TRAIL FORTRESS

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Rough Country 19457 Installation Instructions

3.5-Inch Vertex 2.5 Lift Kit for Silverado/Sierra 1500 4WD

Part number: 19457

trailfortress.com/3-5-inch-vertex-2-5-lift-kit-silverado-sierra-1500-4wd-rough-country-19457

Scan for fitment, price and install help

ROUGH COUNTRY
SUSPENSION SYSTEMS®

GM 2007-16 4WD 1500 3.5" 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 ****Note** 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.**
****Note**** Trucks 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 1.75". 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 32 x 11.5 tire with factory wheels. Examples of tire sizes that can be used are 285/70R17, 285/65R18, or 285/55R20. **Note** if wider tires are used, offset wheels will be required and trimming may be required.

NOTICE TO DEALER AND VEHICLE OWNER

⚠NOTICE 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:

- 18MM Wrench
- 15MM Wrench
- 21MM Wrench
- 11MM Wrench
- 10MM Wrench
- Floor Jack
- Jack stands
- Strut Compressor
- Die Grinder
- Reciprocating Saw

Torque Specs:

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

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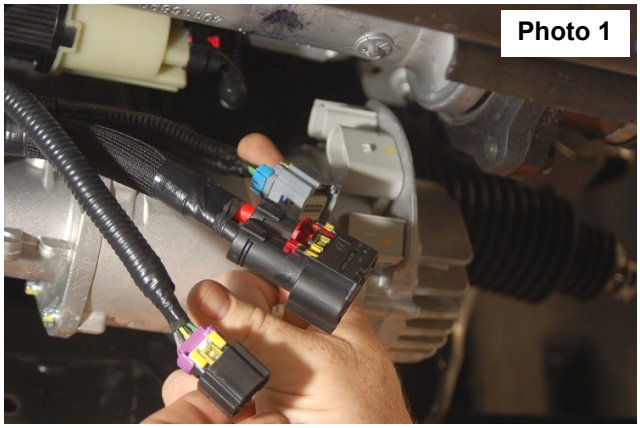
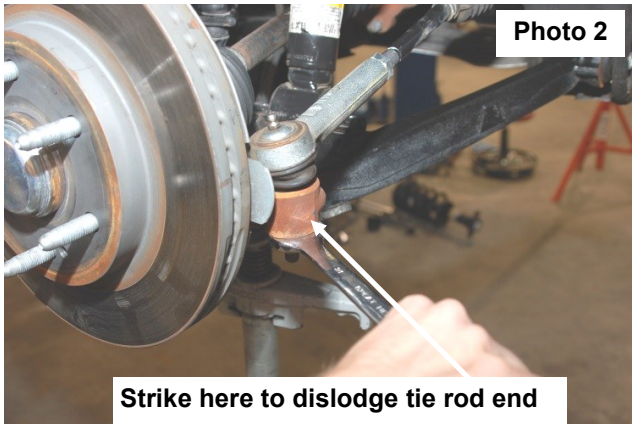
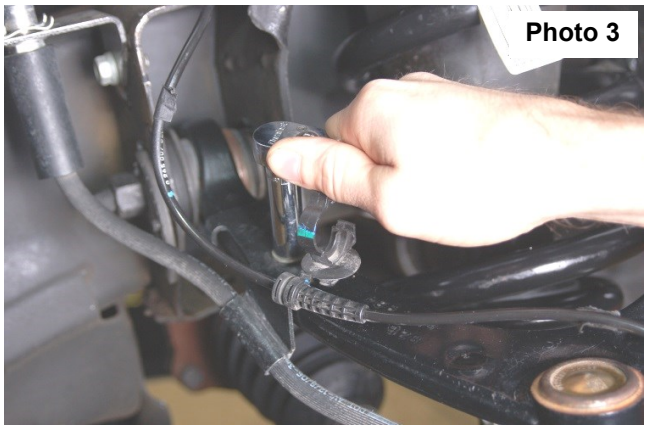
FRONT INSTALLATION

