



How to change front  
suspension strut on  
**OPEL Astra H**  
**Hatchback (A04)** –  
replacement guide

### SIMILAR VIDEO TUTORIAL



This video shows the replacement procedure of a similar car part on another vehicle

#### **i Important!**

This replacement procedure can be used for:

OPEL Astra H Hatchback (A04) 1.4 LPG (L48), OPEL Astra H Hatchback (A04) 1.4 (L48), OPEL Astra H Hatchback (A04) 1.6 (L48), OPEL Astra H Hatchback (A04) 1.8 (L48), OPEL Astra H Hatchback (A04) 1.7 CDTI (L48), OPEL Astra H Hatchback (A04) 2.0 Turbo (L48), OPEL Astra H Hatchback (A04) 1.9 CDTI (L48), OPEL Astra H Hatchback (A04) 1.9 CDTI 16V (L48), OPEL Astra H Hatchback (A04) 1.3 CDTI (L48), OPEL Astra H Hatchback (A04) 1.6 Turbo (L48), OPEL Astra H Hatchback (A04) 1.2 (L48)

The steps may slightly vary depending on the car design.

This tutorial was created based on the replacement procedure for a similar car part on: OPEL ZAFIRA B (A05) 1.8 (M75)

**REPLACEMENT: SUSPENSION STRUT – OPEL ASTRA H HATCHBACK (A04). TOOLS YOU MIGHT NEED:**



- Wire brush
- WD-40 spray
- Brake cleaner
- Copper grease
- Combination spanner #18
- Combination spanner #19
- HEX bit no.H6.
- Drive socket # 18
- Drive socket # 19
- Drive socket # 22
- Wheel impact socket #17
- Ratchet wrench
- Torque wrench
- Flat Screwdriver
- Tap wrench
- Clip removal tool
- Water pump pliers
- Crow bar
- Rubber mallet
- Hydraulic strut spring compressor
- Hydraulic transmission jack
- Fender cover
- Wheel chock

**Buy tools**

Replacement: suspension strut – OPEL Astra H Hatchback (A04). AUTODOC recommends:

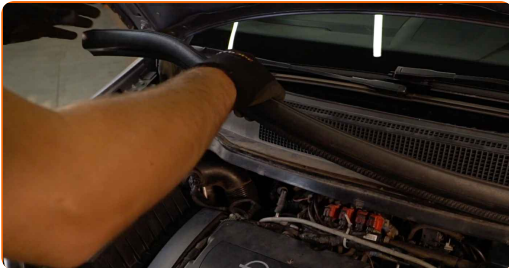
- Both shock struts of the front suspension should be replaced simultaneously.
- The replacement procedure is identical for the left and right shock struts of the front suspension.
- All work should be done with the engine stopped.

## REPLACEMENT: SUSPENSION STRUT – OPEL ASTRA H HATCHBACK (A04). TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

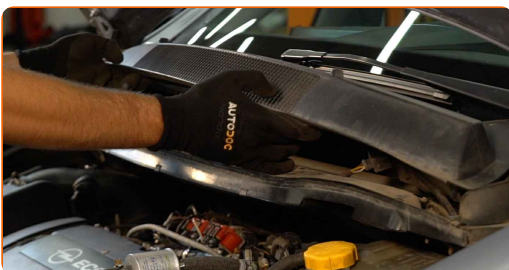
**1** Open the hood.

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

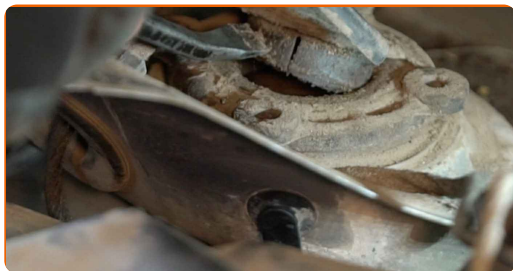
**3** Remove the cowl grille seal.



**4** Raise up and remove the cowl grille.



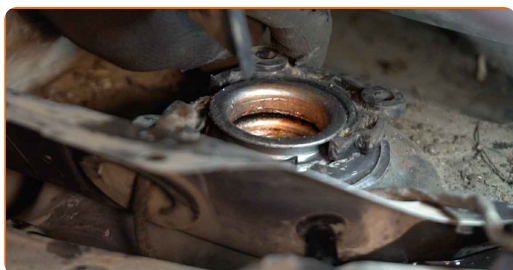
5 Remove the shock strut mount cap. Use a flat screwdriver.



