



How to change front
suspension strut on
Mercedes W204 –
replacement guide

VIDEO TUTORIAL



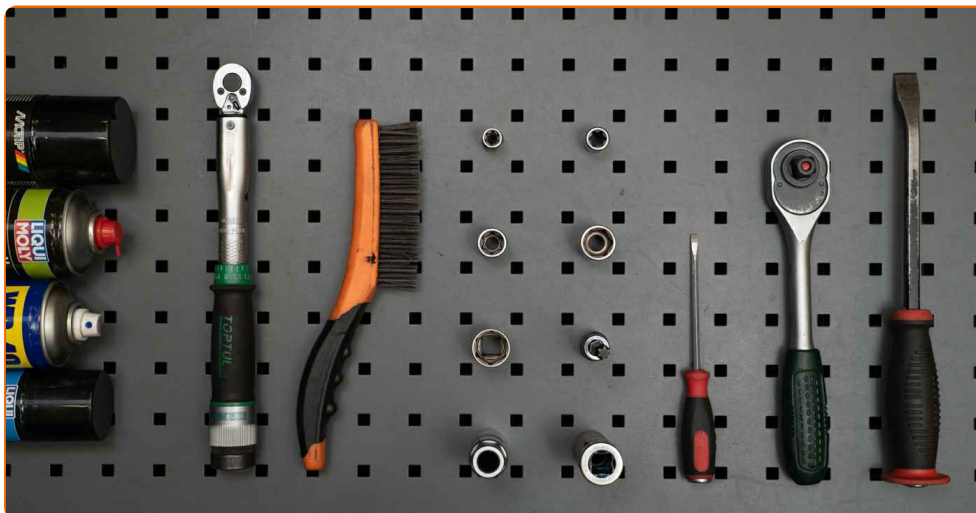
ⓘ Important!

This replacement procedure can be used for:

MERCEDES-BENZ C-Class T-modell (S204) C 250 CGI (204.247), MERCEDES-BENZ C-Class Saloon (W204) C 180 CDI (204.000), MERCEDES-BENZ C-Class Saloon (W204) C 200 CDI (204.001), MERCEDES-BENZ C-Class Saloon (W204) C 350 (204.057), MERCEDES-BENZ C-Class T-modell (S204) C 200 CDI (204.201), MERCEDES-BENZ C-Class T-modell (S204) C 180 CGI (204.249), MERCEDES-BENZ C-Class Saloon (W204) C 350 CDI (204.023), MERCEDES-BENZ C-Class T-modell (S204) C 180 CDI (204.200), MERCEDES-BENZ C-Class T-modell (S204) C 350 CDI (204.223), MERCEDES-BENZ C-Class T-modell (S204) C 350 CGI (204.257), MERCEDES-BENZ C-Class Saloon (W204) C 200 (204.048), MERCEDES-BENZ C-Class Saloon (W204) C 200 CDI (204.007, 204.006), MERCEDES-BENZ C-Class Saloon (W204) C 320 CDI (204.022), MERCEDES-BENZ C-Class Saloon (W204) C 180 Kompressor (204.046), MERCEDES-BENZ C-Class Saloon (W204) C 200 Kompressor (204.041), (+ 34)

The steps may slightly vary depending on the car design.

REPLACEMENT: SUSPENSION STRUT – MERCEDES W204. TOOLS YOU MIGHT NEED:



- Wire brush
- WD-40 spray
- Brake cleaner
- Ceramic grease
- Copper grease
- Torque wrench
- Drive socket # 18
- Drive socket # 21
- Torx bit E12
- Torx bit E14
- Torx bit E18
- Torx bit T50
- 21-mm strut nut socket
- Wheel impact socket #17
- Ratchet wrench
- Flat screwdriver
- Crow bar
- Hydraulic transmission jack
- Hydraulic strut spring compressor
- Fender cover
- Wheel chock

BUY TOOLS

Replacement: suspension strut – Mercedes W204. Tip from AUTODOC:

- Both shock struts of the front suspension should be replaced simultaneously.
- The replacement procedure is identical for the left and right shock struts of the front suspension.
- Please note: all work on the car – Mercedes W204 – should be done with the engine switched off.