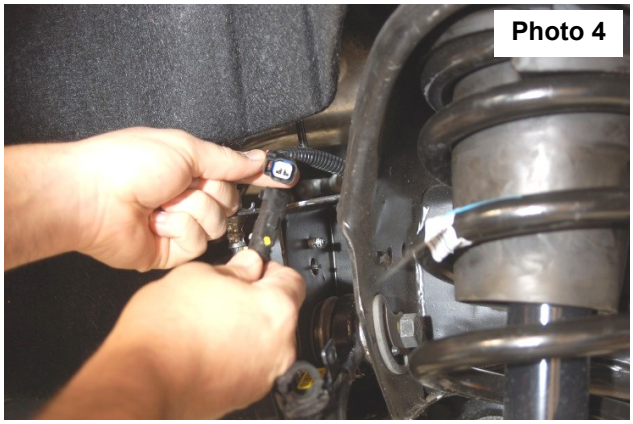
1. Park the vehicle on a level surface and chock the rear wheels.
2. Jack up the front of the vehicle. Place jack stands under the frame rails and lower onto jack stands letting the front suspension hang.
3. Remove the tires and wheels. Remove the 6 bolts holding the factory skid plate using a 15mm socket. Unplug the three connectors going to the electric power steering if equipped. **See Photo 1**.
4. Retain factory hardware and front skid plate for reuse.
5. Using a 21mm wrench, remove the tie-rod nut as shown in **Photo 2**. Strike the front of the mount to dislodge the tie rod end. Remove from the knuckle.



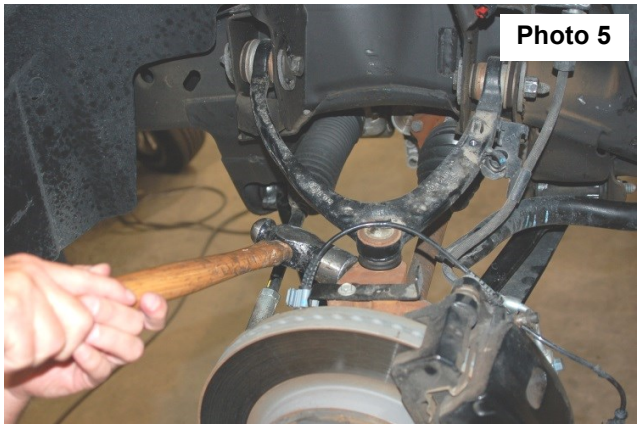


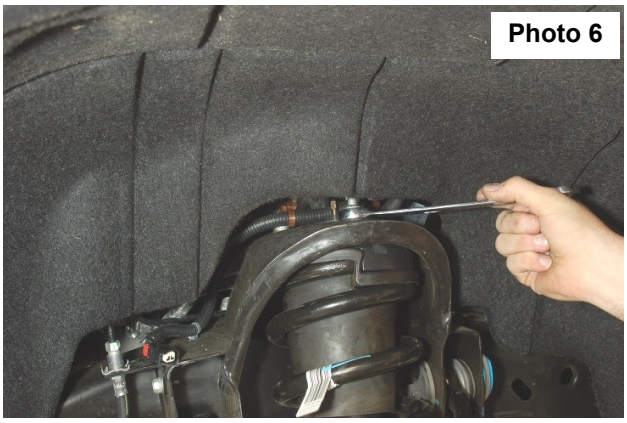
6. Remove the sensor wire from the plastic clip. Remove the brake line bracket from the control arm using a 10mm wrench. Retain hardware for reuse. **See Photo 3.**
7. Remove and unplug the ABS sensor wire from the frame as shown in **Photo 4**.



