



How to change front
suspension strut on **VW**
Golf 3 – replacement
guide

VIDEO TUTORIAL



Important!

This replacement procedure can be used for:

VW Golf II Hatchback (19E, 1G1) 1.3, VW Golf II Hatchback (19E, 1G1) 1.6, VW Golf II Hatchback (19E, 1G1) 1.8, VW Golf II Hatchback (19E, 1G1) 1.8 Syncro, VW Golf II Hatchback (19E, 1G1) 1.8 i CAT, VW Golf II Hatchback (19E, 1G1) 1.6 D, VW Golf II Hatchback (19E, 1G1) 1.6 TD, VW Jetta Mk2 (19E, 1G2, 165) 1.3, VW Jetta Mk2 (19E, 1G2, 165) 1.6, VW Jetta Mk2 (19E, 1G2, 165) 1.8, VW Jetta Mk2 (19E, 1G2, 165) 1.8 CAT, VW Jetta Mk2 (19E, 1G2, 165) 1.8 16V, VW Jetta Mk2 (19E, 1G2, 165) 1.6 D, VW Jetta Mk2 (19E, 1G2, 165) 1.6 TD, VW Golf III Hatchback (1H1) 1.9 TD,GTD, (+ 35)

The steps may slightly vary depending on the car design.

**REPLACEMENT: SUSPENSION STRUT – VW GOLF 3.
LIST OF THE TOOLS YOU'LL NEED:**



- Wire brush
- WD-40 spray
- Brake cleaner
- Copper grease
- Torque wrench
- Combination spanner #18
- Combination spanner #21
- Drive socket # 10
- 14.5-mm strut nut socket
- Drive socket # 18
- Drive socket # 21
- HEX bit No.H6.
- Wheel impact socket #17
- Ratchet wrench
- Tap wrench
- Hydraulic strut spring compressor
- Hydraulic transmission jack
- Fender cover
- Wheel chock

BUY TOOLS

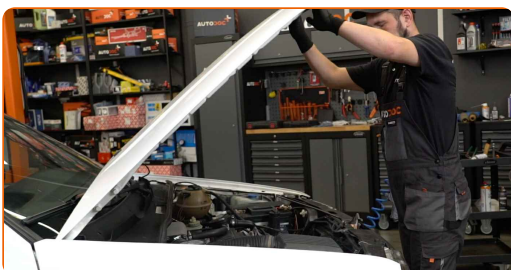
Replacement: suspension strut – VW Golf 3. AUTODOC recommends:

- 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.
- All work should be done with the engine stopped.

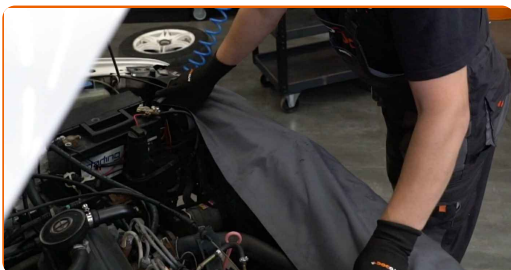
REPLACEMENT: SUSPENSION STRUT – VW GOLF 3. USE THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE:

1

Open the bonnet.

**2**

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



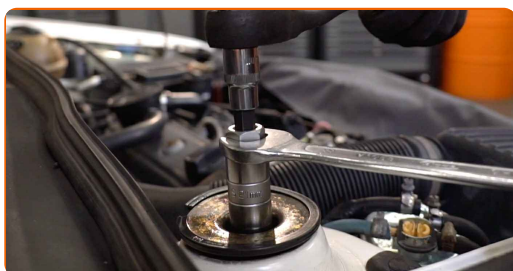
3

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



4

Loosen the upper fastener of the shock strut mount. Use HEX No.H6. Use a drive socket #21. Use a ratchet wrench.



5

Secure the wheels with chocks.