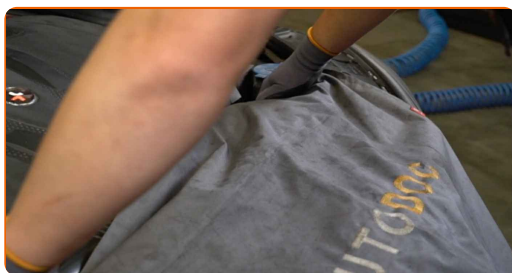
CARRY OUT REPLACEMENT IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

1

Open the bonnet.

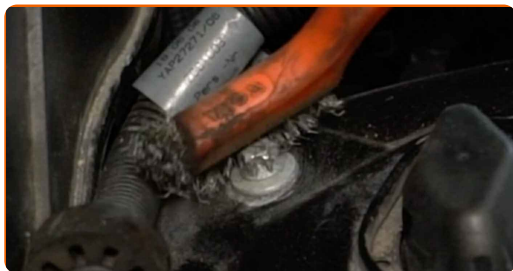
**2**

Use a fender protection cover to prevent damaging paintwork and plastic parts of the car.



3

Clean the fasteners of the shock strut upper mount. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



4

Loosen the upper fasteners of the suspension strut. Use Torx E12. Use a ratchet wrench.

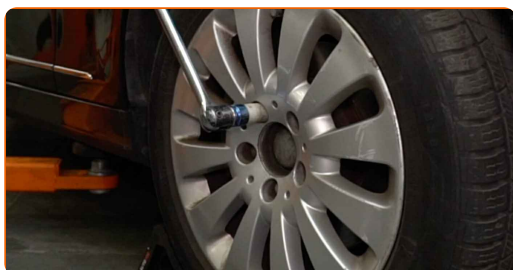


5

Secure the wheels with chocks.

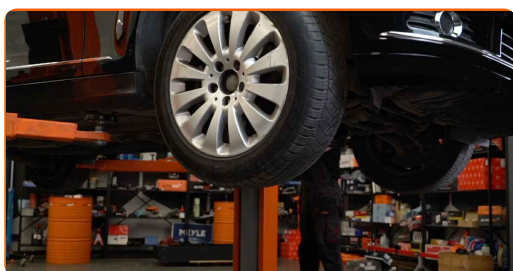
6

Loosen the wheel mounting bolts. Use wheel impact socket #17.



7

Raise the car.



Replacement: suspension strut – Mercedes W204. AUTODOC experts recommend:

- If you are using a jack, make sure it rests on a flat surface without any unevenness.
- Be sure to additionally secure the car with jack stands.

8

Unscrew the wheel bolts.



AUTODOC recommends:

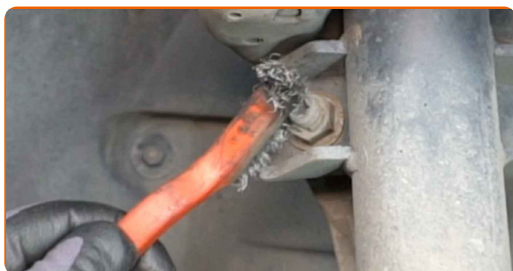
- Warning! To avoid injury, hold the wheel while unscrewing the fastening bolts. Mercedes W204

9

Remove the wheel.



10 Clean the fastener that connects the sway bar link to the suspension strut. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



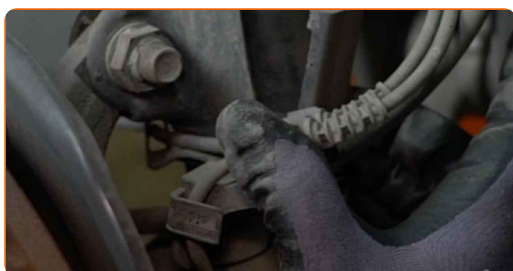
11 Unscrew the fastener connecting the stabilizer link to the shock strut. Use a drive socket #18. Use a ratchet wrench.



