TRAIL FORTRESS

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Rough Country 11400 Installation Instructions

3.5-Inch Lift Kit with Forged Upper Control Arms for Tahoe and Yukon

Part number: 11400

trailfortress.com/3-5-inch-lift-kit-tahoe-and-yukon-rough-country-11400

Scan for fitment, price and install help

921114000

ROUGH COUNTRY
SUSPENSION SYSTEMS®

CHEVY 2021 Tahoe/Suburban 3.5 Inch Lift Kit

Thank you for choosing Rough Country for your suspension needs.

Rough Country recommends a certified technician install this system. In addition to these instructions, professional knowledge of disassemble/reassembly procedures as well as post installation checks must be known. Attempts to install this system without this knowledge and expertise may jeopardize the integrity and/or operating safety of the vehicle.

Please read instructions before beginning installation. Check the kit hardware against the parts list on the rear cover of these instructions. Be sure you have all needed parts and know where they go. Also please review tools needed list and make sure you have needed tools.

PRODUCT USE INFORMATION

⚠WARNING As a general rule, the taller a vehicle is, the easier it will roll. Seat belts and shoulder harnesses should be worn at all times. Avoid situations where a side rollover may occur. Generally, braking performance and capability are decreased when larger/heavier tires and wheels are used. Take this into consideration while driving. Do not add, alter, or fabricate any factory or after-market parts to increase vehicle height over the intended height of the Rough Country product purchased. Mixing component brands is not recommended.

Rough Country makes no claims regarding lifting devices and excludes any and all implied claims. We will not be responsible for any product that is altered. If question exist we will be happy to answer any questions concerning the design, function, and correct use of our products.

⚠NOTICE The electric power steering must be unplugged before any of the steering components are removed. Failure to do so may cause damage to the electric power steering.

⚠NOTICE Trucks equipped with a mass damper on the front diff, the damper will have to be removed.

This kit is packaged as a leveling kit—raising the front 3.5” and the back 2.5”. If you desire a different look or if the vehicle has a tool box or added weight in the rear, please consult with your sales representative about other block and u-bolt options.

This suspension system was developed using a 305/55R20 tire on a 20 x 9 wheel with +1mm offset. Minimal trimming required. If wider tires are used trimming may be required. Due to manufacturing, dimension variances, and inflation, all tire and wheel combinations should be tested prior to installation on all oversized / wider then stock tires and wheels.

⚠NOTICE **DEALER AND VEHICLE OWNER**

Any vehicle equipped with any Rough Country product should have a “Warning to Driver” decal installed on the inside of the windshield or on the vehicle’s dash. The decal should act as a constant reminder for whoever is operating the vehicle.

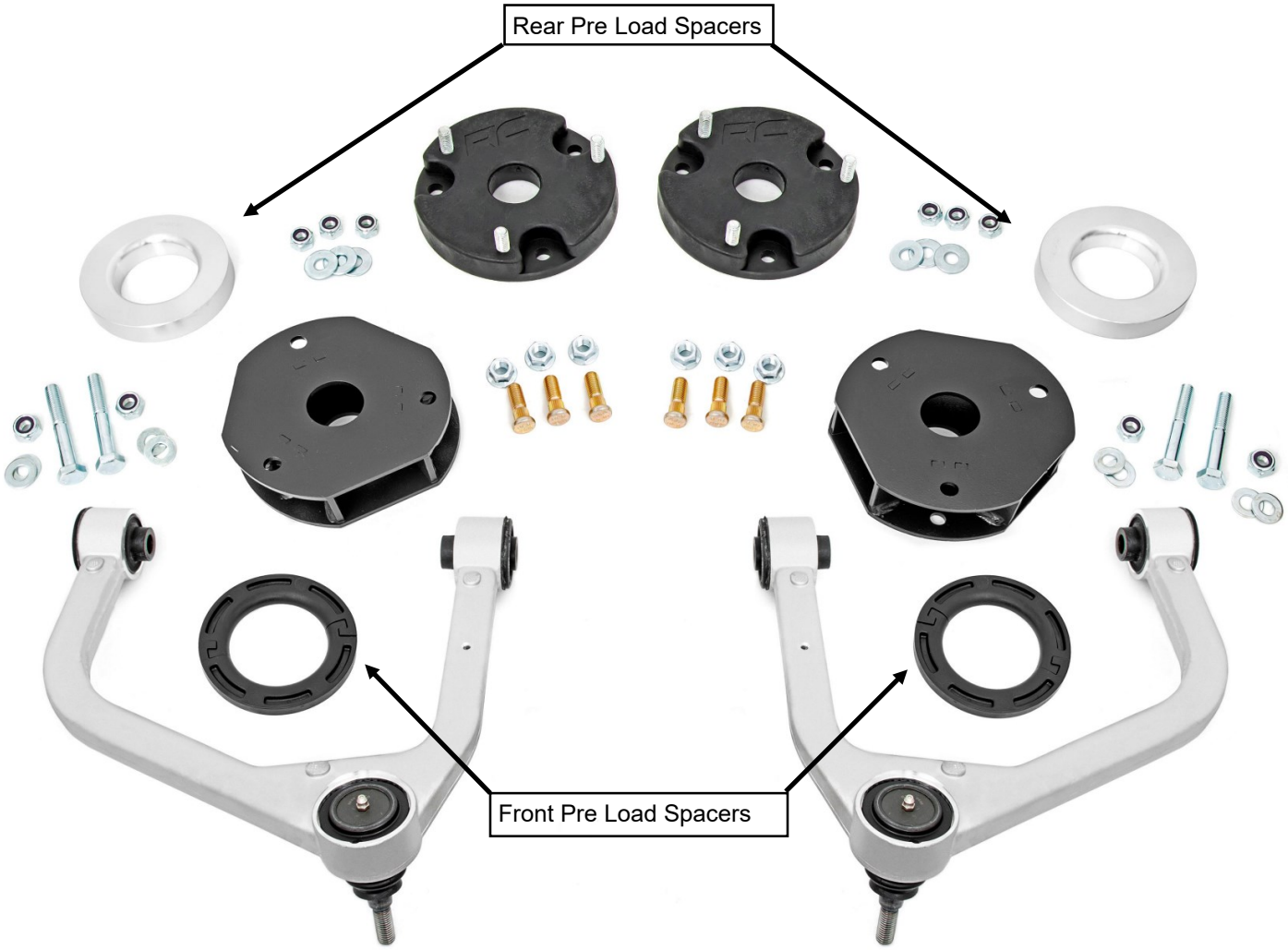
Tools Needed:

Floor Jack /Jack Stands	36mm socket
10mm socket /wrench	1/2” socket/wrench
13 mm socket/wrench	9/16” socket /wrench
15mm socket / wrench	3/4” socket/wrench
17mm socket/wrench	T30 Torx bit
18mm socket /wrench	Reciprocating Saw
21mm socket /wrench	Hammer
22mm socket /wrench	Locking Pliers
24mm socket /wrench	Coil Compressor
27mm socket /wrench	

Torque Specs:

Size	Grade 5	Grade 8	Size	Class 8.8	Class 10.9
5/16”	15 ft/lbs	20 ft/lbs	6MM	5 ft/lbs	9 ft/lbs
3/8”	30 ft/lbs	35 ft/lbs	8MM	18ft/lbs	23 ft/lbs
7/16”	45 ft/lbs	60 ft/lbs	10MM	32ft/lbs	45ft/lbs
1/2”	65 ft/lbs	90 ft/lbs	12MM	55ft/lbs	75ft/lbs
9/16”	95 ft/lbs	130 ft/lbs	14MM	85ft/lbs	120ft/lbs
5/8”	135 ft/lbs	175 ft/lbs	16MM	130ft/lbs	165ft/lbs
3/4”	185 ft/lbs	280 ft/lbs	18MM	170ft/lbs	240ft/lbs

KIT CONTENTS



11400 Kit Contents

11400BOX1

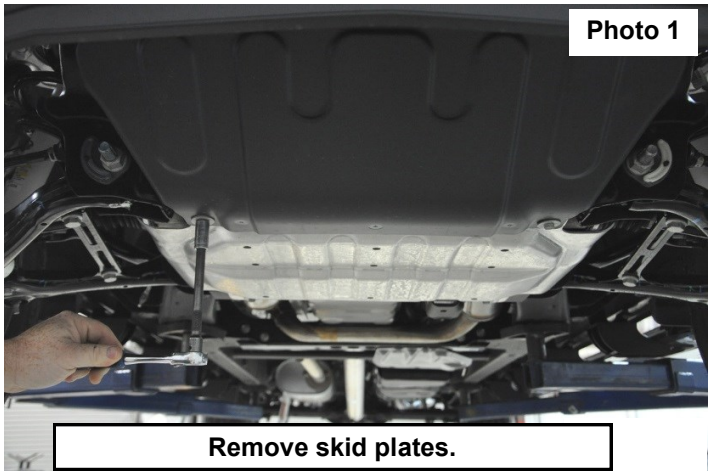
- 2 - *10MMSTUDBAG-2*
  - 1 - 1/2” Jam Nut
  - 1 - 10MM-1.25 Hex Nut
  - 6 - 10MM-1.25 Studs
  - 6 - 10MM-1.25 Flange Nuts
- 1 - *275BAG3*
  - 4 - 10MM-1.5x65MM Bolts
  - 4 - 10MM-1.5 Lock Nuts
  - 8 - 10MM Flat Washers
- *1 - 11400BAG*
  - 1 - Instruction Sheet
- *1 - 11200BAG*
  - *6 - 10MM-1.5 Lock Nuts*
  - *6 - 10MM Flat Washers*
- *2 - Front Preload Spacers*
- *2 - Front Upper Strut Spacers*
- *2 - Rear Preload Spacers*
- *2 - Rear Upper Strut Spacers*

