Joint Nuts	36-43 (49-58)
Brake Caliper Bracket Bolt	41 (56)
Lower Control Arm "A" Anchor Bolt	80 (108)
Lower Control Arm "B" Inner Bolt	40 (54)
Lower Control Arm "B" Outer Bolt	47 (64)
Lower Strut Mounting Bolt	76 (103)
Spindle Nut	181 (245)
Stabilizer Link-To-Stabilizer Bar Nut	25 (34)
Stabilizer Link-To-Trailing Arm Nut	29 (39)
Stabilizer Mounting Bolts	38 (52)
Trailing Arm Bracket Bolts	80 (108)
Trailing Arm-To-Bracket Bolt	47 (64)
Trailing Arm-To-Knuckle Nut	47 (64)
Upper Arm Anchor (Pivot) Bolt	80 (108)
Wheel Lug Nut	80 (108)

TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS (MDX)

Application	Ft. Lbs. (N.m)
Backing Plate Nut	31 (42)
Ball Joint Nut	36-43 (49-58)
Brake Caliper Bracket Nut	41 (56)
Bump Stop Bolt	29 (39)

2002 Acura MDX

2001-02 SUSPENSION Rear - MDX, RSX, 3.2CL, 3.2TL & 3.5RL,

Damper Bolts	47 (64)
Lower Arm "A"-To-Bracket Bolt	103 (140)
Lower Arm "A"-To-Knuckle Bolt	47 (64)
Lower Arm "B"-To-Bracket Bolt	61 (83)
Lower Arm "B"-To-Knuckle Bolt	54 (73)
Spindle Nut	181 (245)
Stabilizer Link Nuts	29 (39)
Trailing Arm-To-Bracket Bolt	76 (103)
Trailing Arm-To-Knuckle Bolts	47 (64)
Upper Arm Anchor Nut	47 (64)
Wheel Lug Nut	80 (108)

TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS (RSX)

Application	Ft. Lbs. (N.m)
Brake Hose Mounting Bolts	16 (22)
Brake Caliper Bracket Bolt	41 (55)
Spindle Nut	134 (181)
Stabilizer Link Nut	28 (38)
Stabilizer Bracket Mounting Bolts	16 (22)
Strut Upper Mounting Bolts	43 (59)
Strut Lower Mounting Bolt	45 (61)
Strut Center Nut	22 (29)
Trailing Arm-To-Knuckle Bolt	69 (93)
Trailing Arm Front Mounting Bolts	83 (112)
Trailing Arm Rear Mounting Bolts	43 (59)
Upper Arm Attaching Bolts	43 (59)
Wheel Sensor Harness Bracket Bolt	16 (22)
Wheel Lug Nut	80 (108)
	INCH Lbs. (N.m)
Brake Disc Retaining Screws	87 (9.8)
Splash Guard 6 mm Nuts	87 (9.8)