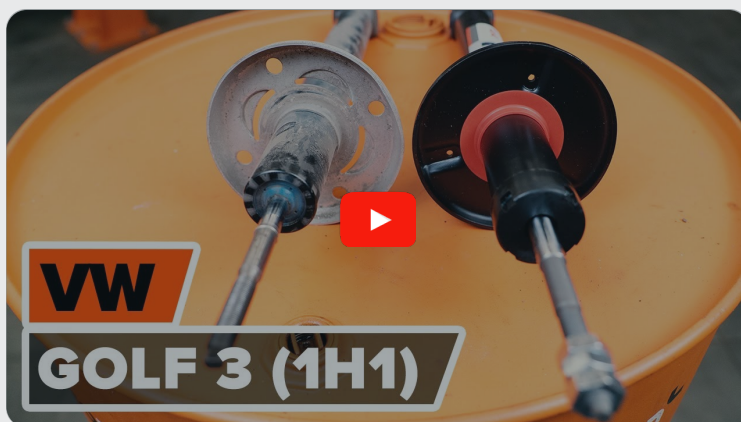




How to change rear  
suspension strut on **VW**  
**Golf 3** – replacement  
guide

## VIDEO TUTORIAL

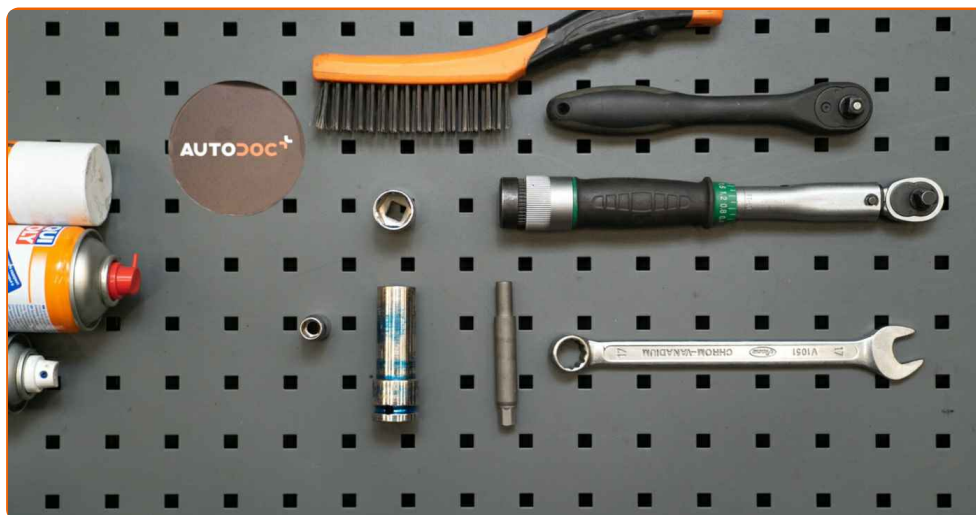
** Important!**

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 i CAT, VW Golf II Hatchback (19E, 1G1) 1.8 GTI CAT, VW Golf II Hatchback (19E, 1G1) 1.8 GTI, 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, (+ 23)

The steps may slightly vary depending on the car design.

**REPLACEMENT: SUSPENSION STRUT – VW GOLF 3.  
TOOLS YOU MIGHT NEED:**



- Wire brush
- WD-40 spray
- Copper grease
- Torque wrench
- Combination spanner #17
- Drive socket # 10
- Drive socket # 17
- Wheel impact socket #17
- Ratchet wrench
- Tap wrench
- Shock absorber socket #DD5,2
- Hydraulic strut spring compressor
- Hydraulic transmission jack
- Wheel chock

**BUY TOOLS**

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

- Both shock struts of the rear suspension should be replaced simultaneously.
- The replacement procedure is identical for the left and right shock struts of the rear suspension.
- All work should be done with the engine stopped.

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

**1** Open the boot lid.



**2** Move the folding shelf and detach it from the retainers. By doing this, you will get access to the side trim plastic panels.