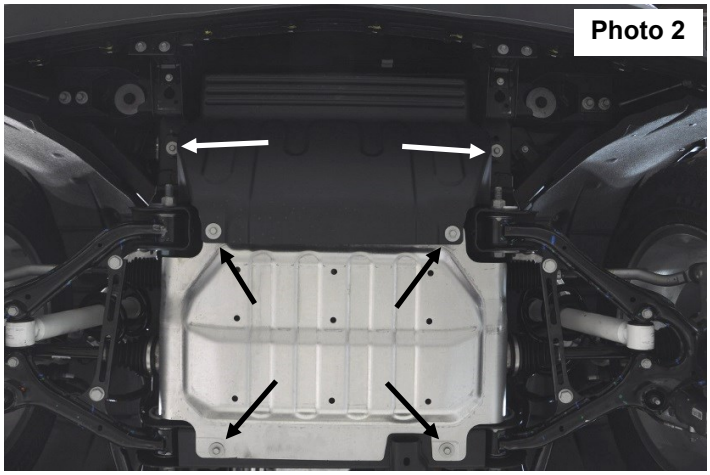
29501 (Upper Control Arms)

- 1 - *29501BAG1*
  - 1 - Instruction Sheet
- *1 - Dr Forged Aluminum Upper Control Arm*
- *1 - Pass Forged Aluminum Upper Control Arm*
- *2 - Ball Joint Hardware Bag*

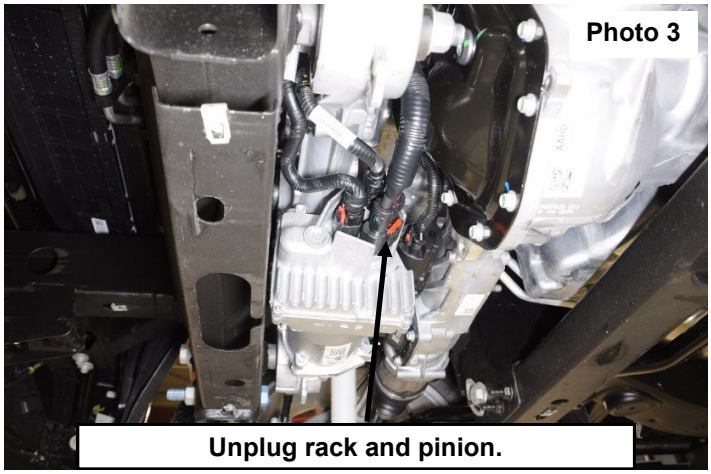
FRONT INSTALLATION

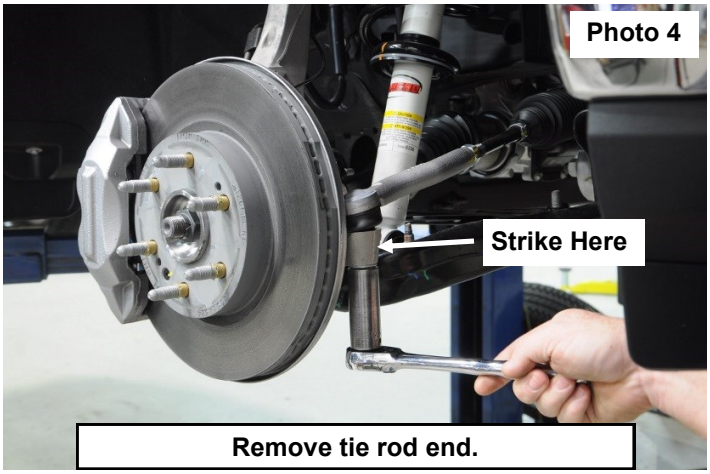
1. Park the vehicle on a level surface and chock the rear wheels. Lock the steering wheel in the straight position.
2. Jack up the front of the vehicle. Place jack stands under the frame rails and lower onto jack stands letting the front suspension hang.
3. Raise the hood and disconnect the battery using a 10mm socket.
4. Remove the tires and wheels.
5. Remove the 6 bolts holding the factory skid plates, using a 13mm socket. **See Photos 1 & 2.** Retain for later use.



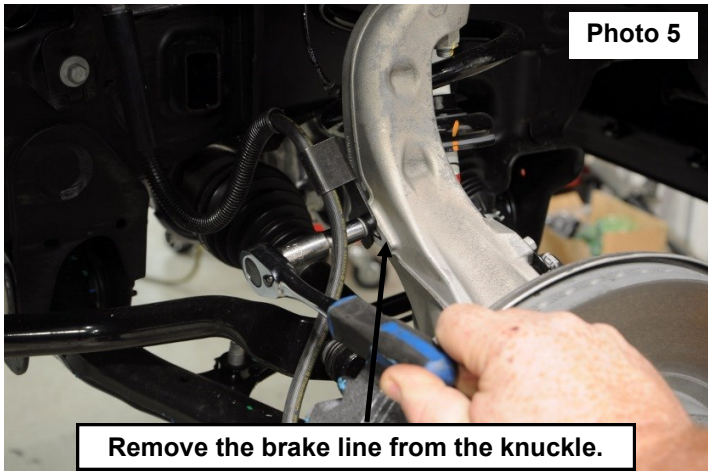


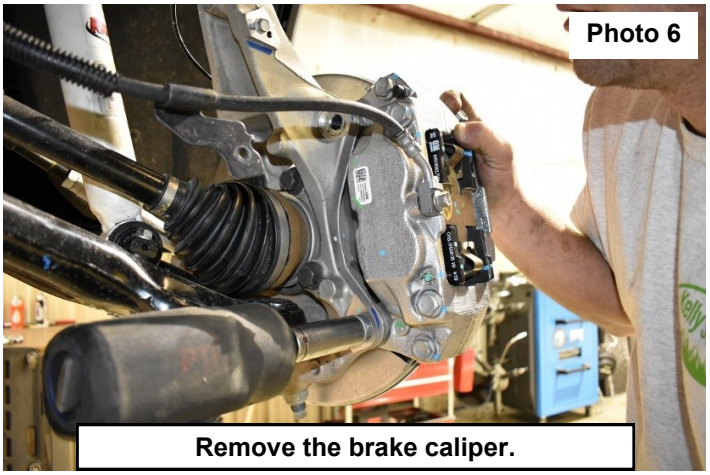
6. Unplug the three connectors going to the rack and pinion. **See Photo 3**.
7. Using a 21mm socket, remove the tie-rod nut as shown in **Photo 4**. Using a hammer, strike the front of the mount to dislodge the tie rod end. Remove from the knuckle.



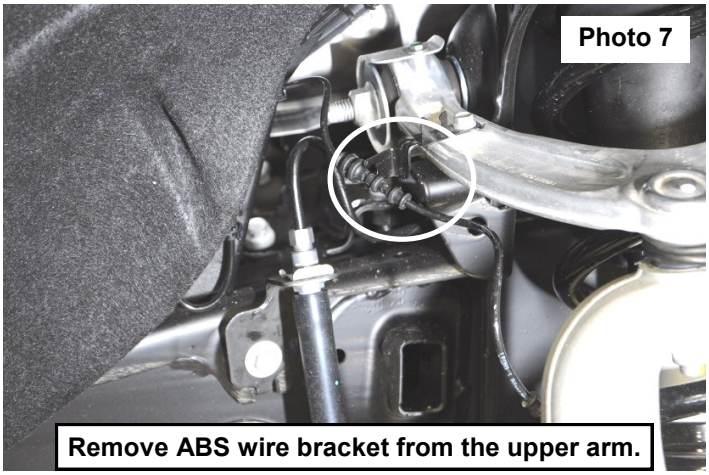


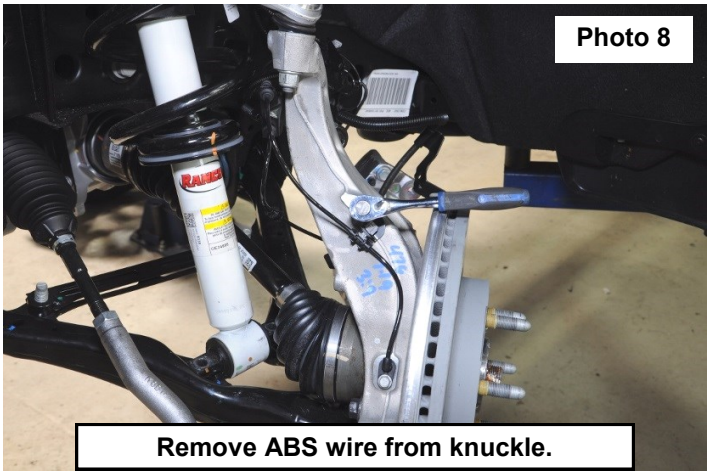
8. Unplug the brake pad sensor wire on the drivers side of the vehicle.
9. Remove the brake line from the knuckle using a 10mm socket. Retain hardware for reuse. **See Photo 5.**
10. Remove the brake caliper using a 18mm socket. Retain the bolts for reuse. **See Photo 6.** Hang caliper out of harms way. Do not hang by the brake line.