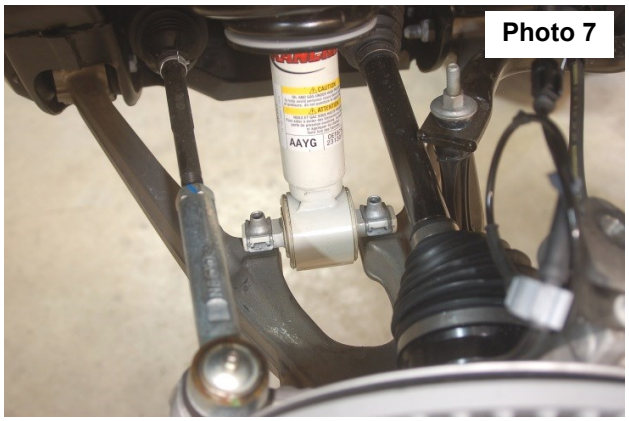


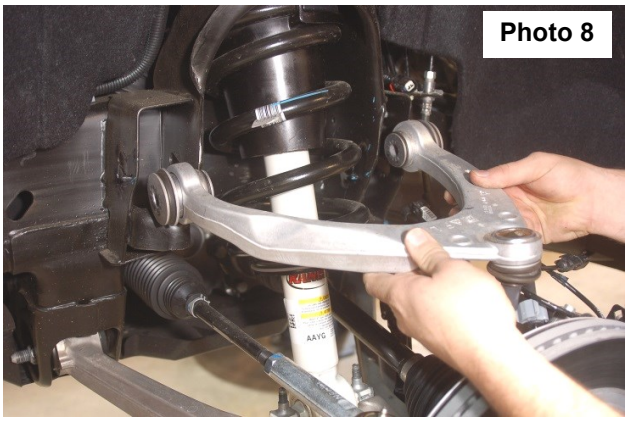
8. Remove sway bar link with 15mm socket and wrench. Place jack stand under knuckle for support and then remove upper ball joint nut using a 18mm wrench. **See Photo 5**. Strike the knuckle as shown to dislodge the ball joint. Separate the upper control arm from the knuckle.
9. Using a 18mm wrench, remove the upper strut nuts as shown in **Photo 6**. Retain factory hardware for reuse.





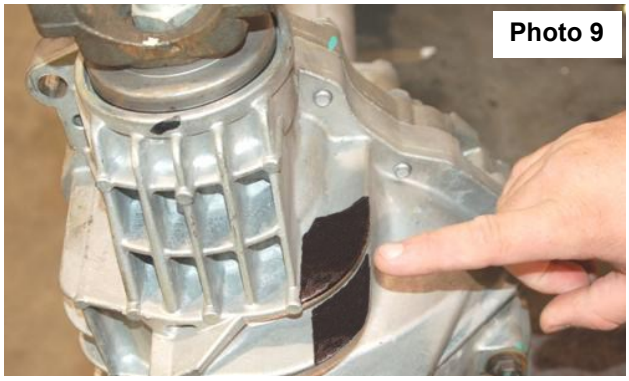
10. Using a 15mm wrench, remove the 2 bolts securing the lower strut mount to the lower control arm and remove the strut from the vehicle. **See Photo 7.**
11. Mark location of alignment cams on upper control arms to allow installation of new arm to same position. Using a 21mm wrench and 21mm socket, remove the upper control arms from the vehicle. **See Photo 8**. Retain the hardware.