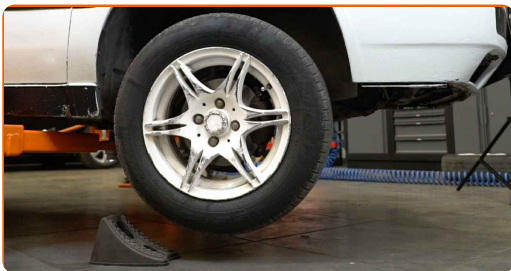


6

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



7 Raise the front of the car and secure on supports.



8 Unscrew the wheel bolts.



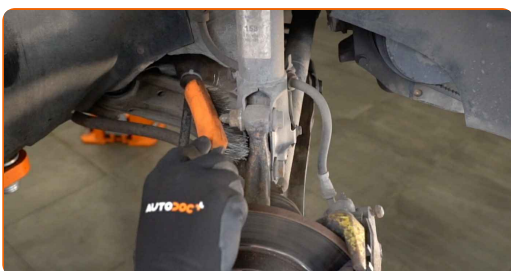
Replacement: suspension strut – VW Golf 3. Tip:

- To avoid injury, hold up the wheel when unscrewing the bolts.

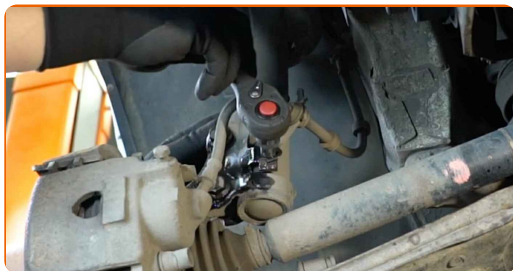
9 Remove the wheel.



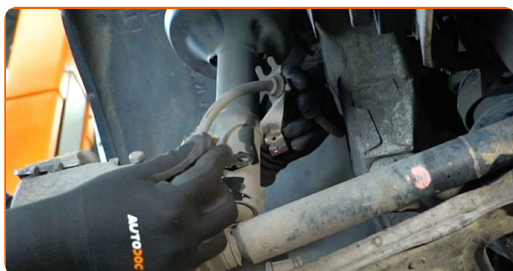
10 Clean the fastener of the bracket that connects the brake hose to the shock strut. Clean the fasteners connecting the shock strut to the steering knuckle. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



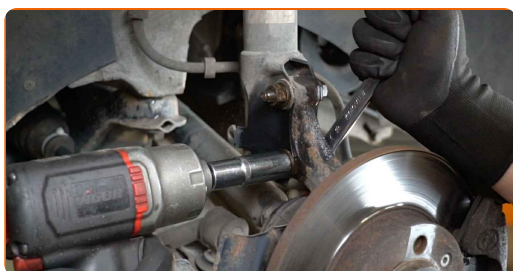
11 Unscrew the brake hose fastening bracket from the shock strut. Use a drive socket #10. Use a ratchet wrench.



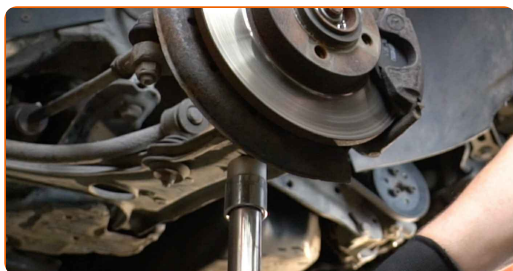
12 Disconnect the brake hose mounting bracket.



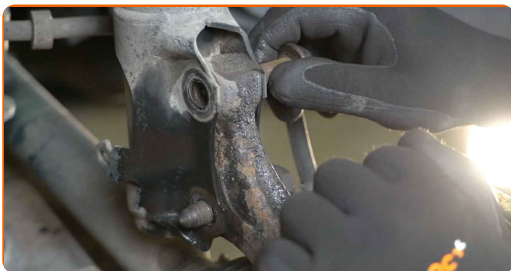
13 Unscrew the fasteners connecting the suspension strut to the steering knuckle. Use a combination spanner #18. Use a drive socket #18. Use a ratchet wrench.