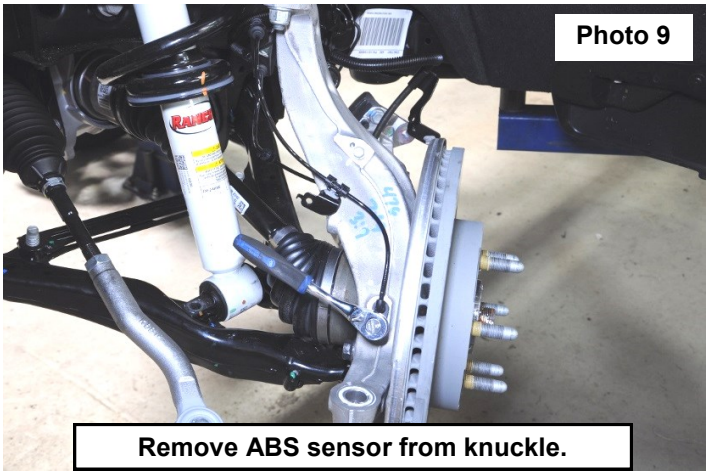


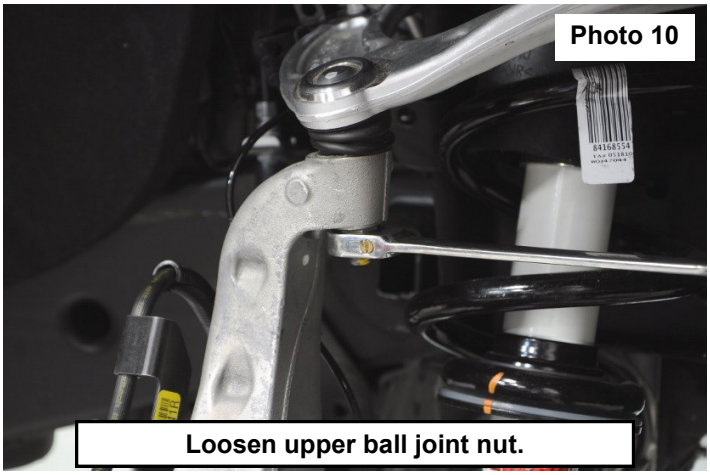
11. Remove the ABS wire bracket from the upper control arm using a 10mm socket. **See Photo 7.**
12. Using a 10mm socket, remove the ABS wire bracket from the knuckle. Retain hardware. **See Photo 8.**



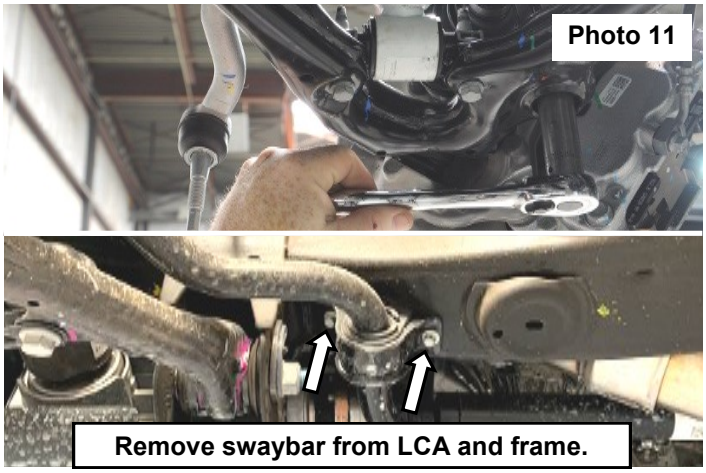


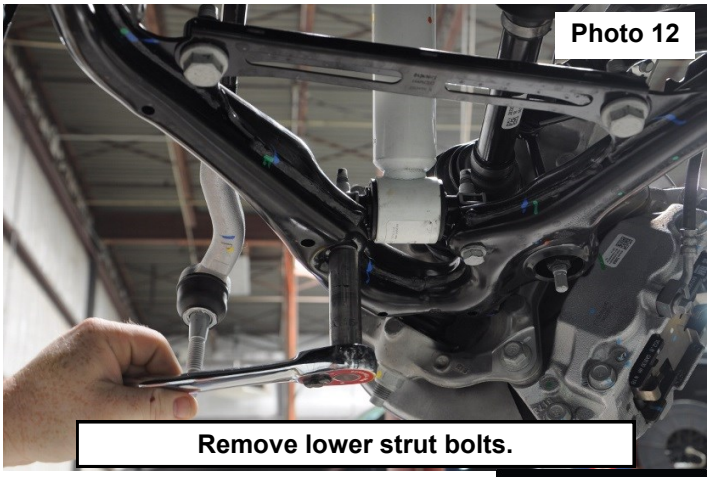
13. Using a 10mm socket, remove the ABS sensor from the knuckle. Retain hardware and hang ABS wire out of the way. **See Photo 9.**
14. Using an 18mm wrench, loosen the upper ball joint nut. Do not completely remove the nut. Strike the knuckle with a hammer to release the ball joint taper. **See Photo 10.**
15. Remove the upper control arm nut and remove the control arm from the knuckle.
16. Support the lower control arm.



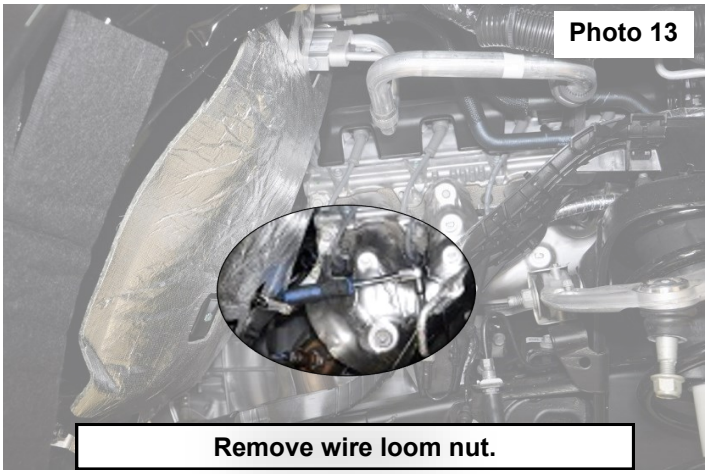


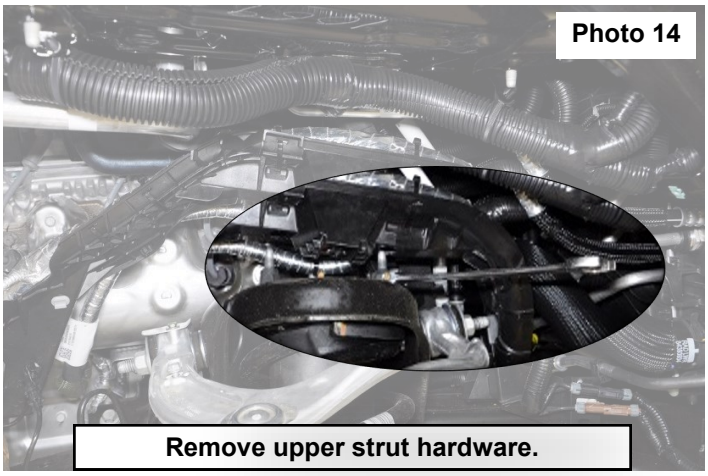
17. Remove the swaybar from the LCA and frame using an 18mm socket on the LCA and a 10mm socket on the frame. **See Photo 11.**
18. Using a 15mm socket, remove the lower strut mounting bolts. **See Photo 12.**