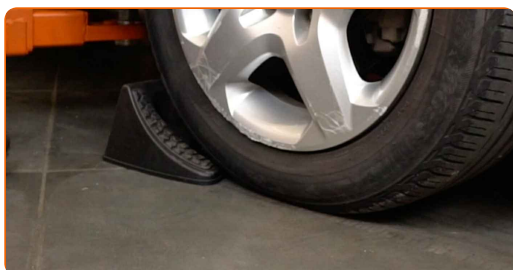
6 Clean the fasteners of the shock strut upper mount. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



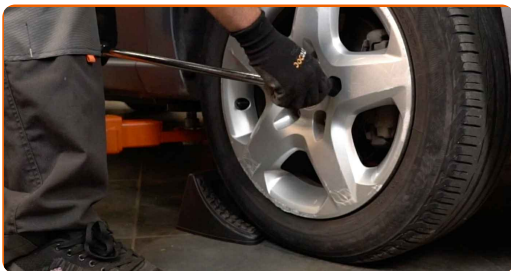
7 Remove the retainer of the shock strut upper mount. Use a clip removal tool.



8 Secure the wheels with chocks.



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



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

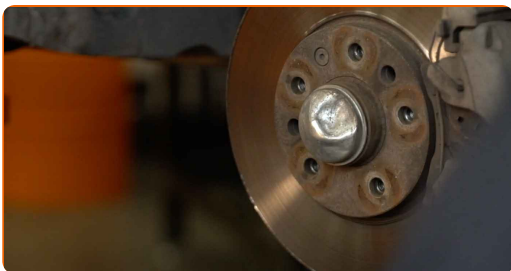
11 Unscrew the wheel bolts.



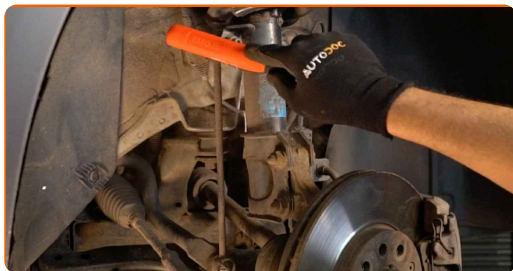
Replacement: suspension strut – OPEL Astra H Hatchback (A04). Tip:

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

12 Remove the wheel.



**13** Clean the stabiliser link fasteners. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.

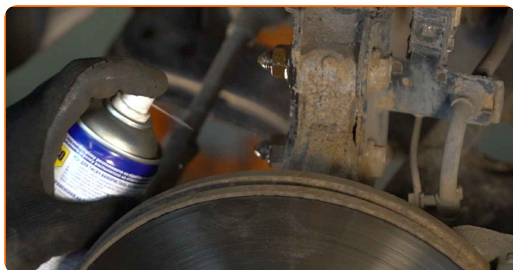


**14** Unscrew the nut and remove the stabilizer rod from the shock strut. Use a combination spanner #19. Use a drive socket #19. Use a ratchet wrench.



**15** Remove the stabilizer rod.

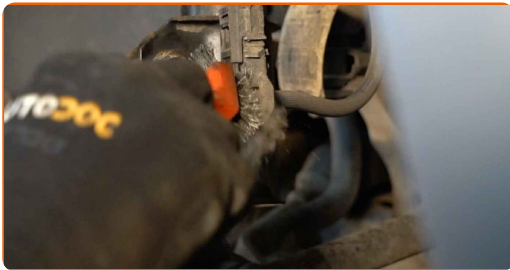
**16** Clean the fasteners connecting the shock strut to the steering knuckle. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



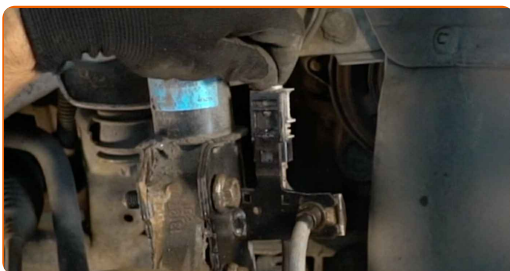
**17** Unscrew the lower fastener connecting the shock strut to the steering knuckle. Use a combination spanner #18. Use a drive socket #18. Use a tap wrench.