12 Remove the stabilizer rod.



13 Disconnect the ABS sensor wiring.



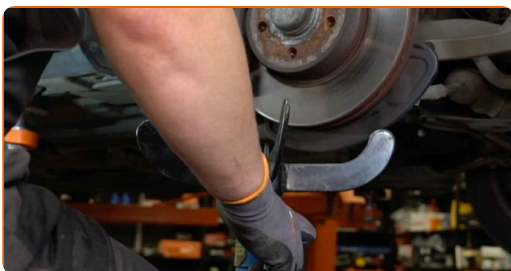
14 Clean the fasteners connecting the shock strut to the steering knuckle. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



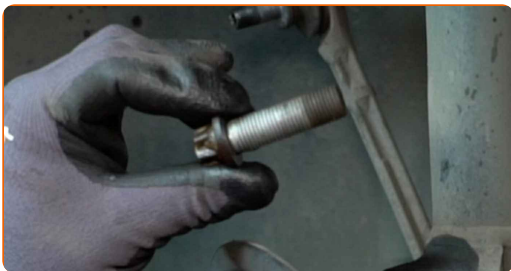
15 Unscrew the fasteners connecting the suspension strut to the steering knuckle. Use a drive socket #21. Use Torx E14. Use Torx E18. Use a ratchet wrench.



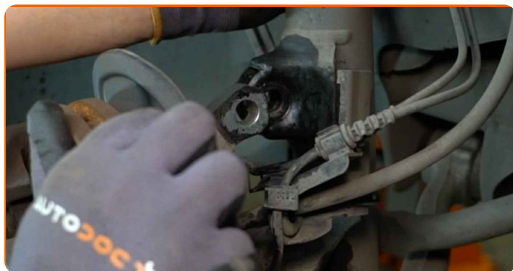
16 Prop up the steering knuckle. Use a hydraulic transmission jack.



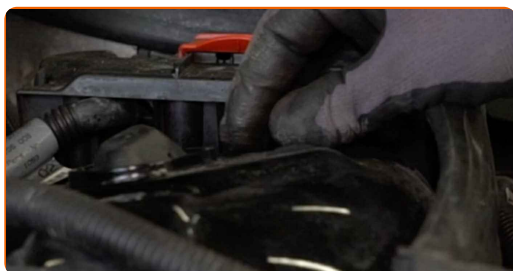
17 Remove the fastening bolts.



18 Disconnect the steering knuckle from the shock absorber strut. Use a crowbar.



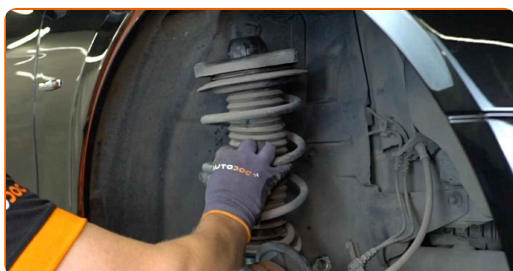
19 Unscrew the upper fasteners of the shock strut.



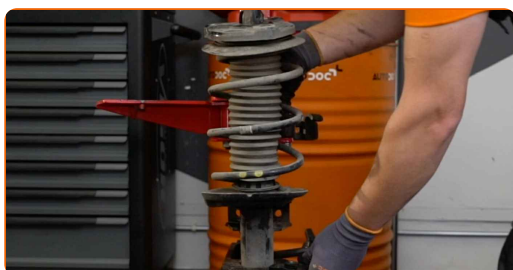
AUTODOC recommends:

- Important! Hold the suspension strut while unscrewing the fastening bolts.
Mercedes W204

20 Remove the suspension strut.



21 Set the suspension strut on the spring compressor tool.

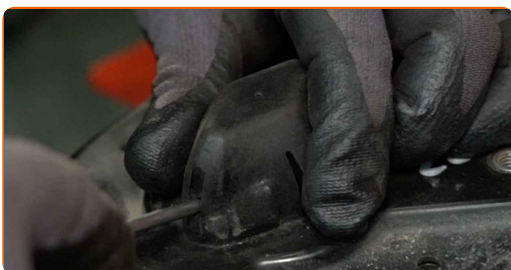


AUTODOC recommends:

- Note that when using a spring compressor, spring coils need to be securely gripped, compressing the spring on the opposite sides.
- Ensure the correct position of the spring in the retainer.
- Make sure that the spring coils tightly entered the lock handles.