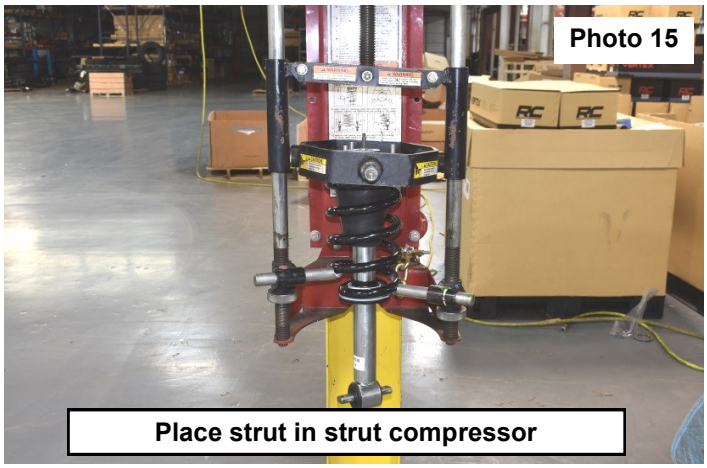


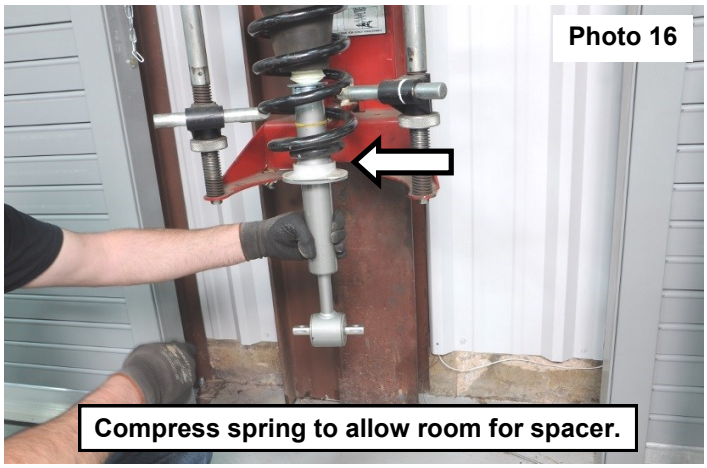
19. On the passenger side, use a 13mm socket to remove the bolt holding the plastic wire loom that is attached to the frame and the upper strut tower. Retain hardware. (Inner fender was removed for pictures) **See Photo 13.**
20. Using an 18mm wrench, remove the upper strut nuts. Retain hardware. Remove the strut from vehicle. **See Photo 14.**



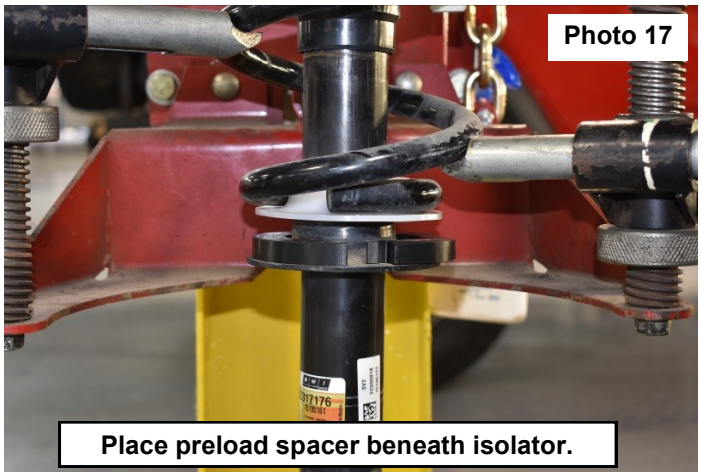


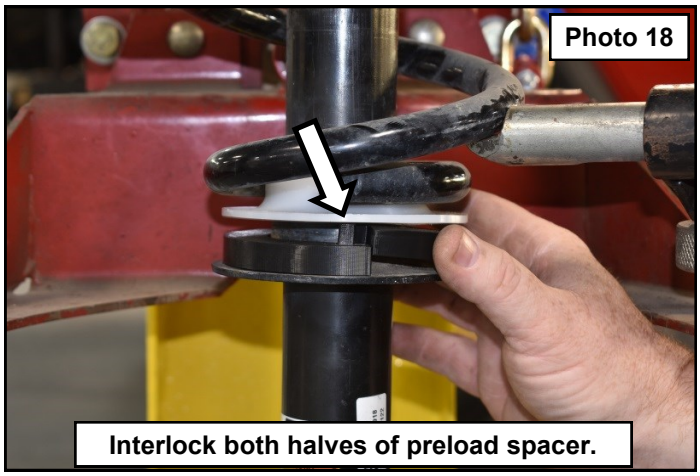
21. Place the strut into a strut compressor. Make sure to locate or mark the position of the lower barpin. **See Photo 15**
22. Compress the spring to allow room for the preload spacer. **Photo 16.**





23. Place both halves of the preload spacer beneath the isolator. **See Photo 17.**
24. Interlock the two halves of the preload spacer by angling up one side and sliding it into place. **See Photo 18.**





25. Completely seat the preload spacers and release the strut compressor. **See Photo 19** and **Photo 20**.

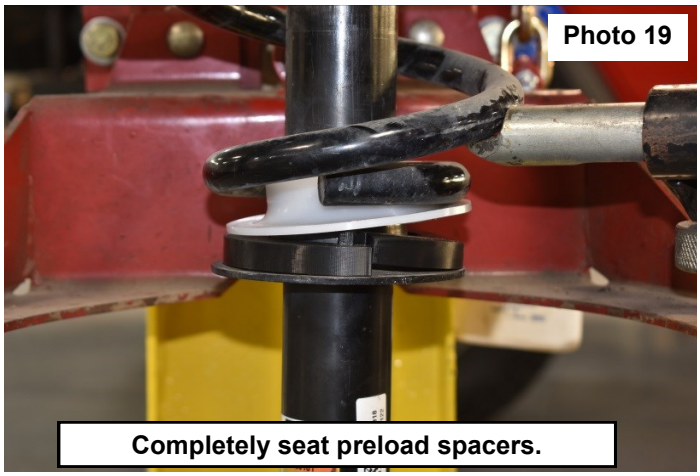


Photo 19

Completely seat preload spacers.

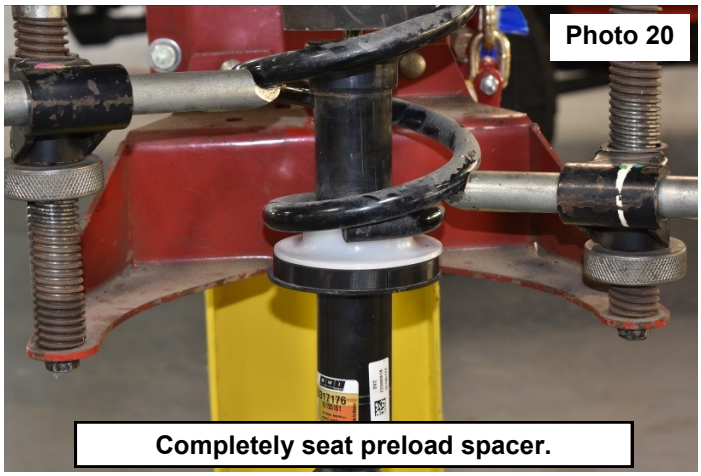


Photo 20

Completely seat preload spacer.

26. Measure from the top of the stud down 3/8 inch, mark the stud and cut off with a cut off wheel to clear the strut spacer with the studs installed. **See Photo 21.**
27. Install the 10mm studs into the smaller holes in the strut spacer, using the supplied 1/2" jam nut to slide over each stud to act as a spacer allowing you to pull the stud through the hole with the 10mm hex nut and a 17mm wrench, locking the stud into place. Remove sleeve and repeat on the other five studs. **See Photo 22.**

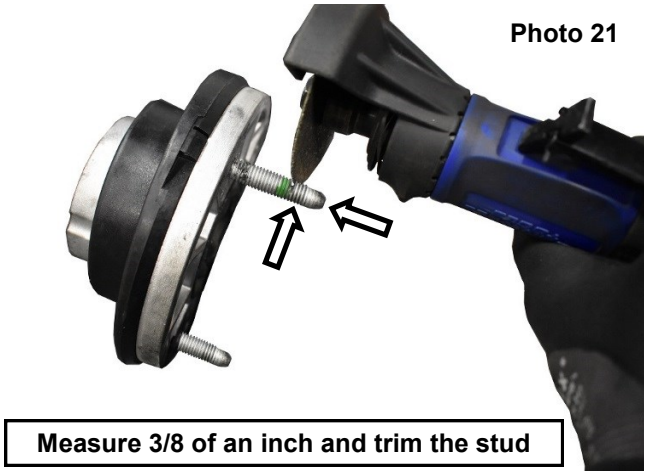


Photo 21

Measure 3/8 of an inch and trim the stud

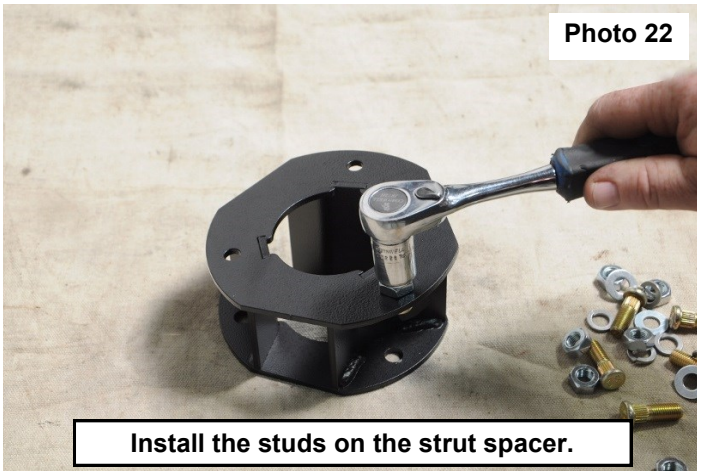


Photo 22

Install the studs on the strut spacer.