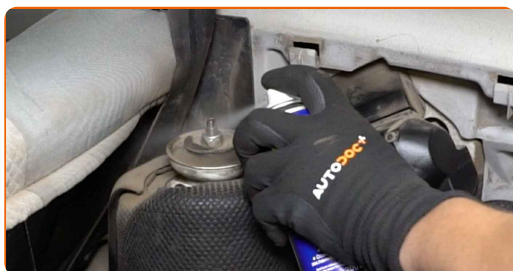
**3** Unscrew the fasteners of the side plastic trim panel. Use a drive socket #10. Use a ratchet wrench.



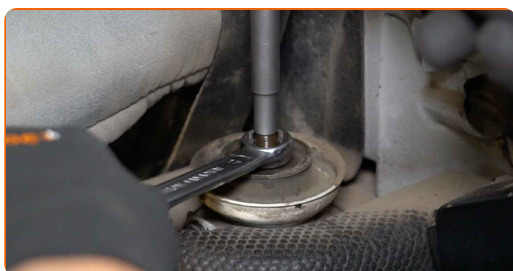
**4** Remove the side plastic cover.



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



**6** Loosen the upper fastener of the shock strut mount. Use a combination spanner #17. Use a shock absorber socket #DD5,2. Use a ratchet wrench.



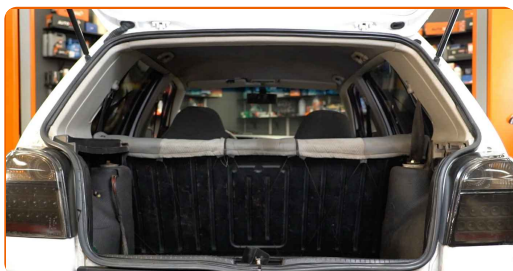
**7** Secure the wheels with chocks.



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



**9** Raise the rear of the car and secure on supports.



**10** Unscrew the wheel bolts.



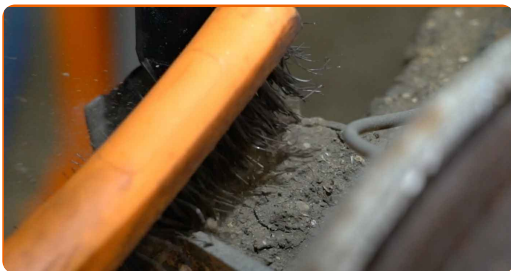
**AUTODOC recommends:**

- Warning! To avoid injury, hold the wheel while unscrewing the fastening bolts. VW Golf 3

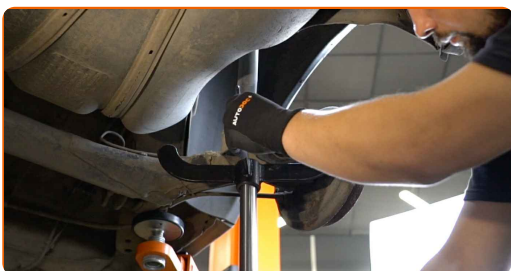
**11** Remove the wheel.



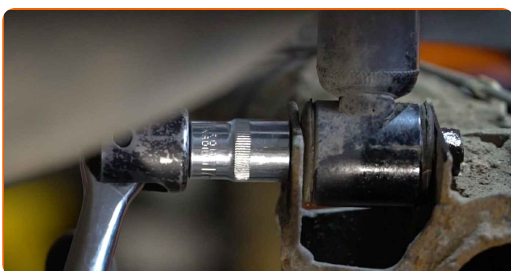
**12** Clean the shock strut fasteners. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



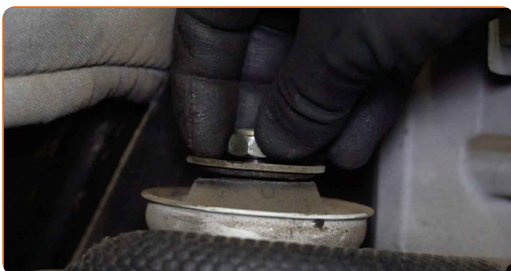
**13** Support the rear suspension beam. Use a hydraulic transmission jack.