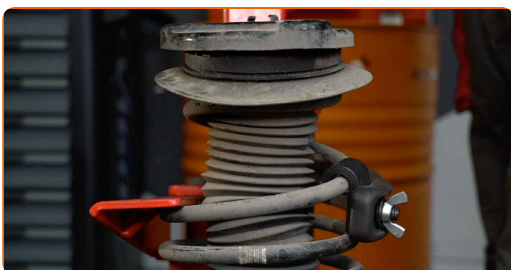
22

Remove the dust cap from the suspension strut mount. Use a flat screwdriver.



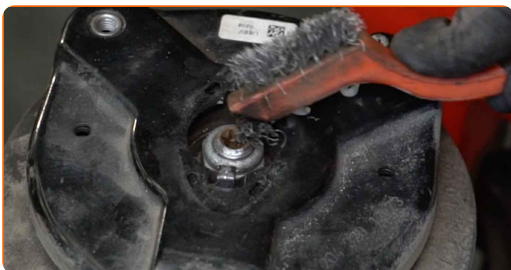
23

Compress the spring.



24

Clean the strut piston rod. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



25

Remove the strut piston rod nut. Use a 21-mm strut nut socket. Use Torx T50. Use a ratchet wrench.



26

Remove the top strut mount.



27

Remove the shock absorber dust cap and the bump stop.

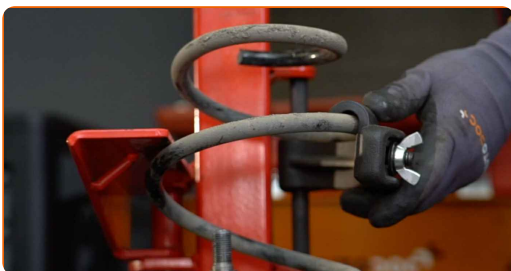


AUTODOC recommends:

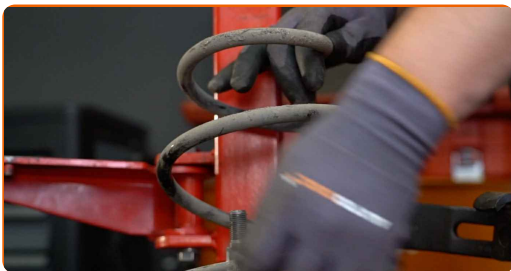
- Replacement: suspension strut – Mercedes W204. Carefully inspect the mount, the boot, and the bump stop of the shock absorber. Replace if necessary.

28

Release the coil spring.



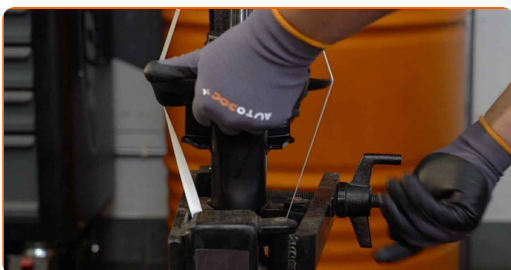
29 Remove the spring.



30 Remove the old shock absorber from the hydraulic coil spring compressor.



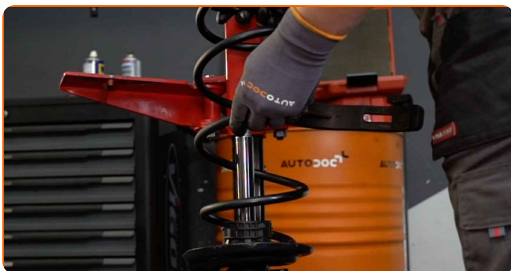
31 Install the new shock absorber on the hydraulic coil spring compressor.



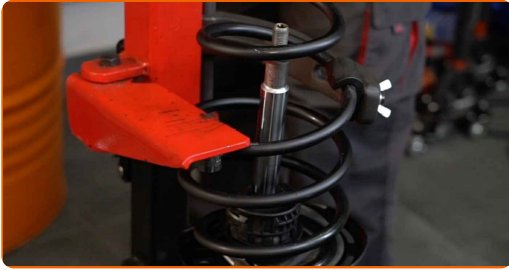
AUTODOC recommends:

- Before installing a new shock absorber you should pump it manually 3-5 times.