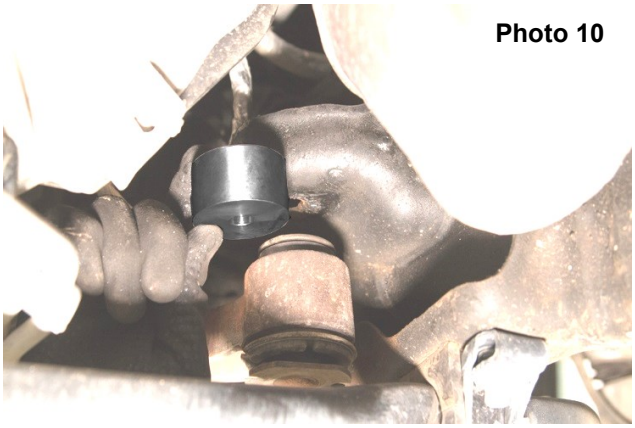




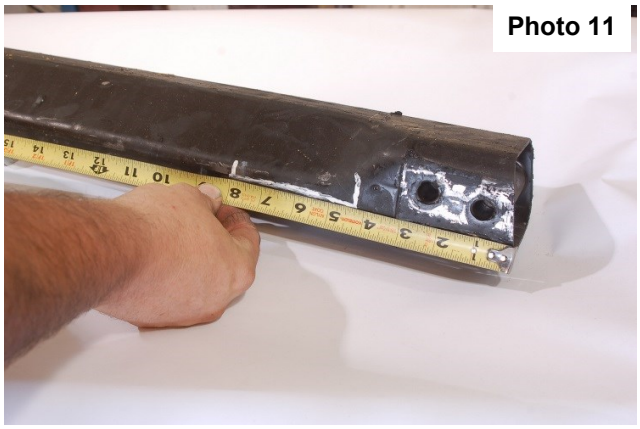
12. Using a 18mm socket and wrench remove the four bolts holding in the factory cross member. Retain factory hardware.
13. **This step will be done on the vehicle.** Using a reciprocating saw, cut the cooling fins on the diff. **See Photo 9.**
14. Use a jack stand to support the front diff. Remove the 4 bolts holding the diff mounts to the frame with a 15mm and 18mm wrench.
15. Lower the jack stand and pull down on the front of the diff to allow enough room to slide the two 1" diff drop spacers into place. Use the supplied 7/16" x 4.5" bolts, lock washers, and nuts from 275BAG6. Repeat this process to install 1" spacers in the rear diff mounts, as well. Tighten using 16mm and 18mm socket and wrench. Tighten with a 16mm and 18mm socket and wrench. **See Photo 10.**

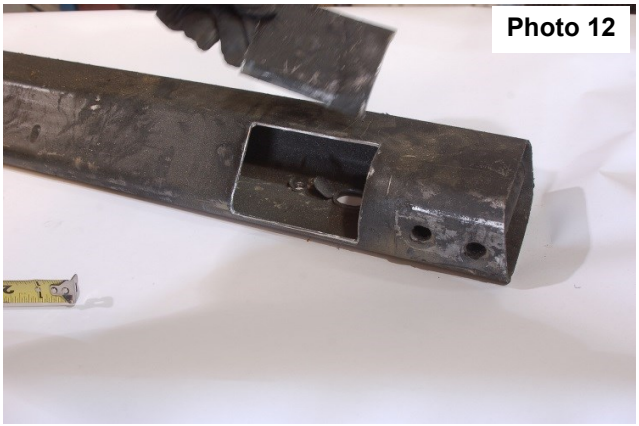
Pic for reference, cut can be made on the vehicle.