**14** Unscrew the lower fastener of the shock absorber strut. Use a combination spanner #17. Use a drive socket #17. Use a tap wrench.



**15** Unscrew the top fastening of the shock strut mount.



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

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

16

Remove the mounting from under the rear axle beam.

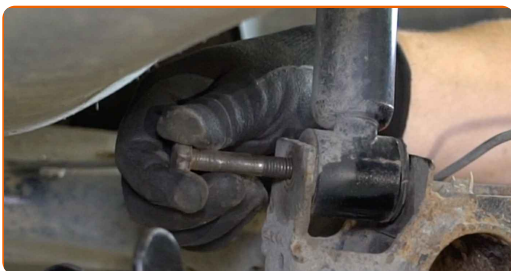


AUTODOC recommends:

- Lower the hydraulic transmission jack smoothly, without jerks, to avoid damaging assemblies and mechanisms.

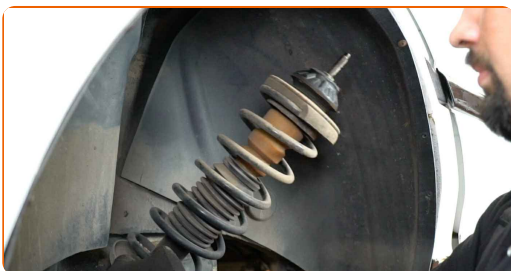
17

Remove the fastening bolt.



18

Remove the suspension strut.





**19**

Set the shock absorber 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.

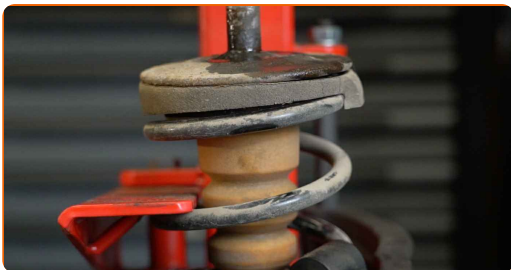
**20**

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

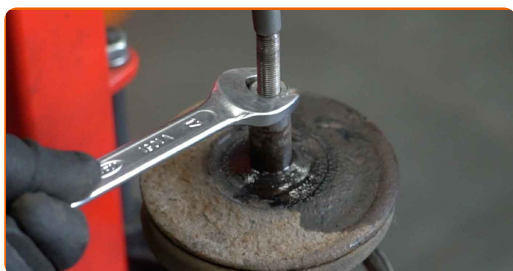


**21**

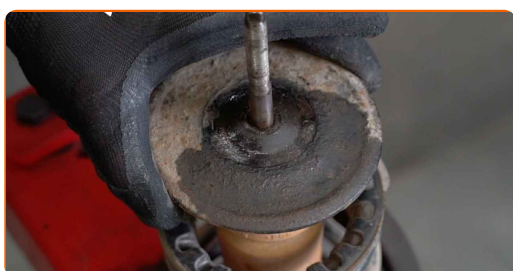
Compress the spring.



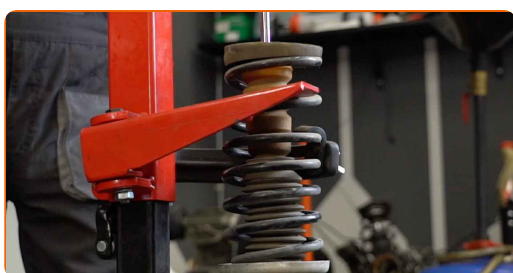
- 22** Remove the strut piston rod nut. Use a combination spanner #17. Use a shock absorber socket #DD5,2. Use a ratchet wrench.