32 Install the spring on the shock absorber.



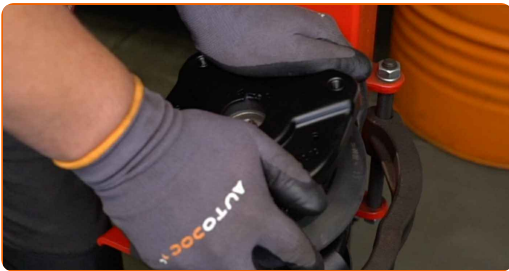
33 Compress the spring.



34 Install the dust sleeve and the bump stop on the new shock absorber.



35 Install the upper strut mount and the strut mount bearing.



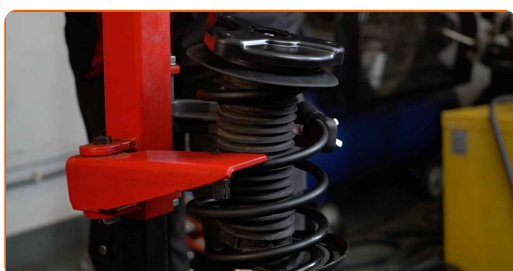
Replacement: suspension strut – Mercedes W204. Tip from AUTODOC:

- Make sure that the suspension strut is installed in the correct position, according to the markings.

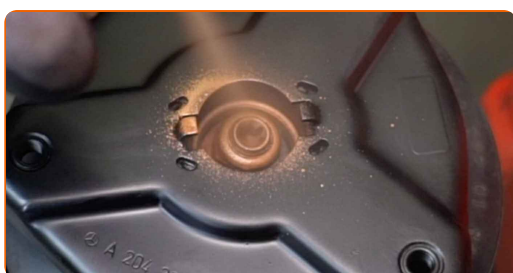
- 36 Tighten the shock strut piston rod nut. Use a 21-mm strut nut socket. Use Torx T50. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 85 Nm torque.



- 37 Decompress the spring.



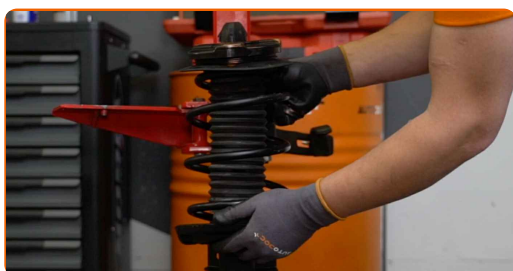
- 38 Treat the shock strut rod. Use copper grease.



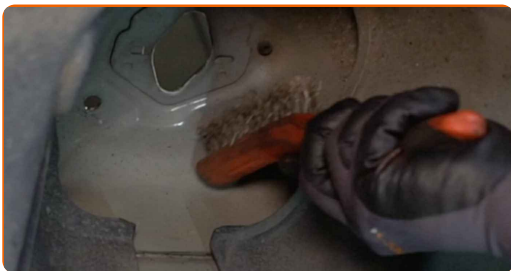
- 39 Install the dust cap on the suspension strut mount.



- 40 Remove the assembled shock strut.



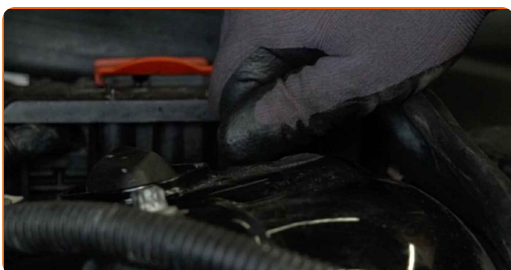
41 Clean the mounting seats of the shock strut. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



42 Install the shock strut into the wheel arch.



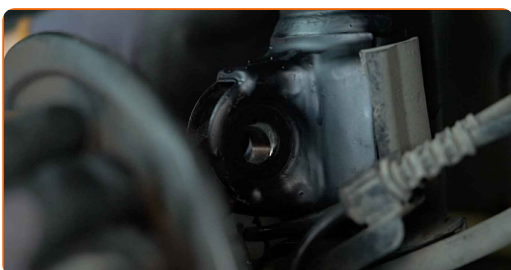
43 Secure the upper fasteners of the shock strut. Do not tighten it. Use Torx E12. Use a ratchet wrench.