14 Support the arm. Use a hydraulic transmission jack.



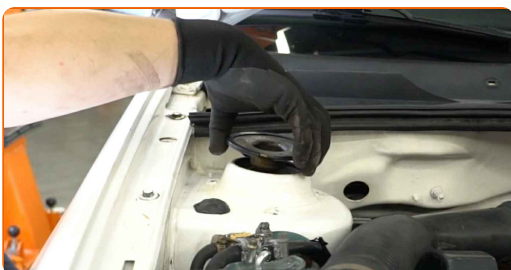
15 Remove the fastening bolts.



16 Disconnect the steering knuckle from the shock absorber strut.



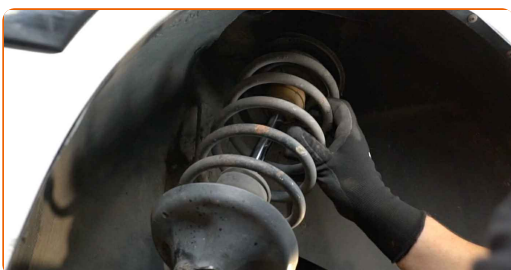
17 Unscrew the top fastening of the shock strut mount.



AUTODOC recommends:

- VW Golf 3 – To avoid injury, hold the suspension strut while unscrewing the fastening bolts.

18 Remove the suspension strut.



19

Set the shock absorber strut on the spring compressor tool.

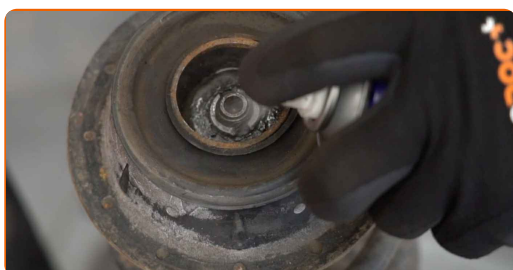


Replacement: suspension strut – VW Golf 3. Tip from AUTODOC experts:

- 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.

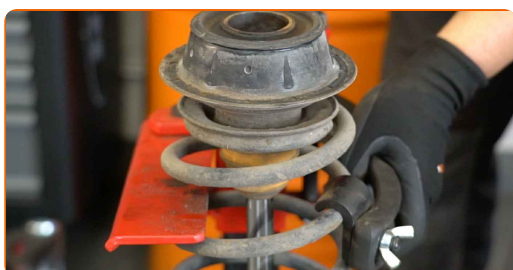
20

Treat the shock strut rod. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.

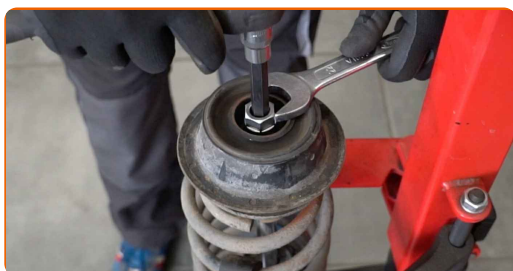


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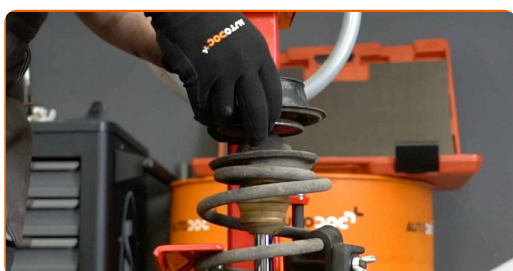
Compress the spring.



- 22 Remove the strut piston rod nut. Use a combination spanner #21. Use a 14.5-mm strut nut socket. Use a ratchet wrench.