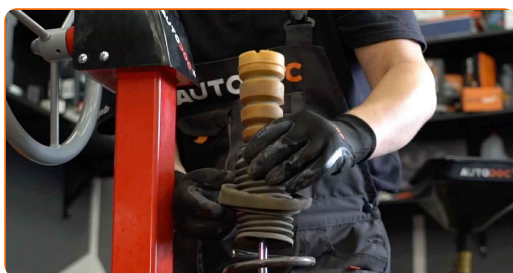
- 23** Remove the top strut mount.



- 24** Release the coil spring.



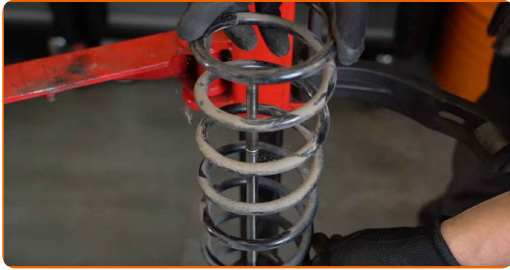
- 25** Remove the shock absorber dust cap and the bump stop.



**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.

**26** Remove the spring.



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



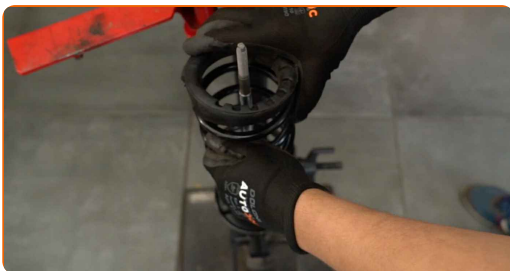
**AUTODOC recommends:**

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

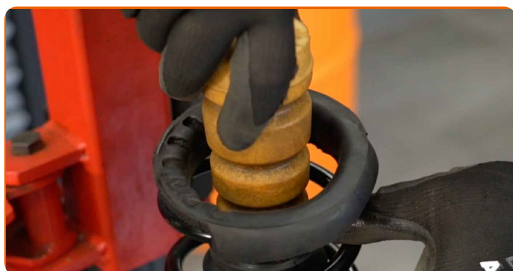
**28** Install the new shock absorber on the hydraulic coil spring compressor.



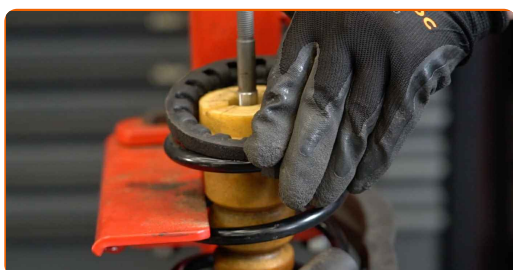
**29** Install the spring on the shock absorber.



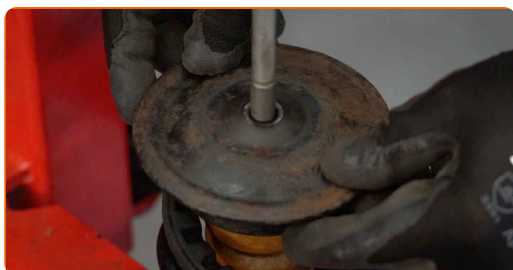
**30** Install the dust sleeve and the bump stop on the new shock absorber.



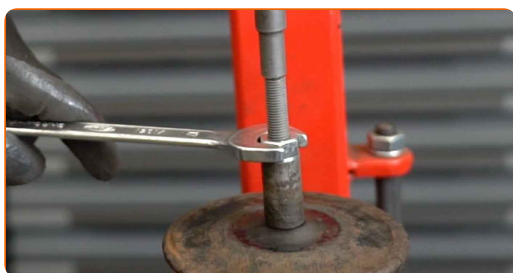
**31** Compress the spring.



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



**33** Tighten the shock strut piston rod nut. Use a combination spanner #17. Use a shock absorber socket #DD5,2. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 35 Nm torque.