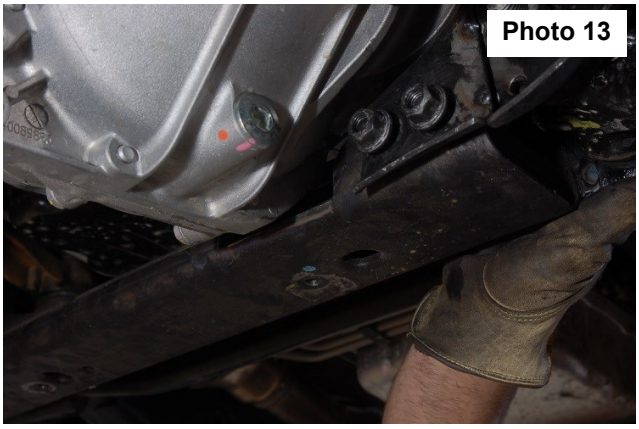


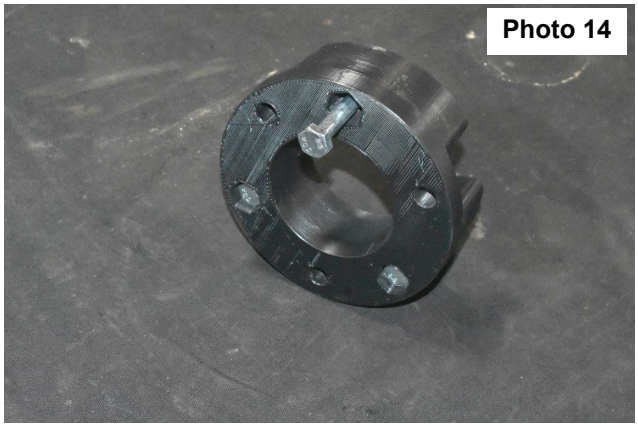
16. Hold the rear cross member into place and check clearance between the cross member and front diff. On the driver side of the factory cross member measure from the end of the tube and make marks at 4.5" and 8" on the front side as shown in **Photo 11**. Measure 1/4" for the bottom, and 2" from the back side and mark.
17. Using a die grinder and cut across the marks as shown in **Photo 12.**



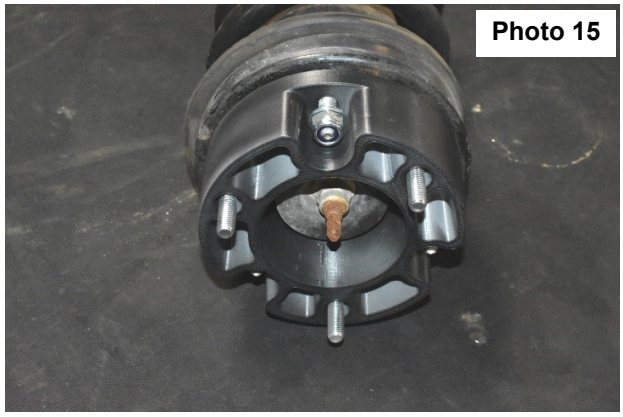


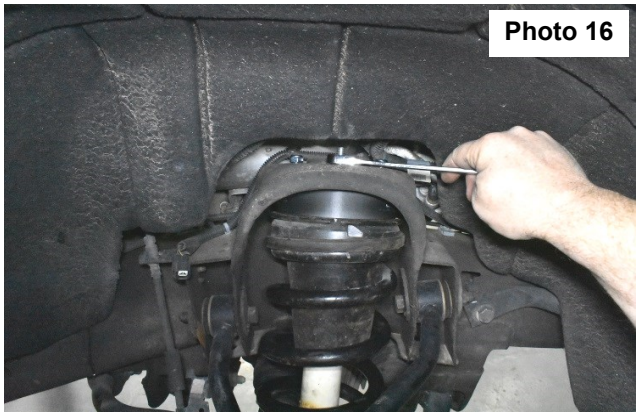
18. Insert factory hardware into the stock cross member and tighten with a 18mm socket and wrench. **See Photo 13.**
19. Place the supplied 10mm x 70mm bolts into the hex shaped holes in the strut spacer facing upward. **See Photo 14.**





20. Place the strut spacer on top of the strut and tighten with the supplied 10mm lock nuts and flat washers and a 17mm socket. **See Photo 15.**
21. Install the strut assembly in the factory mount with the supplied 10mm flange lock nuts. Tighten using a 17mm wrench. **See Photo 16.**





22. Install the strut in the lower control arm using supplied 3/8” x 2.25” bolts, washers, and nuts. **See Photo 17.** It may be necessary to jack up the lower control arm with a floor jack to align lower strut holes.
23. Reinstall the sway bar on the lower control arm using a15mm wrench.
24. Install the supplied control arm with factory hardware. Do not tighten at this time only snug the hardware against the alignment cams to hold in place. This will be tightened on the ground. **See Photo 18.**

