



How to change front  
suspension strut on  
**OPEL Vectra B Estate**  
**(J96)** – replacement  
guide

## SIMILAR VIDEO TUTORIAL



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

### **Important!**

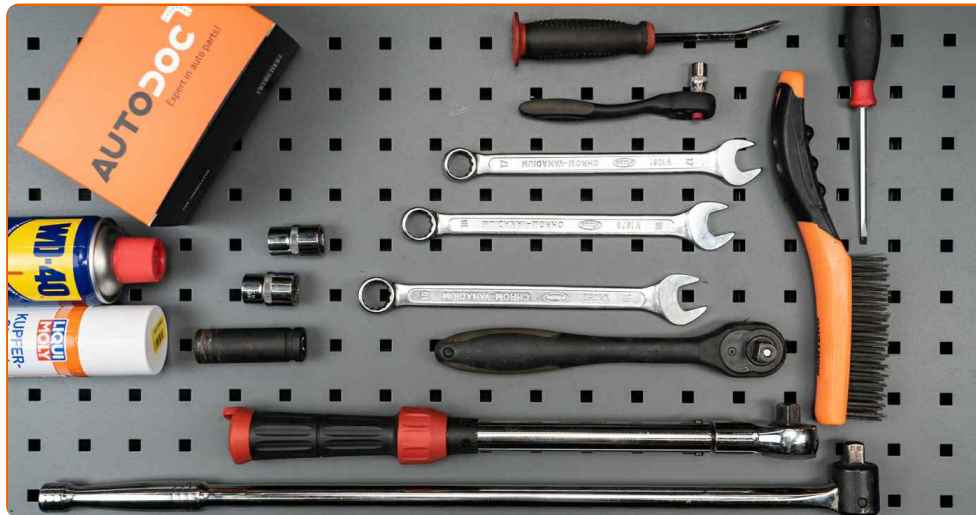
This replacement procedure can be used for:

OPEL Vectra B Estate (J96) 1.6 i (X 16 SZR), OPEL Vectra B Estate (J96) 1.6 i 16V (F35), OPEL Vectra B Estate (J96) 1.8 i 16V (X18XE1, Z18XEL), OPEL Vectra B Estate (J96) 1.8 i 16V (X18XE), OPEL Vectra B Estate (J96) 1.8 i 16V (F35), OPEL Vectra B Estate (J96) 1.6 i (16 LZ2), OPEL Vectra B Estate (J96) 2.0 i (F35), OPEL Vectra B Estate (J96) 1.7 TD (F35)

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 Astra G CC (T98) 1.2 16V (F08, F48)

REPLACEMENT: SUSPENSION STRUT – OPEL VECTRA B ESTATE (J96). TOOLS YOU'LL NEED:



- Wire brush
- WD-40 spray
- Copper grease
- Drive socket # 9
- Drive socket # 17
- Drive socket # 18
- Combination spanner #18
- Combination spanner #19
- Wheel impact socket #17
- Ratchet wrench
- Torque wrench
- Flat screwdriver
- Tap wrench
- Crow bar
- Hydraulic transmission jack
- Hydraulic strut spring compressor
- Fender cover
- Wheel chock

[Buy tools](#)

Replacement: suspension strut – OPEL Vectra B Estate (J96). AUTODOC experts recommend:

- 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 VECTRA B ESTATE (J96). RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE OF STEPS:

**1** Open the bonnet.

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

**3** Secure the wheels with chocks.



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



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

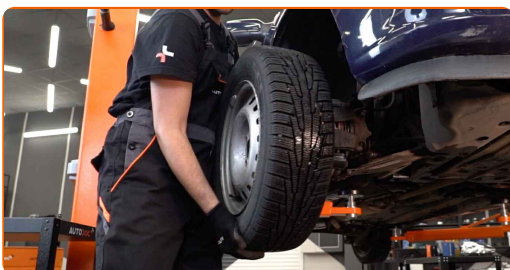
6 Unscrew the wheel bolts.