28. Install the strut spacer on top of the factory strut, secure using the OE nuts, Torque to 45 ft-lbs. using an 18mm wrench. **See Photo 23.**
29. Mark the location of the upper control arm. Remove the 2 bolts and nuts from the upper control arm, use a 21mm socket and wrench. **See Photo 24.** Save for reuse.

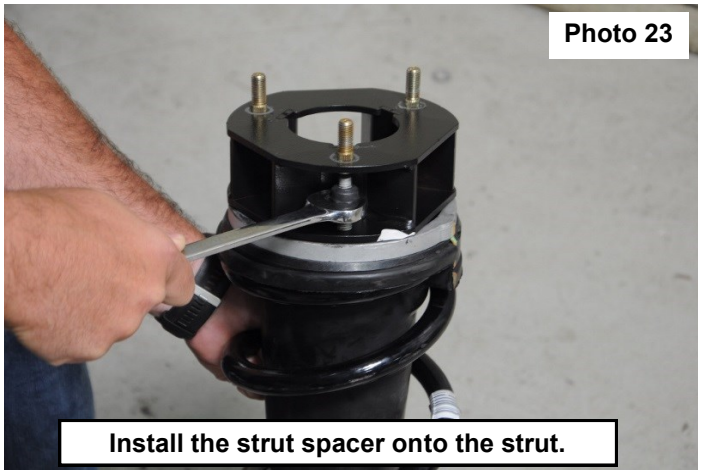


Photo 23

Install the strut spacer onto the strut.

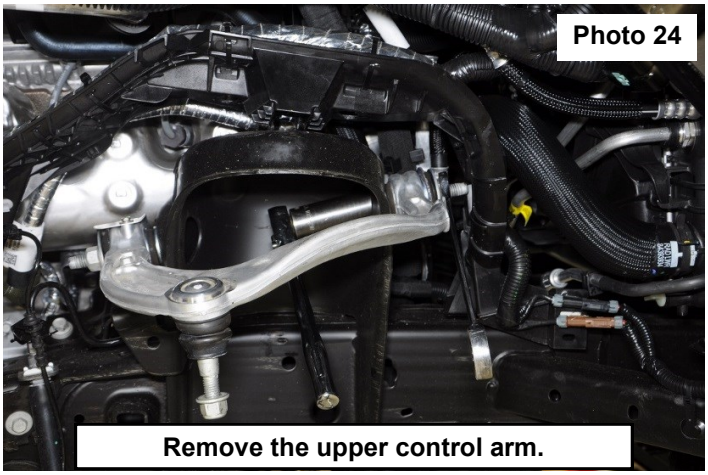
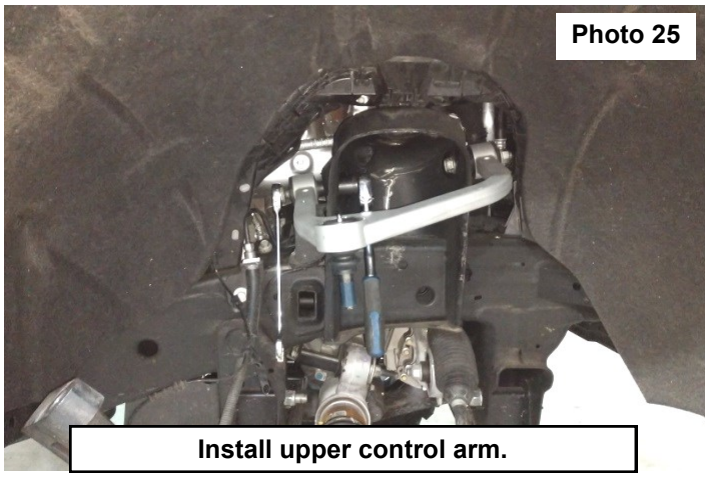


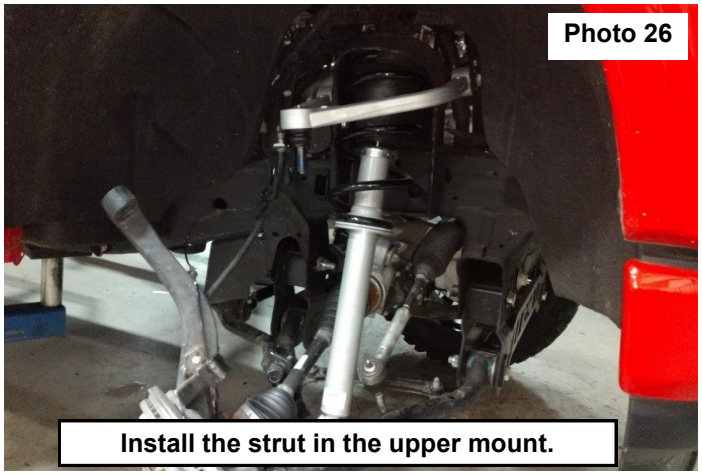
Photo 24

Remove the upper control arm.

30. Remove the upper control arm from the vehicle.
31. Install the new supplied upper control arm in the stock location, using the OE hardware, align the marks made in step 30. Torque to 80 ft-lbs, using a 21mm socket and wrench. **See Photo 25.**
32. Install the strut into the factory mount on the frame, use the supplied flange nuts. (10MMSTUDBAG-2). **See Photo 26.** Hand tighten only.

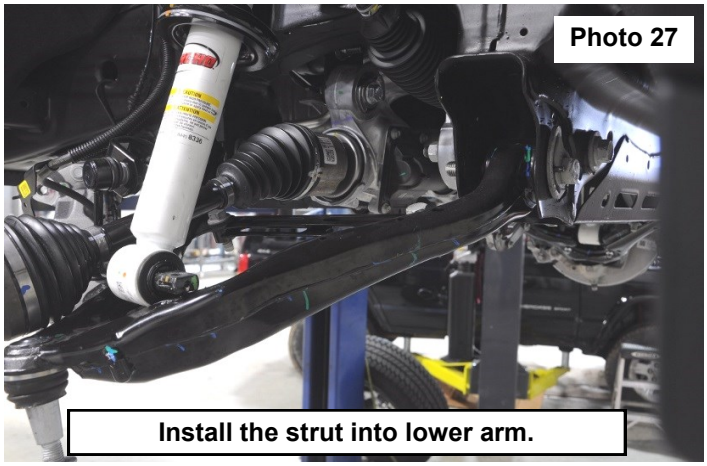


Install upper control arm.

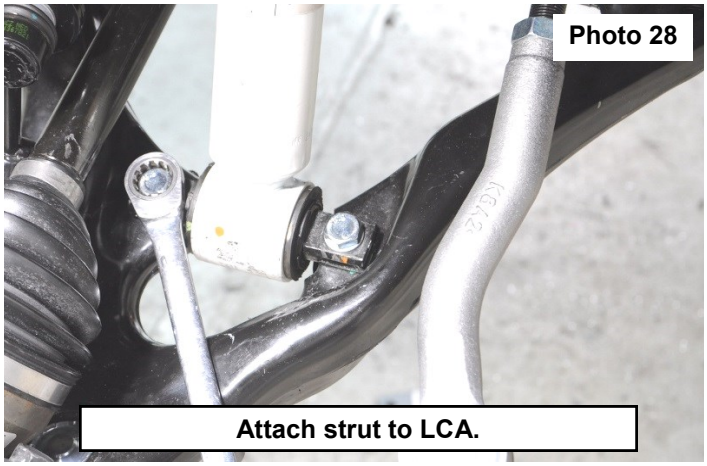


Install the strut in the upper mount.

33. Use a flat screwdriver to remove the factory clip nuts from the lower strut bar pin.
34. Install the strut into the lower control arm. **See Photo 27.**
35. Attach the lower strut mount to the lower control arm using the supplied 10mm x 65mm, washers, and nylock nuts. **Bolts will go in from the top. See Photo 28.**

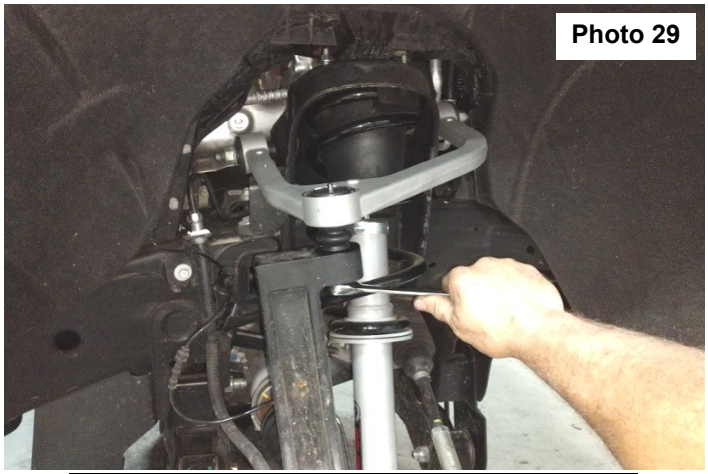


Install the strut into lower arm.