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

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

**34** Treat the shock strut rod. Use copper grease.

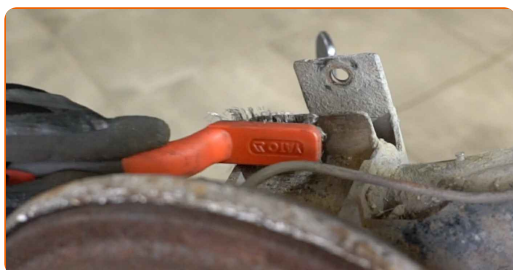


**35** Decompress the spring.

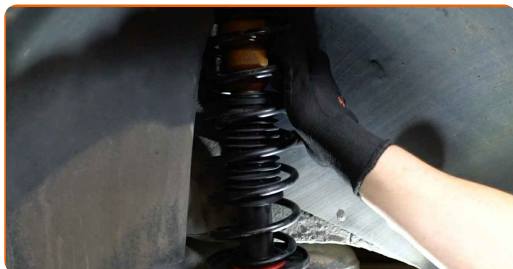


**36** Remove the assembled shock strut.

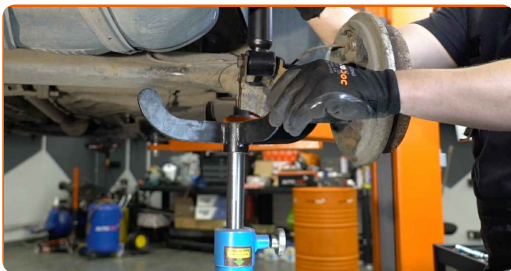
**37** Treat the mounting seats of the shock strut. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



**38** Install the shock strut into the wheel arch.

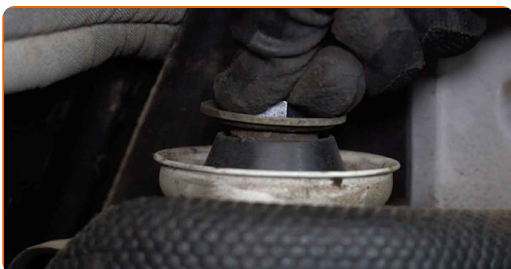


**39** Support the rear suspension beam. Use a hydraulic transmission jack.



**40** Install the fastening bolt.

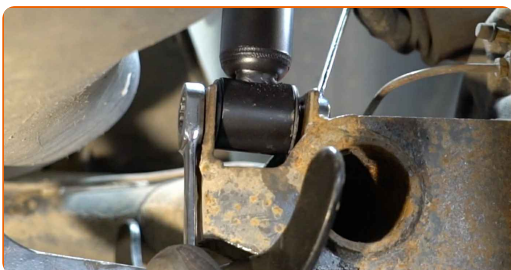
**41** Screw the top fastening of the shock strut mount. Do not tighten it.



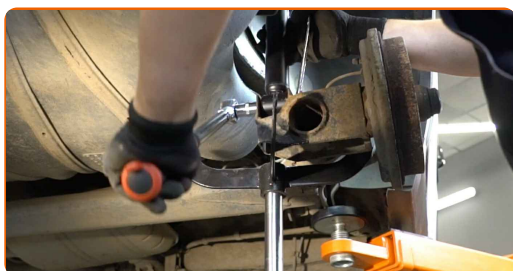
**AUTODOC recommends:**

- Important! Hold the suspension strut while screwing in the fastening bolts. VW Golf 3

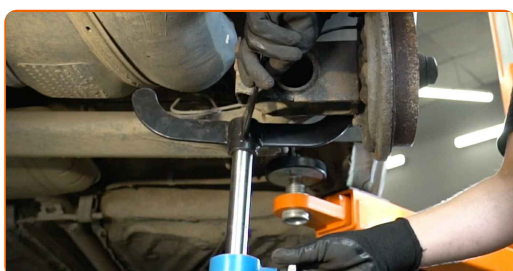
**42** Screw in the lower fastener of the shock strut. Use a combination spanner #17. Use a drive socket #17. Use a tap wrench.



- 43** Tighten the lower fastening of the shock absorber. Use a combination spanner #17. Use a drive socket #17. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 70 nm torque.