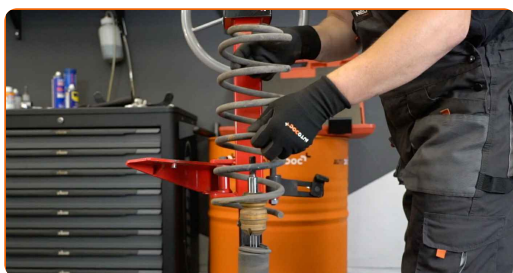
- 23 Remove the top strut mount.



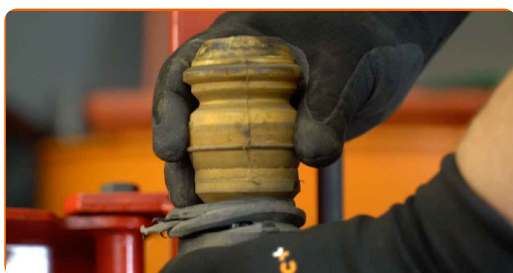
- 24 Release the coil spring.



- 25 Remove the spring.



- 26 Remove the shock absorber dust cap and the bump stop.

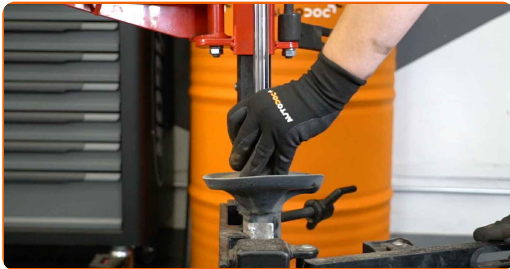


AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: suspension strut – VW Golf 3. Carefully inspect the mount, the boot, and the bump stop of the shock absorber. Replace if necessary.

27

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



Replacement: suspension strut – VW Golf 3. AUTODOC experts recommend:

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

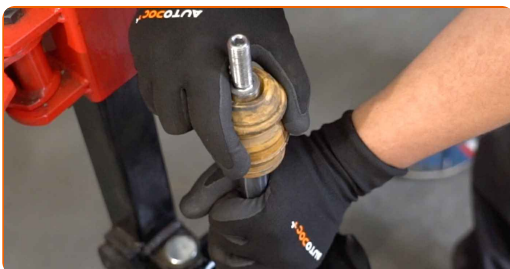
28

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

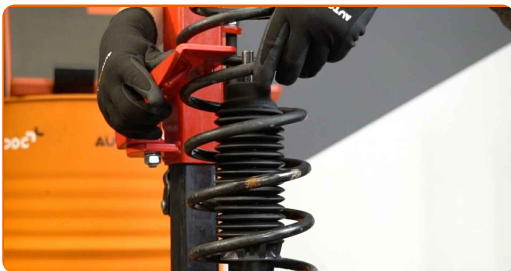


29

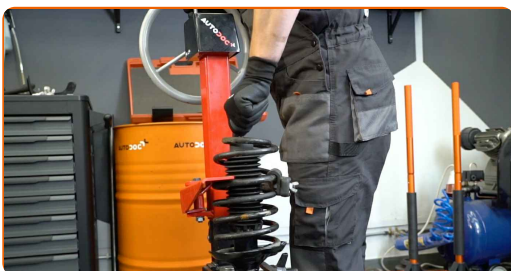
Install the dust sleeve and the bump stop on the new shock absorber.



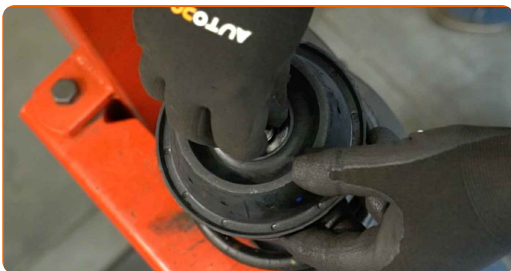
30 Install the spring on the shock absorber.