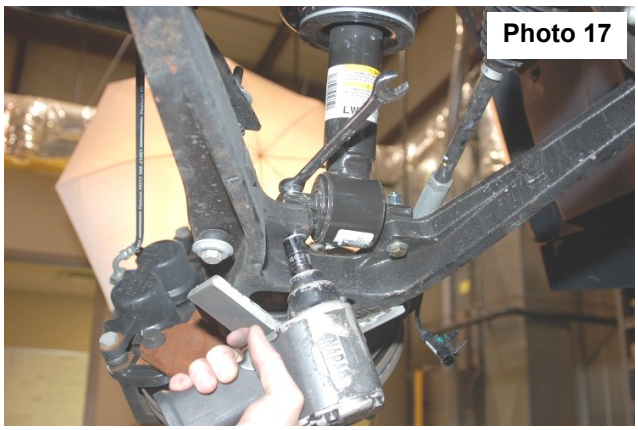


Photo 17

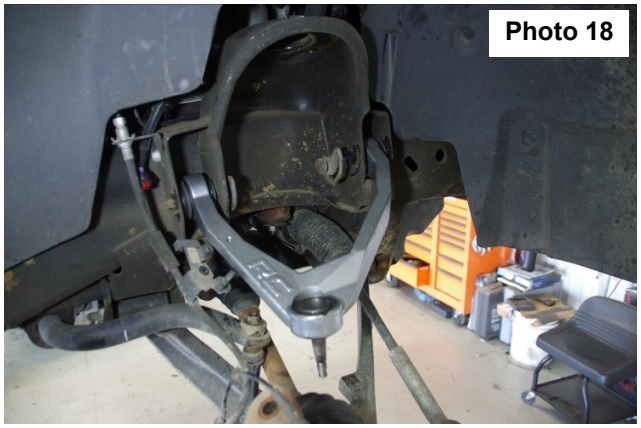


Photo 18

25. NOTICE ***Only if the vehicle is equipped with factory aluminum upper control arms:*** Install the split sleeve into the upper ball joint location of the knuckle from 19401ABag1. Install (1) split sleeve on each side of the vehicle. **See Photo 19.**
26. Reinstall the knuckle to the upper control arm with the supplied nylock nuts/cotter pins. Tighten using 3/4” wrench to **50 ft/lbs. DO NOT OVER-torque the nylock nut**. Reinstall the tie rod end into the knuckle with factory hardware and using a 21mm wench.
27. Install the brake line bracket on the new control arm using the retained hardware. Tighten using an 10mm wrench. **See Photo 20**.


Photo 19

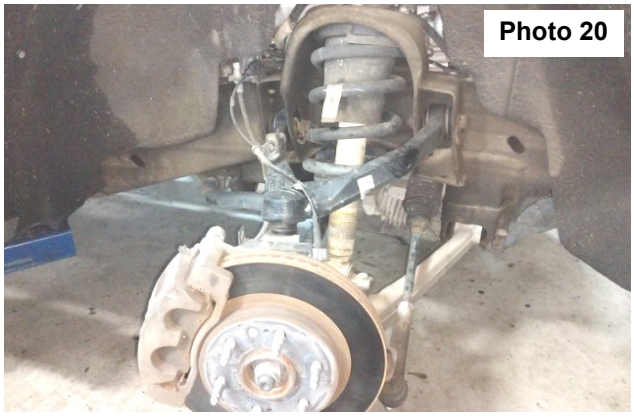


Photo 20

28. Reconnect the ABS wire that was disconnected into the clip on the upper control arm .
29. Locate and install the new lower skid plate below the differential in the factory location with the factor hardware and using a 15mm wrench. **See Photo 21.**
30. Reconnect the three connectors going to the electric power steering.
31. Reinstall the wheels/tires.
32. Jack up the vehicle and remove the jack stands.
33. Lower the vehicle to the ground.
34. Tighten the upper control arm using a 21mm wrench and socket.