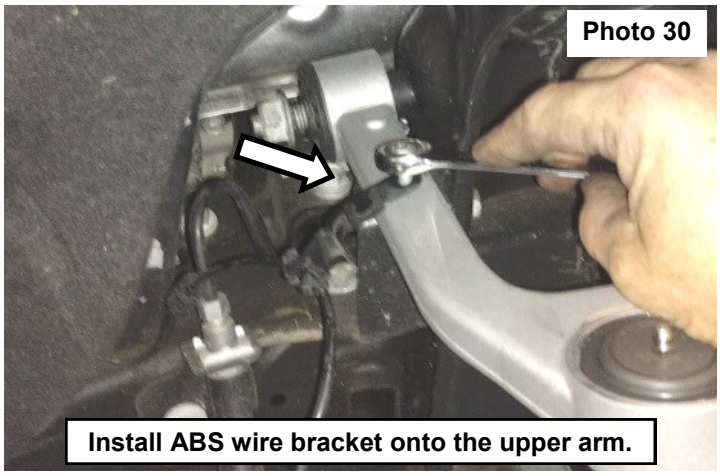
Attach strut to LCA.

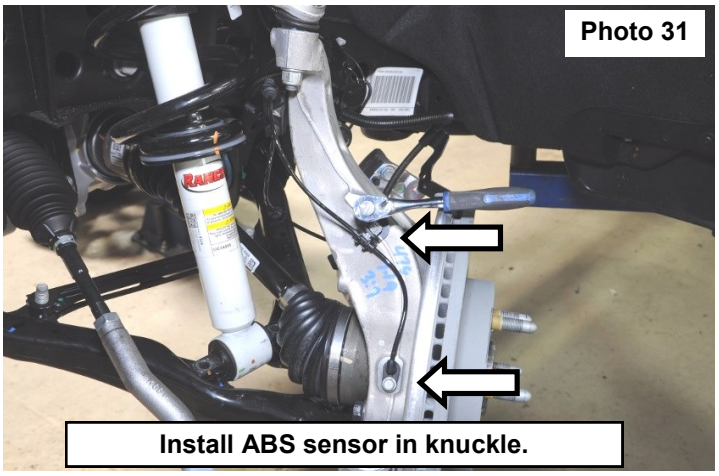
36. Attach the upper ball joint using the factory hardware. Tighten using an 18mm wrench. **See Photo 29.**



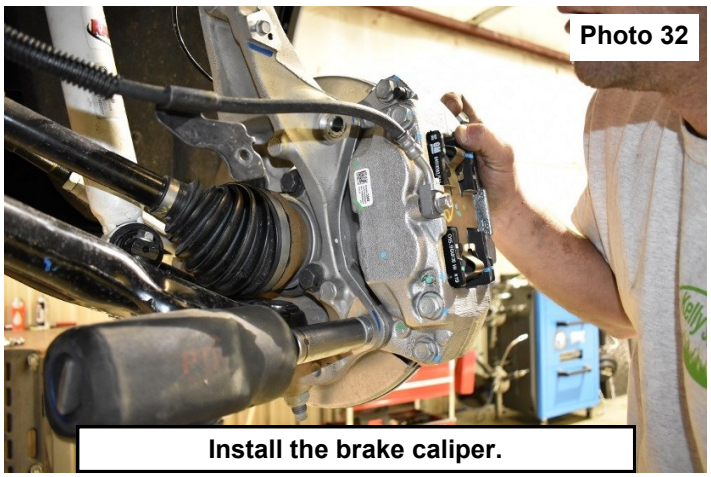
Tighten upper ball joint.

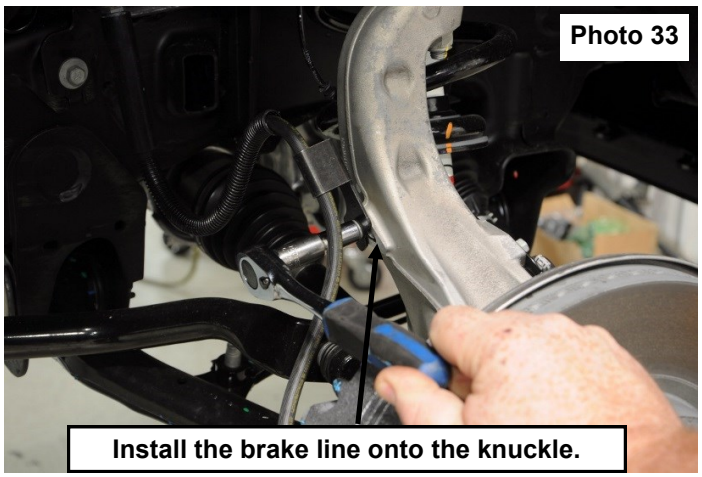
37. Install the ABS sensor wire bracket onto the upper control arm using the OE bolt. Tighten using a 10mm socket. **See Photo 30.**
38. Attach the ABS sensor to the knuckle using the factory hardware. Tighten using a 10mm socket. **See Photo 31.**



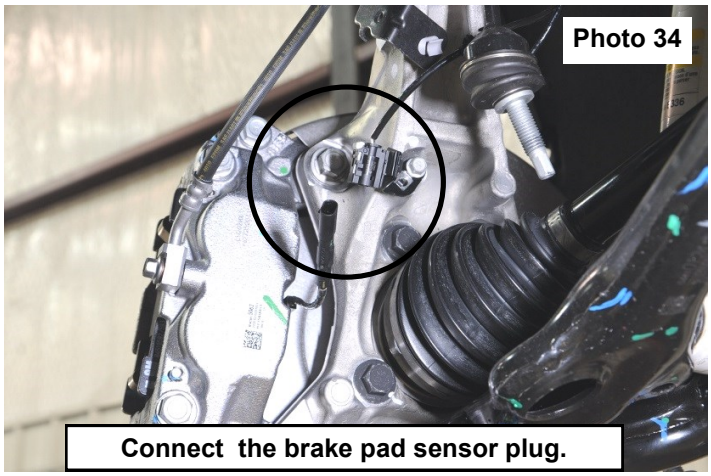


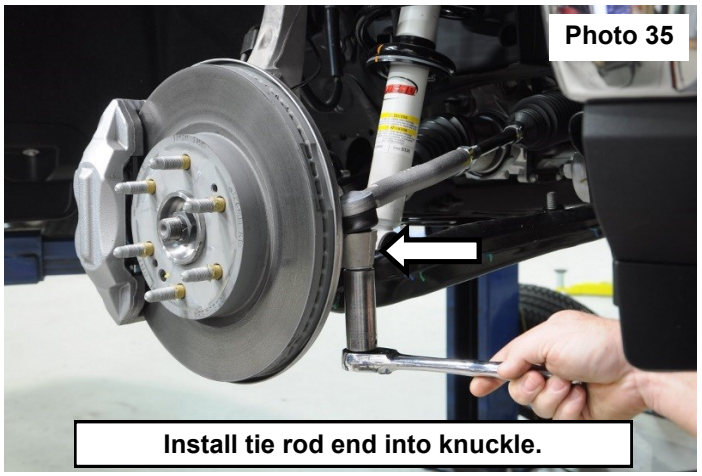
39. Install the brake caliper onto the rotor and secure using the retained bolts. Torque the caliper bolts to 130 ft-lbs. using an 18mm socket. Install brake line onto the knuckle using the retained bolt. Tighten using a 10mm wrench. **See Photo 32.**
40. Attach brake line to the knuckle using the factory hardware. Tighten using a 10mm socket. **See Photo 33.**



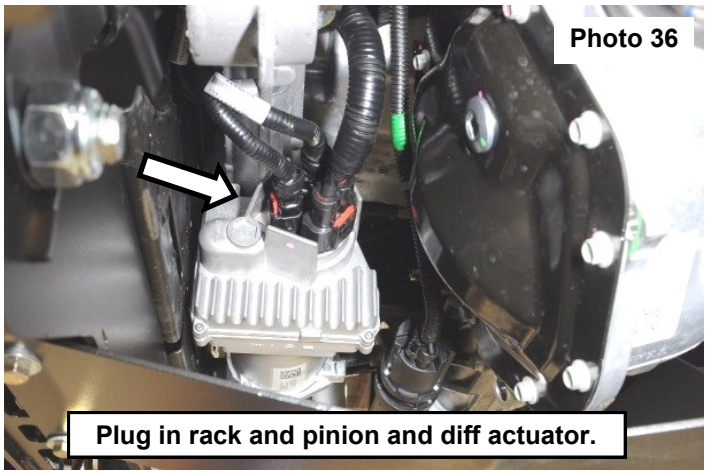


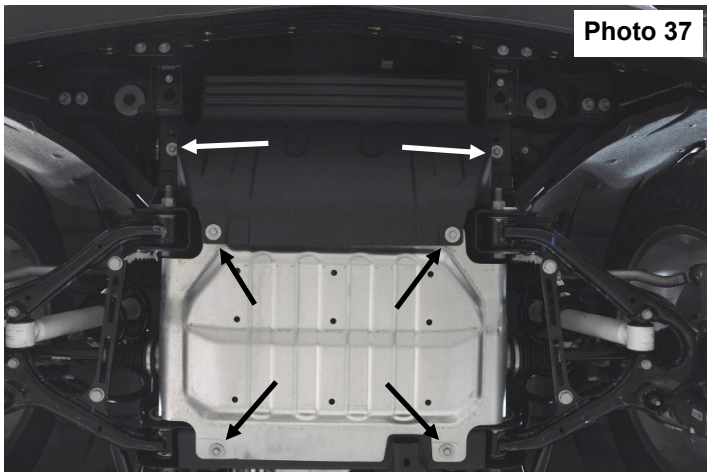
41. Plug up the brake pad wear sensor. **See Photo 34.**
42. Attach the tie rod end to the knuckle using factory hardware. Tighten using a 21mm wrench. **See Photo 35.**