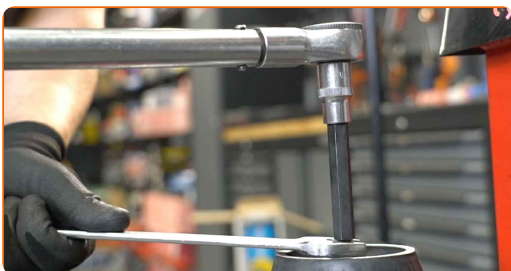
31 Compress the spring.



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



33 Tighten the shock strut piston rod nut. Use a combination spanner #21. Use a 14.5-mm strut nut socket. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 60 Nm torque.



Replacement: suspension strut – VW Golf 3. Professionals recommend:

- Check to make sure the spring is positioned correctly. Avoid its misalignment.

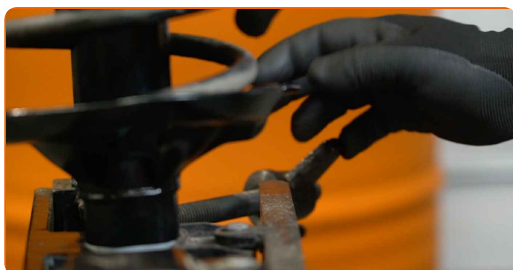
34 Decompress the spring.



35 Treat the shock strut rod. Use copper grease.



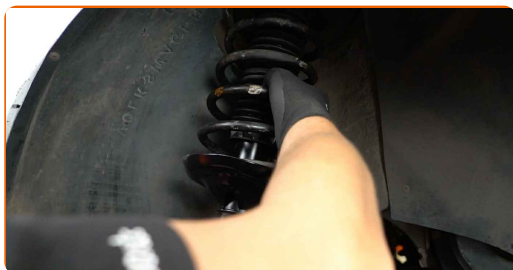
36 Remove the assembled shock strut.



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

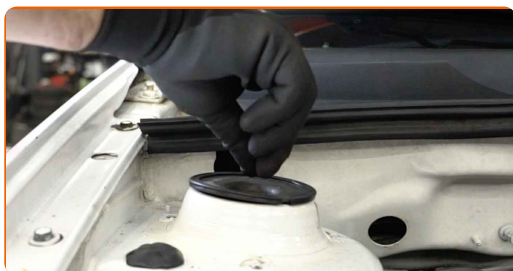


38 Install the shock strut into the wheel arch.



39

Screw the top fastening of the shock strut mount. Do not tighten it.



Replacement: suspension strut – VW Golf 3. AUTODOC experts recommend:

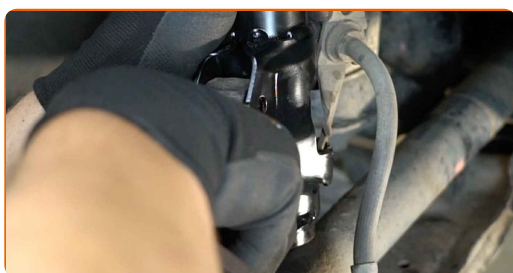
- To avoid injuries, hold the shock strut when screwing the fastening bolts in.

40

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

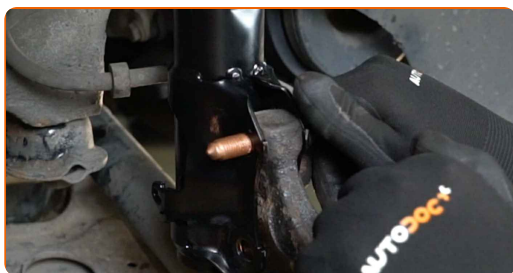
41

Fix the shock absorber strut on the steering knuckle.