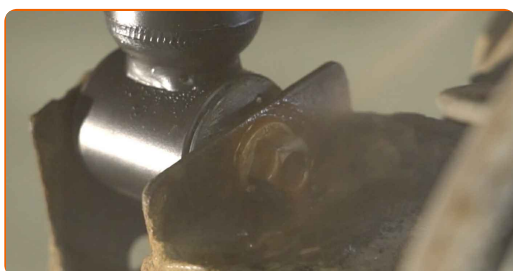
- 44** Remove the mounting from under the rear axle beam.



**AUTODOC recommends:**

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

- 45** Treat the shock strut fasteners. Use copper grease.



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



**47** Treat the surface where the wheel rim contacts the brake drum. Use copper grease.



**48** Install the wheel.



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

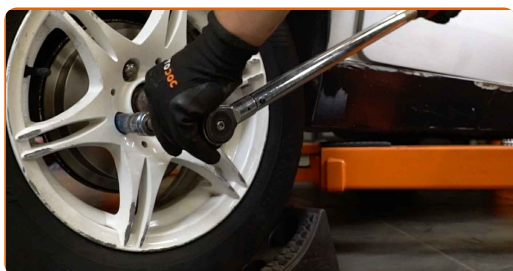
- To avoid injury, hold up the wheel when screwing in the fastening bolts.

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





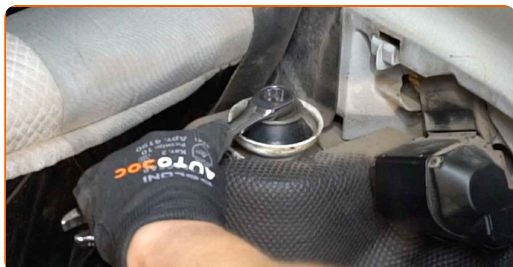
- 50 Lower the car and working in a cross order, tighten the wheel bolts. Use wheel impact socket #17. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 110 nm torque.



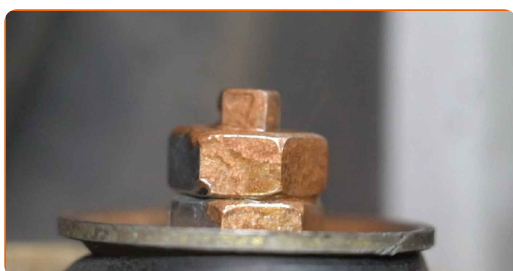
- 51 Remove the jacks and chocks.



- 52 Tighten the upper fastener of the shock absorber strut mount. Use a combination spanner #17. Use a shock absorber socket #DD5,2. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 25 Nm torque.

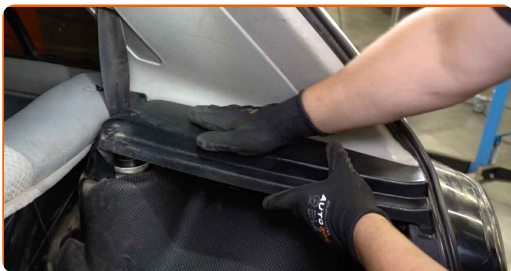


- 53 Treat the fasteners of the shock strut mount. Use copper grease.



**54**

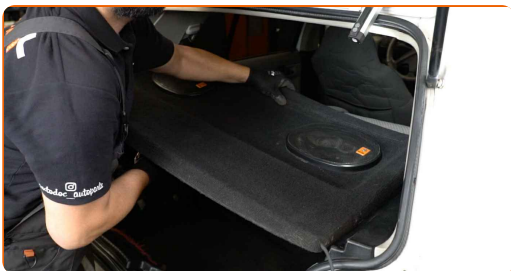
Install the side plastic panel.

**55**

Screw the fasteners of the side plastic trim panel. Use a drive socket #10. Use a ratchet wrench.

**56**

Install the folding shelf to its mounting seat.

**57**

Close the lid of the luggage compartment.

**WELL DONE!** **VIEW MORE TUTORIALS**

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