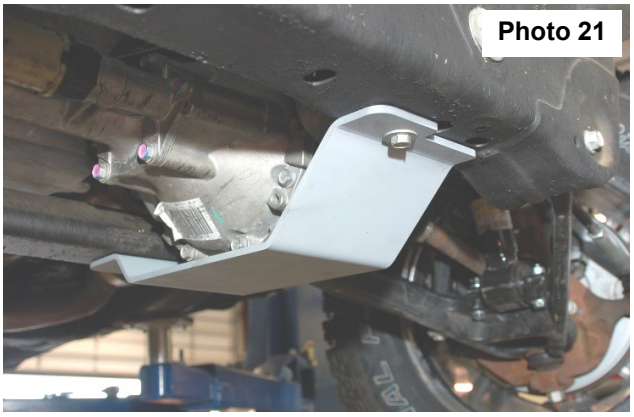
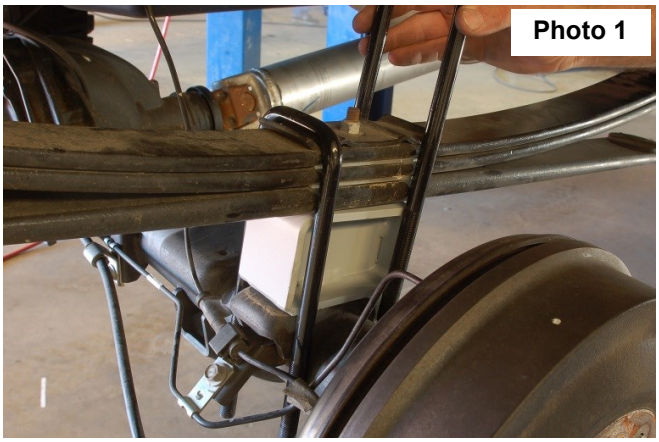


Photo 21

REAR INSTALLATION

1. Chock the front wheels.
2. Place a floor jack under the differential and jack up the rear of the vehicle.
3. Place jack stands under the frame rails and lower onto the jack stands.
4. Remove the tires/wheels.
5. Remove the factory shock absorbers using a 21mm wrench & socket. Retain the factory hardware for reuse.
6. Remove the factory u-bolts using a 21mm socket, then remove the factory blocks. Lower the axle using the floor jack to allow for the new 3" block to be installed.
7. Install the block on the factory spring pad with the flat part of the block on the spring and the thinner end towards the front. Jack up the axle to meet the springs, making sure to align the center pin. **See Photo 1**
8. With the floor jack applying slight pressure to the rear axle to keep the pin aligned, install the new supplied u-bolts and tighten in a crossing pattern, using a 7/8" socket.
9. Locate the new shock absorbers part # 660738, and install the shock absorbers in the factory mounting locations using the factory hardware. Tighten using a 21mm wrench & socket. **See Photo 2**





10. Install the tires/wheels.
11. Jack up the vehicle to remove the jack stands. Remove the jack stands and lower the vehicle to the ground.

POST INSTALLATION INSTRUCITONS

1. Lightly grease the ball joints. Do not over grease the ball joint as this could cause ball joint boot failure.
2. Have a qualified alignment center align the vehicle immediately.
3. Have headlights adjusted to proper settings.
4. Wheels must be retighten at 50 miles.
5. All kit components must be retightened at 500 miles and then every three thousand miles after installation. Periodically check hardware for tightness.
6. Install "Warning to Driver" decal on sun visor.
7. 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.

Box Kit

1277Bag6
19920Bag1 x1
275Bag6
275Bag3
19401ABag1
Driver Side Control Arm x1
Pass Side Control Arm x1
Driver Side Diff Bracket x1
Diff. Drop Spacers x4
Strut Spacers x2
9/16" x 10 1/2" U-bolts x4
3" Spacer Blocks x2
Rear Shock Absorbers x2

1277Bag6:
- **3/8" x 2 1/4 bolts x4**
- **3/8" washers x8**
- **3/8" lock nuts x2**
- **3/8 self tapping bolts x2**