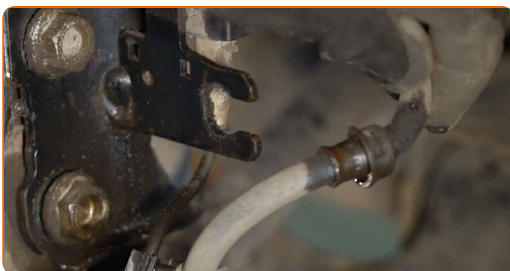
- 18 Clean the fasteners of the ABS sensor and of the brake hose which connect them to the shock strut. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



- 19 Disconnect the fastener of the ABS sensor cable from the shock absorber strut. Use a flat screwdriver.

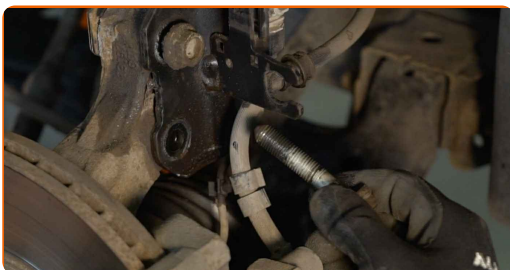


- 20 Detach the brake hose from the shock strut. Use water pump pliers.



- 21 Prop up the steering knuckle. Use a hydraulic transmission jack.

- 22 Remove the fastening bolts.





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



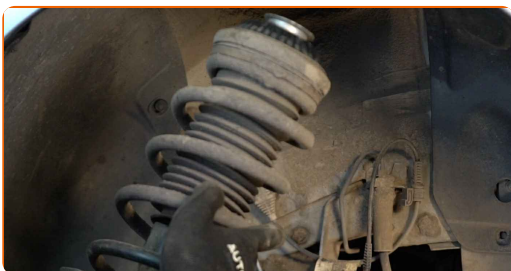
**24** Remove the retainer of the shock strut upper mount.



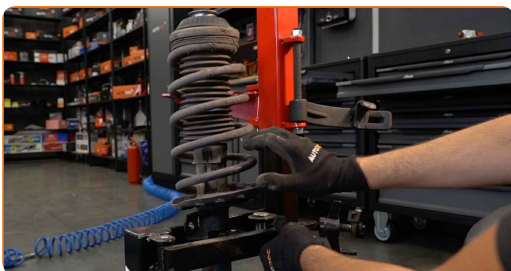
**AUTODOC recommends:**

- OPEL Astra H Hatchback (A04) – To avoid injury, hold the suspension strut while unscrewing the fastening bolts.

**25** Remove the suspension strut.



**26** Set the shock absorber strut on the spring compressor tool.



Replacement: suspension strut – OPEL Astra H Hatchback (A04). AUTODOC experts recommend:

- 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.

27

Compress the spring.



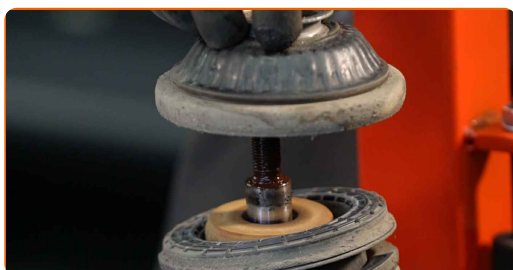
28

Remove the strut rod nut. Use HEX No.H6. Use a drive socket #22. Use a ratchet wrench.



29

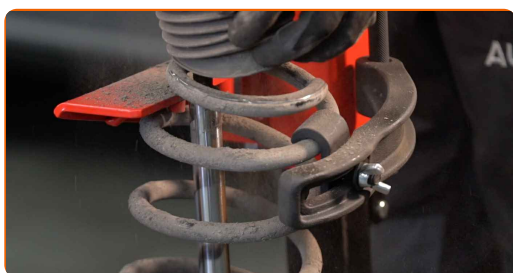
Remove the top strut mount.



**30** Release the coil spring.



**31** Remove the shock absorber dust cap and the bump stop.



**AUTODOC recommends:**

- Replacement: suspension strut – OPEL Astra H Hatchback (A04). Carefully inspect the mount, the boot, and the bump stop of the shock absorber. Replace if necessary.

**32** Remove the spring.



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



Replacement: suspension strut – OPEL Astra H Hatchback (A04). Tip from AUTODOC experts:

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

34

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



35

Install the spring on the shock absorber.



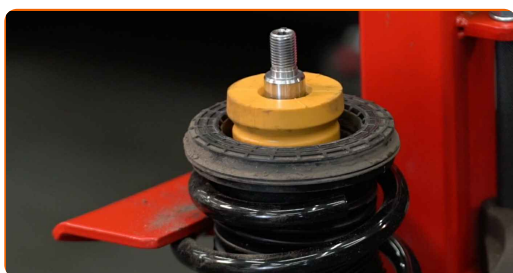
36

Compress the spring.