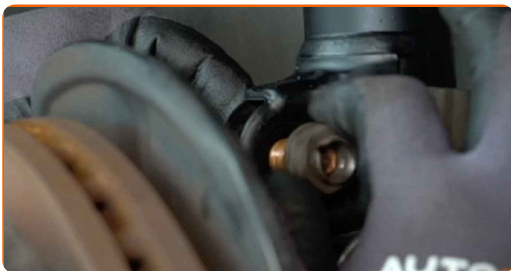
AUTODOC recommends:

- Mercedes W204 – To avoid injury, hold the suspension strut while screwing in the fastening bolts.

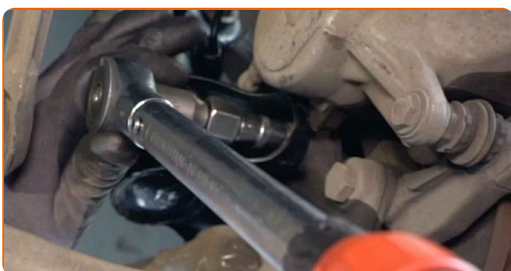
44 Fix the shock absorber strut on the steering knuckle.



45 Install the fastening bolts.



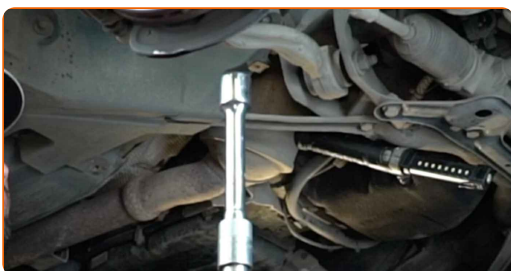
46 Tighten the lower fasteners connecting the shock strut to the steering knuckle. Use a drive socket #21. Use Torx E18. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 100 Nm torque.+90°



47 Tighten the lower fasteners connecting the shock strut to the steering knuckle. Use Torx E14. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 100 Nm torque.



48 Remove the support from under the steering knuckle.

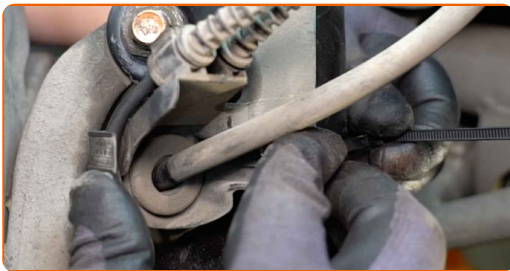


AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: suspension strut – Mercedes W204. Lower the transmission jack smoothly, without jerks, to avoid damaging components and mechanisms.

49

Connect the ABS sensor wiring.



50

Install the transverse stabilizer link.



51

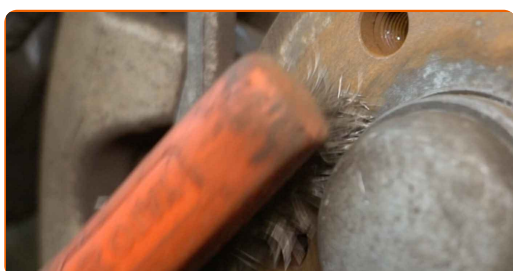
Tighten the fastener connecting the stabilizer link to the shock strut. Use a drive socket #18. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 98 Nm torque.



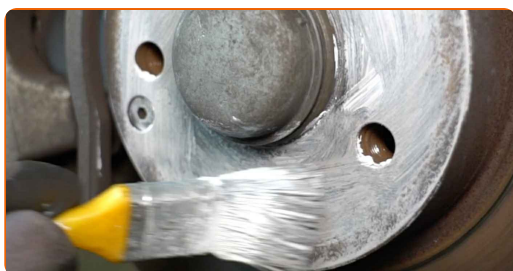
- 52** Treat the fastener that connects the sway bar link to the suspension strut. Treat the shock strut fasteners. Use copper grease.



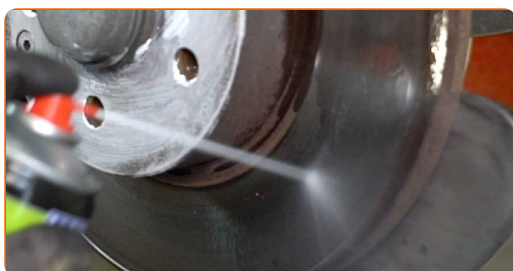
- 53** Clean the wheel rim mounting seat. Use a wire brush.