43.Repeat steps 6-44 on the opposite side of the vehicle.
44. Reconnect the plugs to the rack and pinion and the differential actuator. **See Photo 36.**
45. Install the factory skid plates using the retained hardware, using a 13mm socket. Torque to 32 ft-lbs. **See Photo 37.**



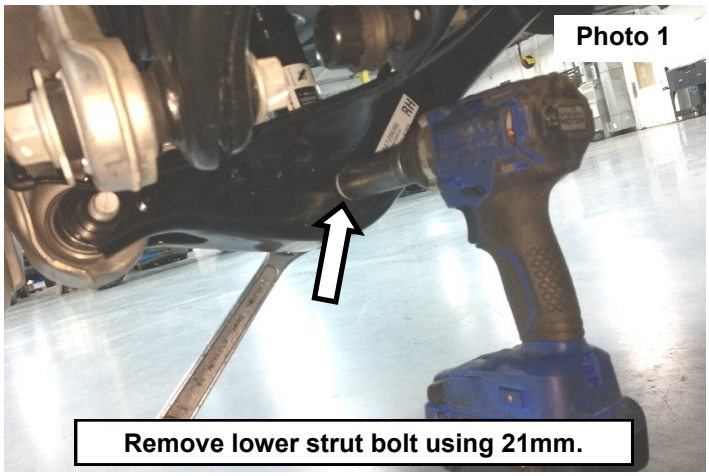


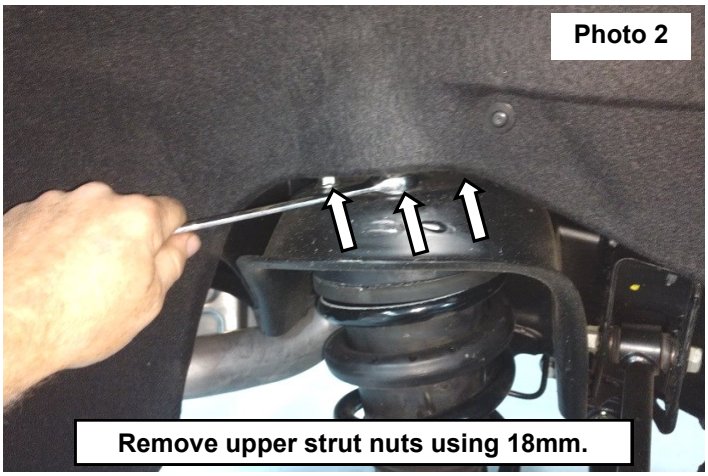
46. Install the wheels and tires.
47. Jack up the truck and remove the jack stands. Lower the truck to the ground.
48. Connect the battery cables to the battery.

⚠WARNING Take caution when installing the wheels, making sure they completely clear the brake caliper. Any pressure on the brake caliper from the wheel will cause an error in the brake system. The braking system will not function properly. The vehicle will have to be reset by a GM dealership.

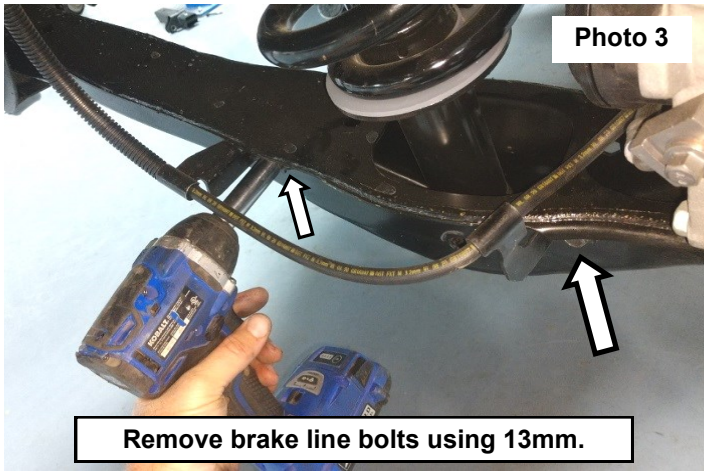
REAR INSTALLATION

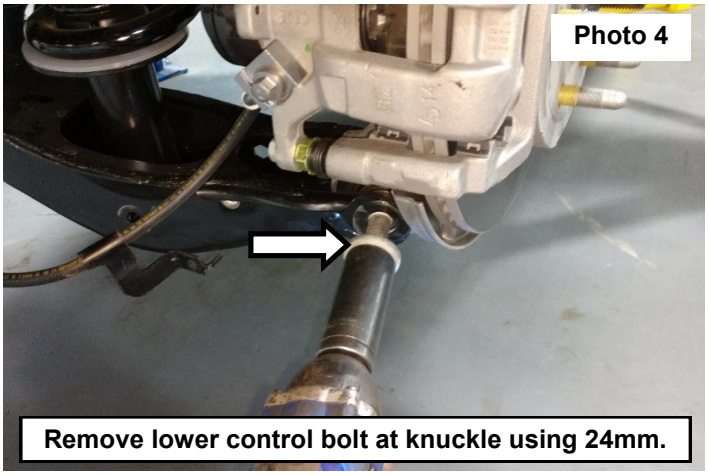
1. Chock the front tires.
2. Jack up the rear of the truck and place jack stands under the frame rails, lower the truck onto the jack stands allowing the rear suspension to hang. Place a jack under the rear differential.
3. Remove the lower strut bolt using 21mm socket/wrench. **See Photo 1**.
4. Remove the 3 upper strut nuts using an 18mm wrench. **See Photo 2**.



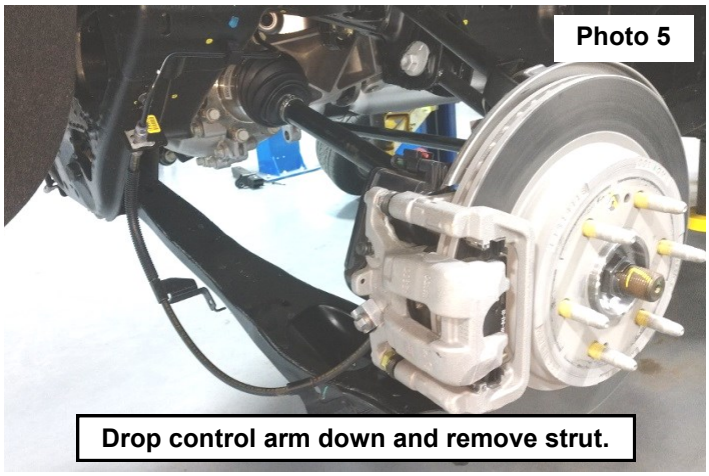


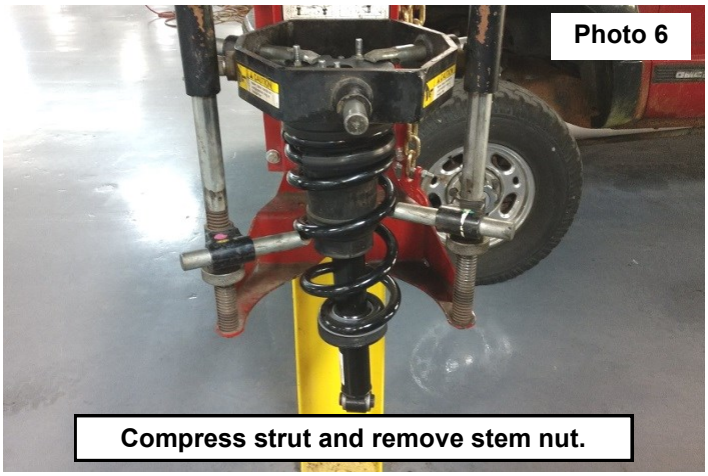
5. Remove the 2 bolts securing the brake line on the lower control arm using a 13mm socket/wrench. **See Photo 3**.
6. Remove the bolt from the lower control arm at the knuckle using a 24mm socket/wrench. **See Photo 4**.