37

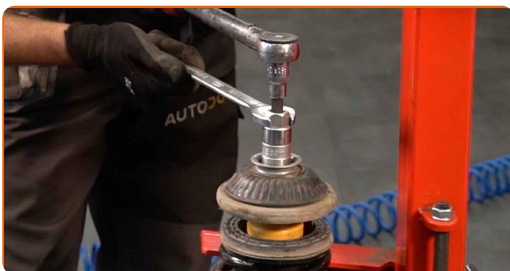
Install the dust sleeve and the bump stop on the new shock absorber.



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



**39** Tighten the shock strut piston rod nut. Use HEX No.H6. Use a drive socket #22. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 65 Nm torque.



Replacement: suspension strut – OPEL Astra H Hatchback (A04). AUTODOC experts recommend:

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

**40** Decompress the spring.



41

Remove the assembled shock strut.

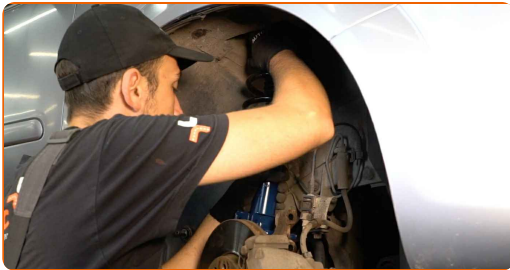


42

Treat the shock strut rod. Use copper grease.

43

Install the shock strut into the wheel arch.

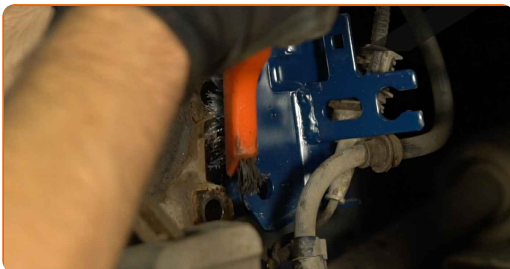


**AUTODOC recommends:**

- Important! Hold the suspension strut while screwing in the fastening bolts. OPEL Astra H Hatchback (A04)

44

Treat the shock strut mounting seat on the steering knuckle. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



**45** Fix the shock absorber strut on the steering knuckle.



**46** Install the fastening bolts.



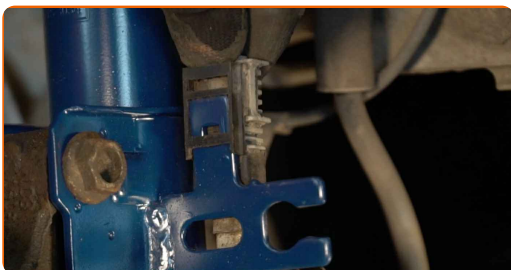
**47** Raise the hydraulic transmission jack by 10-15 cm.



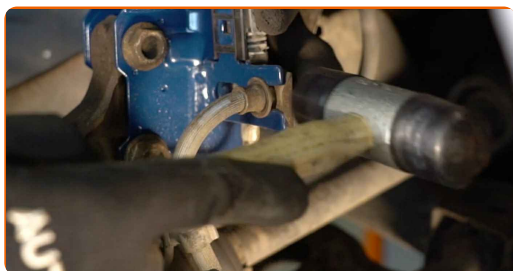
**48** Install the retainer of the shock strut upper mount. Use water pump pliers.



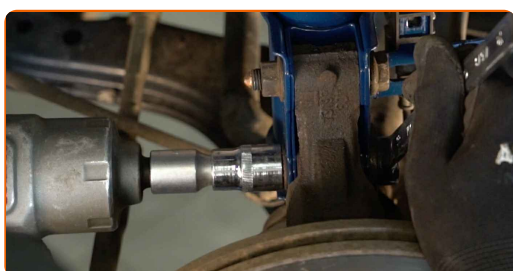
**49** Connect the fastener of the ABS sensor cable to the shock absorber strut.



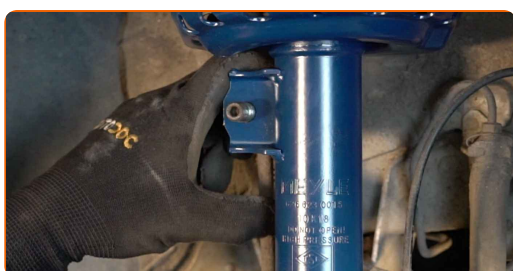
**50** Fasten the brake hose on the strut. Use a rubber mallet.