- 54** Treat the surface where the brake disc contacts the wheel rim. Use ceramic grease.



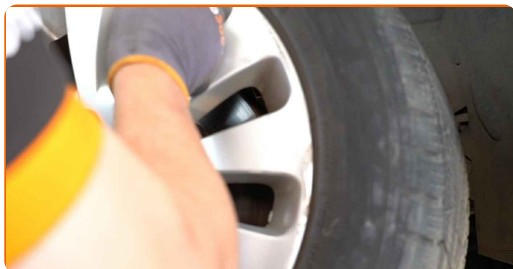
- 55** Clean the brake disk surface. Use a brake cleaner.



AUTODOC recommends:

- After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

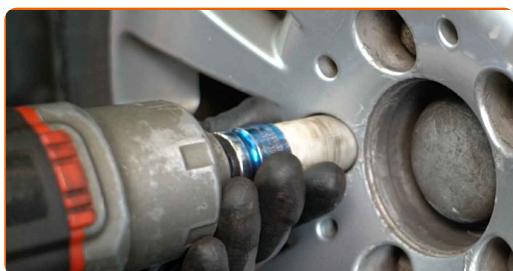
56 Install the wheel.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Warning! To avoid injury, hold the wheel while screwing in the fastening bolts on the car. Mercedes W204

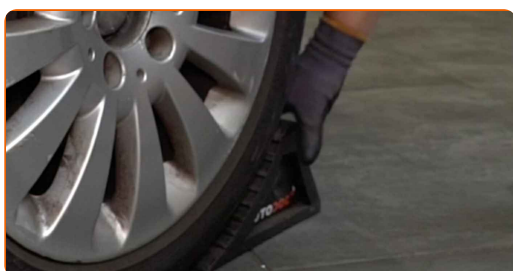
57 Screw in the wheel bolts. Use wheel impact socket #17.



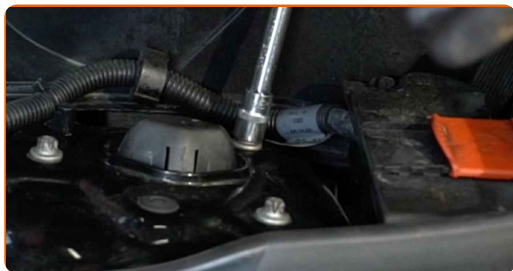
58 Lower the car and working in a cross order, tighten the wheel bolts. Use wheel impact socket #17. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 130 Nm torque.



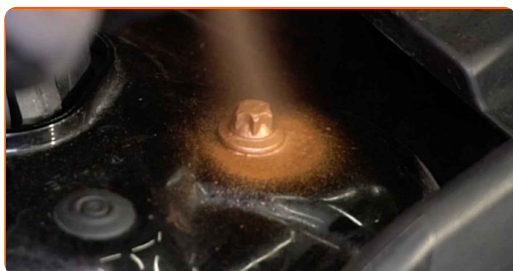
59 Remove the jacks and chocks.



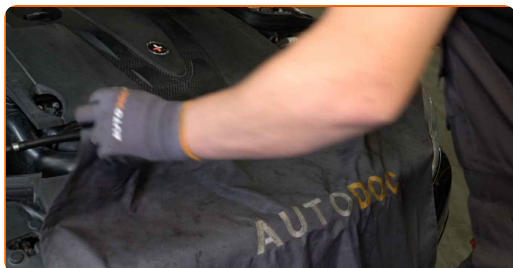
60 Tighten the upper fasteners of the shock strut. Use Torx E12. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 33 Nm torque.



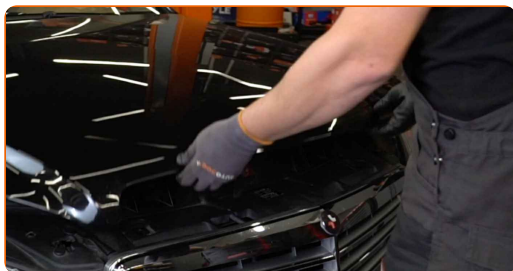
61 Treat the shock strut fasteners. Use copper grease.



62 Remove the fender protection cover.



63 Close the hood.



WELL DONE! 

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