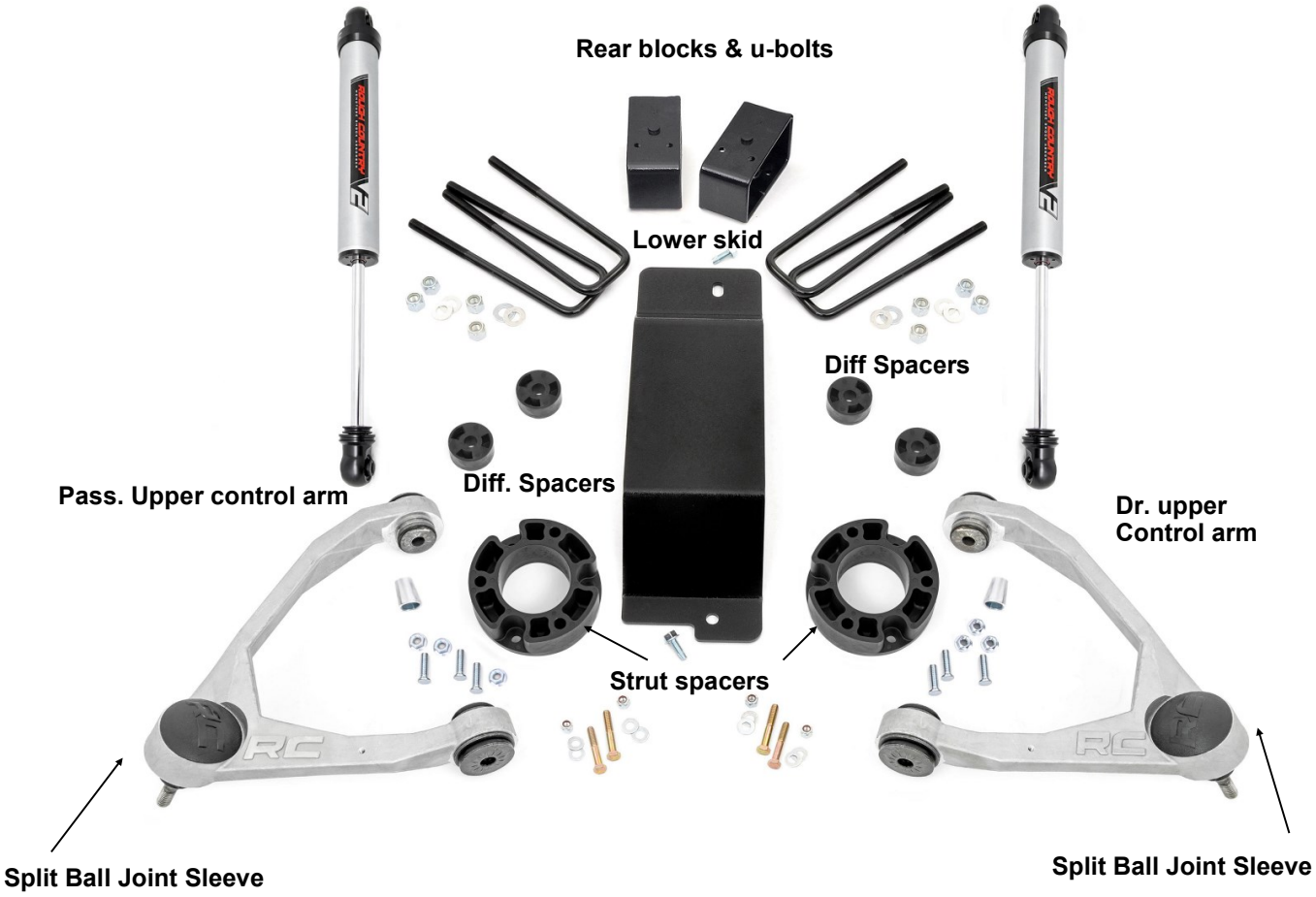
19920Bag1
- **6-10mm x 70mm Bolts**
- **6-10mm Flange Lock Nuts**
- **7-10mm Hex Lock Nut**
- **6-10mm Flat Washers**

275Bag6:
- **7/16" Nuts x4**
- **7/16" Lock Washers x4**
- **7/16" x 4.5" Bolts x4**
- **1/4" Lock Nuts x2**
- **7/16" Hardened Washers x8**

275Bag3:
- **10mm x 65mm Bolts x4**
- **10mm Washers x8**
- **10mm Lock Nuts x4**

19401ABag1
- **Split Sleeves x2**

KIT CONTENT



Thank you for choosing Rough Country for your suspension needs.

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