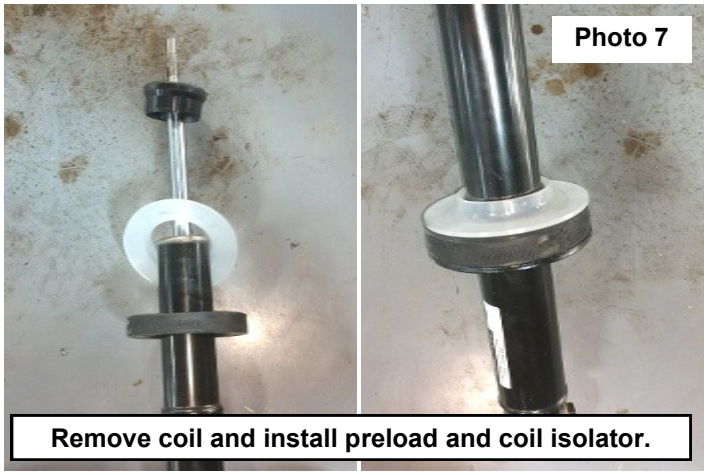


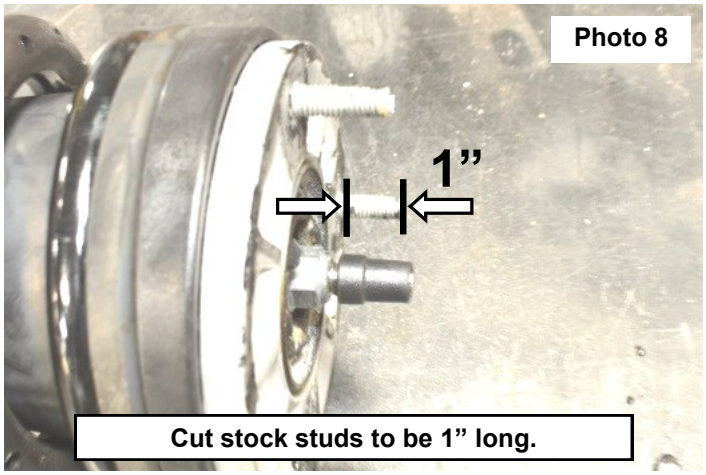
7. Drop the lower control arm down and remove the strut from the vehicle. **See Photos 5**.
8. Compress the strut in a coil compressor and remove the stem nut using an 18mm socket/wrench. **See Photo 6**.



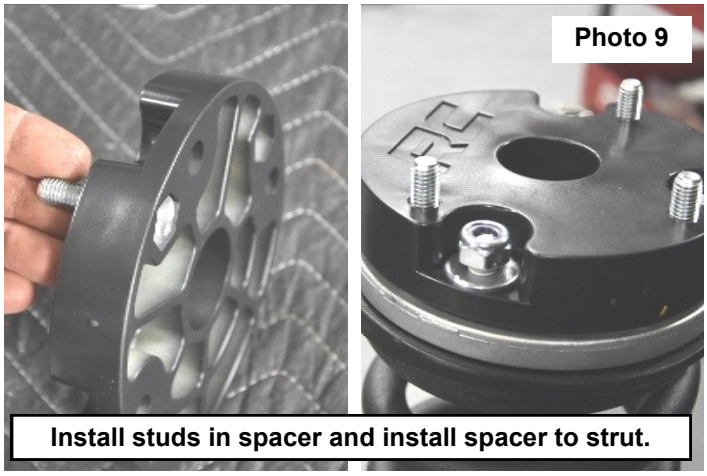


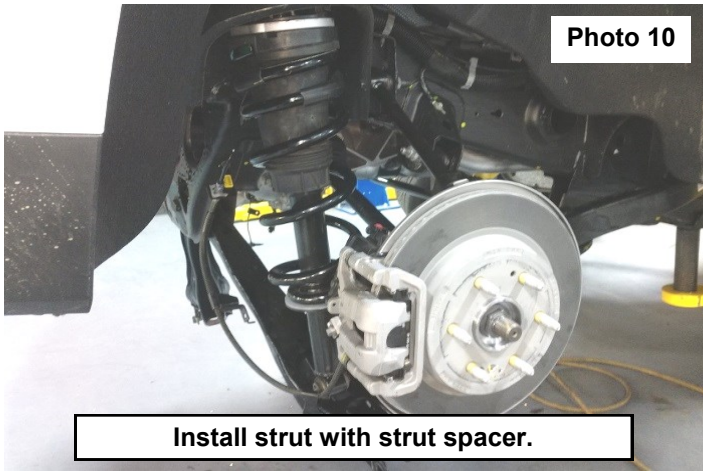
9. Lower the shock and leave the coil in the compressor and install the aluminum preload spacer and the coil isolator. **See Photo** 7.
   Reassemble the strut assembly and release from the coil compressor.
10. Cut the stock studs to be 1” long using a grinder so that the upper strut spacer will fit. **See Photo 8**.



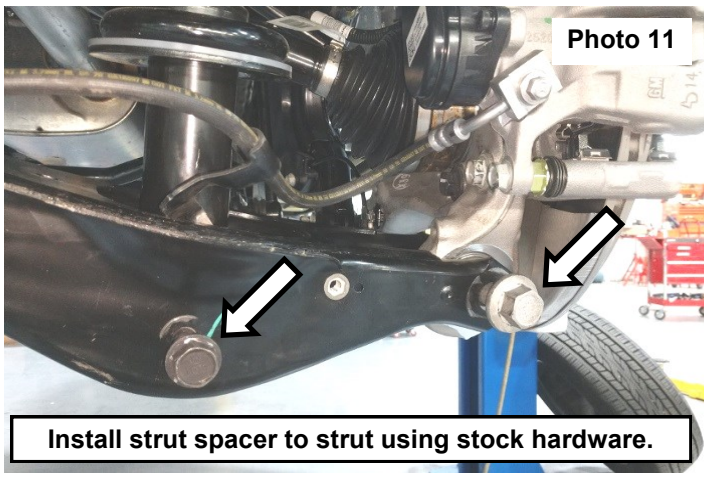


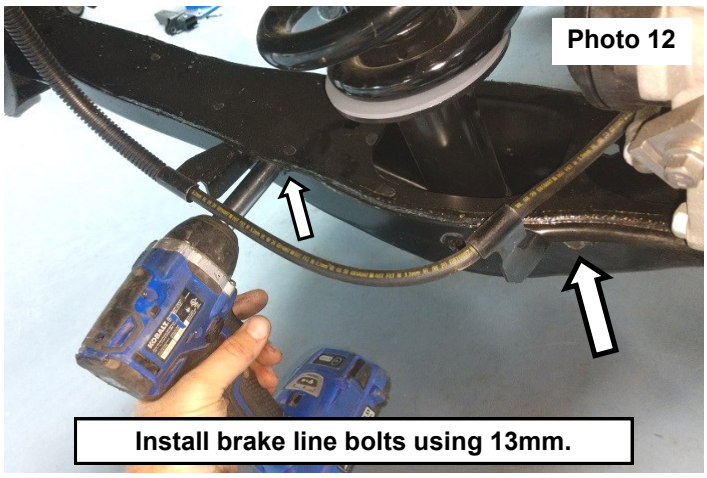
11. Install the supplied 10MM x 40MM bolts through the bottom of the upper strut spacer. Install the upper strut spacer to the strut using the supplied 10MM nuts and a 17mm socket/wrench. **See Photo 9**.
12. Install the strut with the strut spacer using the 10mm hardware. **See Photo 10**.





13. Install the lower control arm bolts at the strut and knuckle using a 21mm and 24mm socket/wrenches. Use small prybar or alignment tool to adjust clocking or alignment of strut to lower control arm. **See Photo 11**.
14. Install the brake line bolts using a 13mm socket/wrench. **See Photo 12**.





⚠WARNING Take caution when installing the wheels, making sure they completely clear the brake caliper. Any pressure on the brake caliper from the wheel will cause an error in the brake system. The braking system will not function properly. The vehicle will have to be reset by a GM dealership.

15. Re-install wheels and remove the jack stands and lower vehicle to ground.
16. Place shock decals on shock absorbers and window decal on vehicle.

POST INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Check all fasteners for proper torque. Check to ensure for adequate clearance between all rotating, mobile, fixed, and heated members. Verify clearance between exhaust and brake lines, fuel lines, fuel tank, floor boards and wiring harness. Check steering gear for clearance. Test and inspect brake system.
2. Perform steering sweep to ensure front brake hoses have adequate slack and do not contact any rotating, mobile or heated members. Inspect rear brake hoses at full extension for adequate slack. Failure to perform hose check/ replacement may result in component failure.
3. On some vehicles the front lower skirting will need to be trimmed if using certain wheel /tire combinations and with heavy offset wheels. Trim only as needed.
4. Activate four wheel drive system and check front hubs for engagement.
5. Have a qualified alignment center align the vehicle immediately. Realign to factory specifications. The following are the recommended specifications:

Caster in degrees	4.0 +-1.0
Camber in degrees	-.4 +-.8
Toe In in degrees	0.1 +-.2

6. Perform head light check and adjustment to proper settings.
7. Check and retighten wheels at 50 miles and again at 500 miles.
8. All kit components must be retightened at 500 miles and then every three thousand miles after installation. Periodically check all hardware for tightness.
9. Install “Warning to Driver” decal on sun visor

Note: Installation of larger tires will require speedometer recalibration.



Thank you for choosing Rough Country for all of your suspension needs.

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