42

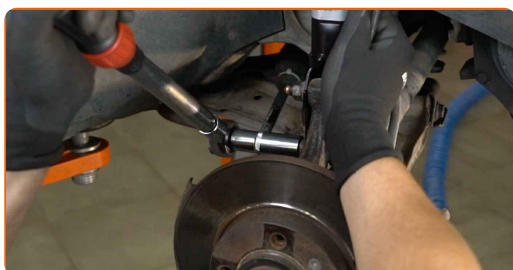
Install the fastening bolts.



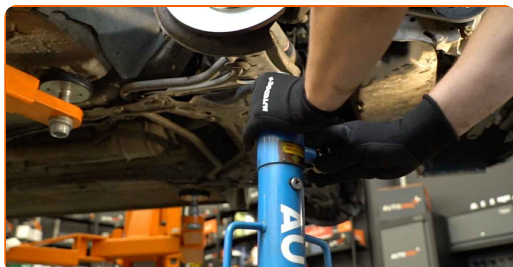
- 43** Screw in the fasteners connecting the suspension strut to the steering knuckle. Use a combination spanner #18. Use a drive socket #18. Use a tap wrench.



- 44** Tighten the lower fasteners connecting the shock strut to the steering knuckle. Use a combination spanner #18. Use a drive socket #18. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 95 Nm torque.



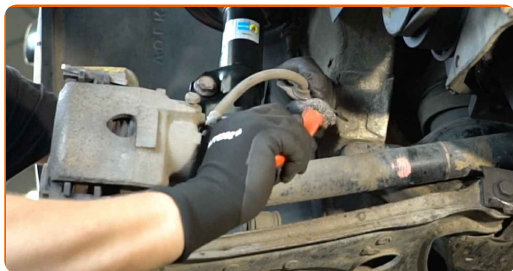
- 45** Remove the support from under the arm.



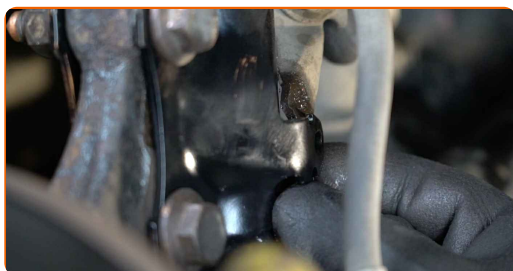
AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: suspension strut – VW Golf 3. Lower the transmission jack smoothly, without jerks, to avoid damaging components and mechanisms.

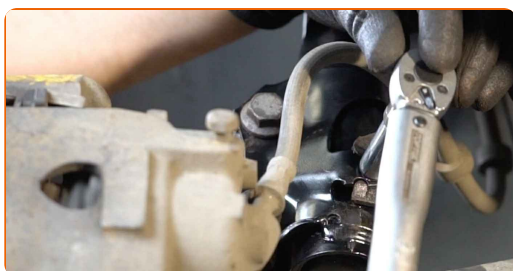
46 Clean the brake hose mounting seat. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



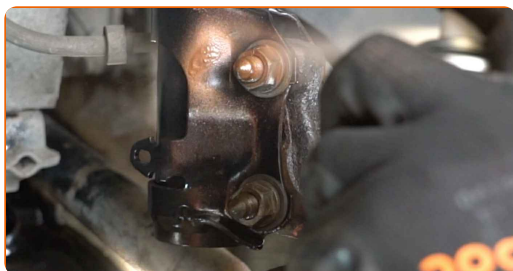
47 Secure the brake hose fastening bracket.



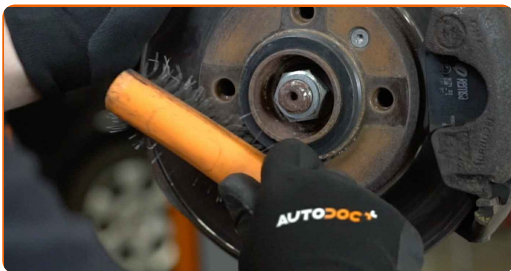
48 Tighten the brake hose fastening bracket to the shock strut. Use a drive socket #10. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 13 Nm torque.