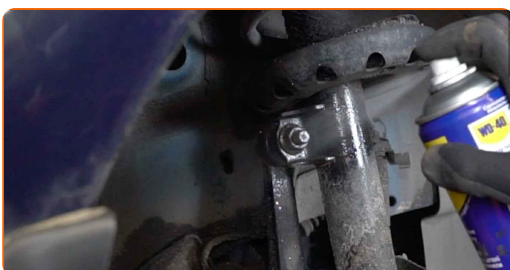
**AUTODOC recommends:**

- Warning! To avoid injury, hold the wheel while unscrewing the fastening bolts.  
OPEL Vectra B Estate (J96)

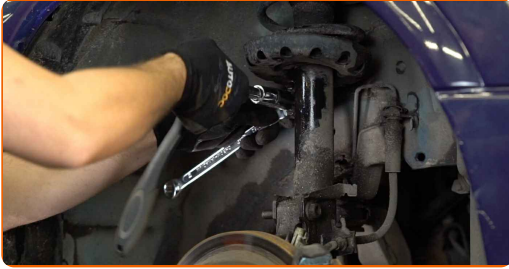
7 Remove the wheel.



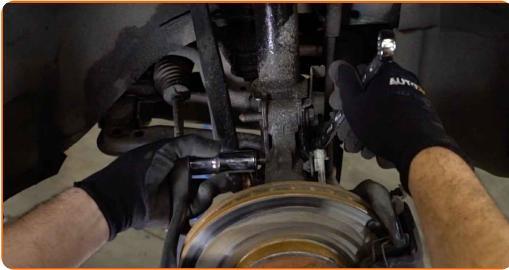
8 Clean the fasteners connecting the stabiliser link to the shock strut, and those connecting the shock strut to the steering knuckle. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



- 9 Unscrew the nut and remove the stabilizer rod from the shock strut. Use a combination spanner #19. Use a drive socket #18. Use a ratchet wrench.



- 10 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.



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



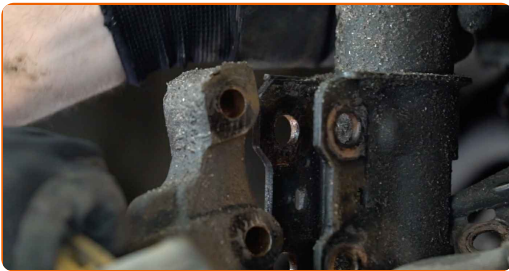
- 12 Remove the fastening bolts.



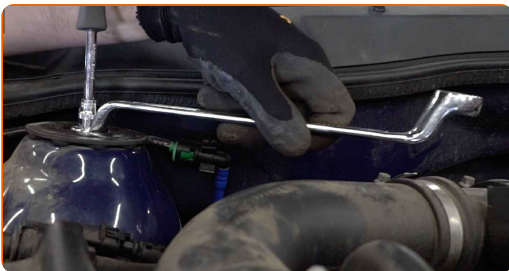
**13** Disconnect the brake hose holder from the shock absorber strut. Use a crowbar.



**14** Disconnect the steering knuckle from the shock absorber strut.



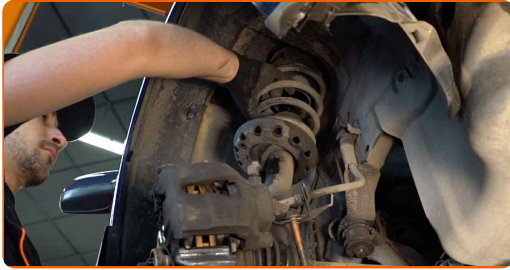
**15** Unscrew the upper fastening of the shock absorber strut. Use a combination spanner #19. Use a drive socket #9. Use a ratchet wrench.



Replacement: suspension strut – OPEL Vectra B Estate (J96). Professionals recommend:

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

16 Remove the suspension strut.



17 Set the shock absorber strut on the spring compressor tool.



Replacement: suspension strut – OPEL Vectra B Estate (J96). 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.

18 Compress the spring.





19

Remove the strut piston rod nut. Use a combination spanner #19. Use a drive socket #9.



20

Remove the shock absorber mount, boot and bump stop.



21

Release the coil spring.



22

Remove the spring.



23

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

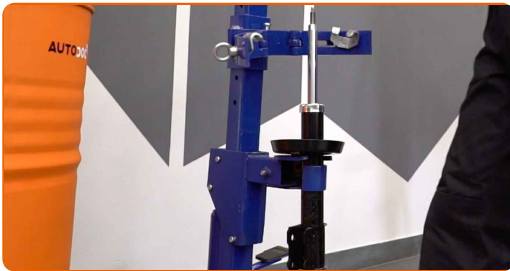


AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: suspension strut – OPEL Vectra B Estate (J96). Carefully inspect the mount, the boot, and the bump stop of the shock absorber. Replace if necessary.

24

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



25

Install the spring on the shock absorber.



26

Compress the spring.