**51** 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 105 Nm torque.



**52** Install the transverse stabilizer link.



**53** Tighten the fastener connecting the stabilizer link to the shock strut. Use a drive socket #19. Use a combination spanner #19. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 55 Nm torque.





54

Remove the support from under the steering knuckle.

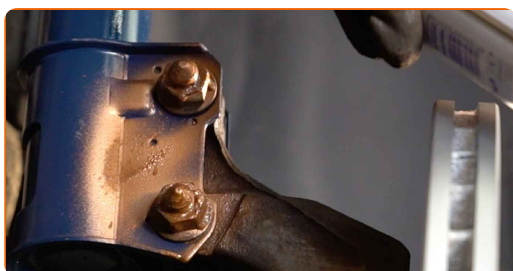


Replacement: suspension strut – OPEL Astra H Hatchback (A04). Tip from AUTODOC experts:

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

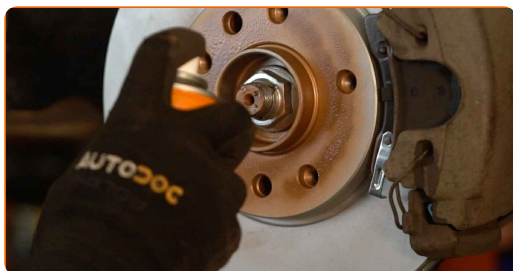
55

Treat the shock strut fasteners. Treat all joints of the arm. Use copper grease.



56

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



**57**

Clean the brake disk surface. Use a brake cleaner.



Replacement: suspension strut – OPEL Astra H Hatchback (A04). AUTODOC recommends:

- After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

**58**

Install the wheel.

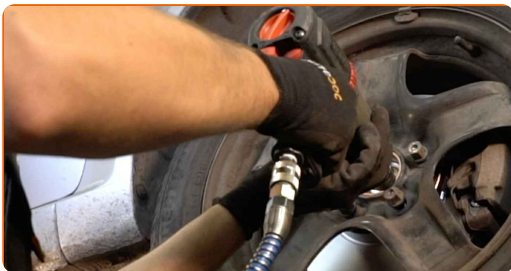


AUTODOC recommends:

- Important! Hold the wheel while screwing in the fastening bolts. OPEL Astra H Hatchback (A04)

**59**

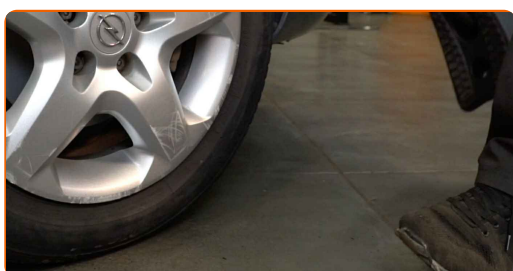
Screw in the wheel bolts. Use wheel impact socket #17.



- 60 Lower the car and working in a cross order, tighten the wheel bolts. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 110 Nm torque.



- 61 Remove the jacks and chocks.



- 62 Install the shock strut mount cap.

- 63 Install and secure the cowl grille.



- 64 Install the cowl grille seal.



- 65 Remove the fender protection cover.

66

Close the hood.

**WELL DONE!** 

**VIEW MORE TUTORIALS**

# AUTODOC – TOP QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE CAR PARTS ONLINE

**AUTODOC MOBILE APP: GREAT DEALS AND CONVENIENT SHOPPING**



**+ AUTODOC**

GET IT ON  
**Google Play**

 Download on the  
**App Store**

**Download**

**A GREAT SELECTION OF SPARE PARTS FOR YOUR CAR**

**SHOCK ABSORBERS: A WIDE SELECTION**

## **DISCLAIMER:**

The document contains only general recommendations that may be useful for you when you perform repair or replacement work. AUTODOC shall not be liable for any loss, injury, damage of property occurring in the repair or replacement process due to incorrect use or misinterpretation of the provided information.

AUTODOC shall not be liable for any possible mistakes and uncertainties in this guide. The information provided is for information purposes only and cannot replace advice from specialists.

AUTODOC shall not be liable for incorrect or hazardous usage of equipment, tools and car parts. AUTODOC strongly recommends to be careful and observe the safety rules when performing repair or replacement works. Remember: usage of low quality auto parts does not guarantee you the appropriate level of road safety.

© Copyright 2023 – All the contents of this website, in particular texts, photographs and graphics, are protected by copyright. All rights, including reproduction, publication, editing and translation rights, are reserved by AUTODOC SE.