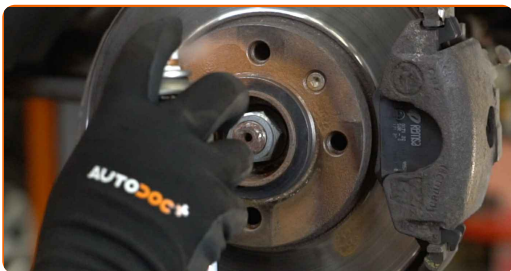
49 Treat the shock strut fasteners. Use copper grease.



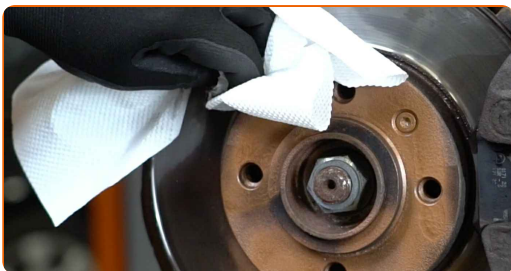
50 Clean the wheel rim mounting seat. Use a wire brush.



51 Treat the surface where the brake disc contacts the wheel rim. Use copper grease.



52 Clean the brake disk surface. Use a brake cleaner.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: suspension strut – VW Golf 3. After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

53 Install the wheel.



Replacement: suspension strut – VW Golf 3. AUTODOC recommends:

- To avoid injury, hold up the wheel when screwing in the fastening bolts.

54

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



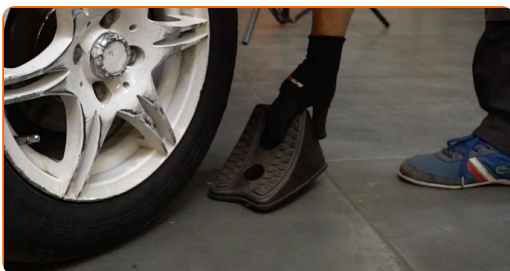
55

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 110 nm torque.

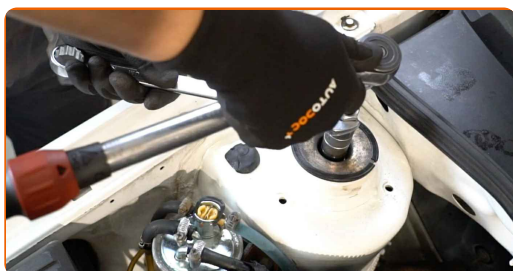


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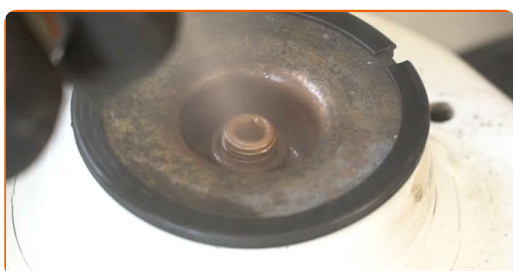
Remove the jacks and chocks.



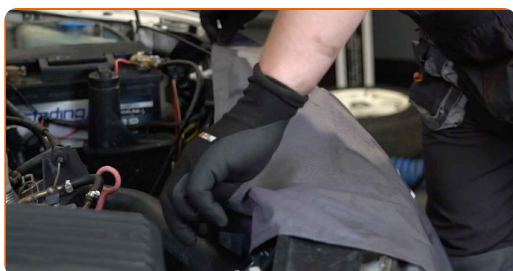
- 57 Tighten the upper fastener of the shock absorber strut mount. Use HEX No.H6. Use a drive socket #21. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 60 nm torque.



- 58 Treat the upper fastener of the suspension strut mount. Use copper grease.



- 59 Remove the fender protection cover.



- 60 Close the hood.



WELL DONE! 

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