27

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



28 Install the mount, boot and bump stop onto a new shock absorber.

29 Tighten the shock strut piston rod nut. Use a combination spanner #19. Use a drive socket #9. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 50 Nm torque.



Replacement: suspension strut – OPEL Vectra B Estate (J96). Tip from AUTODOC:

- Check to make sure the spring is positioned correctly. Avoid its misalignment.
- Important! Be sure to use new fasteners.

30 Decompress the spring.

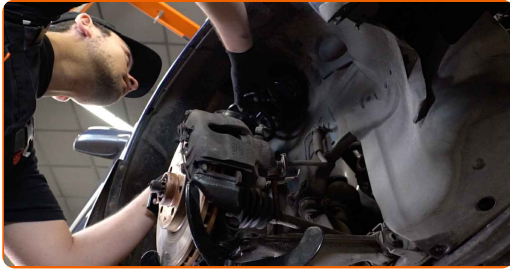


31 Remove the assembled shock strut.



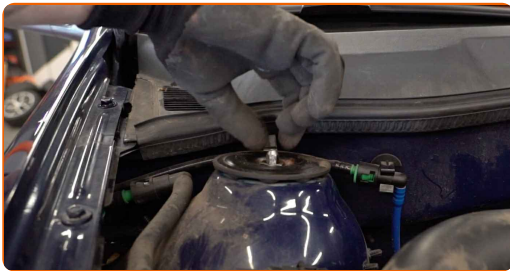
32

Install the shock strut into the wheel arch.



33

Tighten the upper fastening nut of the shock absorber strut. Do not tighten it.

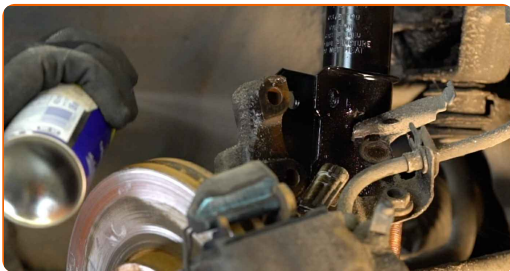


**AUTODOC recommends:**

- Important! Hold the suspension strut while screwing in the fastening bolts. OPEL Vectra B Estate (J96)

34

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



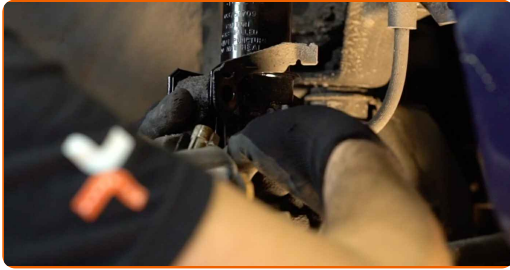
35

Fix the shock absorber strut on the steering knuckle.



36

Fasten the brake hose on the strut.



37

Install the new steering knuckle bolts.



38

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 90 Nm torque.+45°



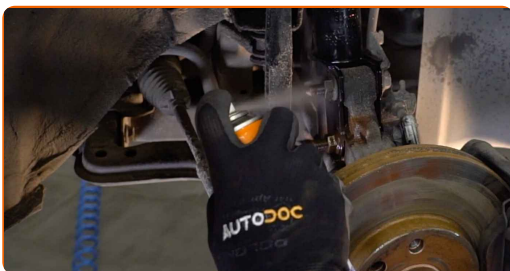
**AUTODOC recommends:**

- Important! Be sure to use new fasteners.

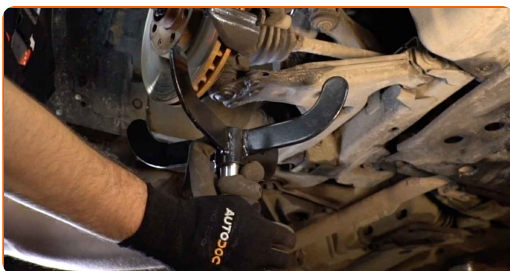
- 39 Secure the stabilizer link on the suspension strut. Use a combination spanner #19. Use a drive socket #18. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 65 Nm torque.



- 40 Treat the shock strut fasteners. Treat all joints of the stabiliser link. Use copper grease.



- 41 Remove the support from under the steering knuckle.



Replacement: suspension strut – OPEL Vectra B Estate (J96). Tip:

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

42

Clean the wheel rim mounting seat. Use a wire brush. Treat the contacting surface. Use copper grease.



43

Install the wheel.



Replacement: suspension strut – OPEL Vectra B Estate (J96). Tip from AUTODOC experts:

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

44

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



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



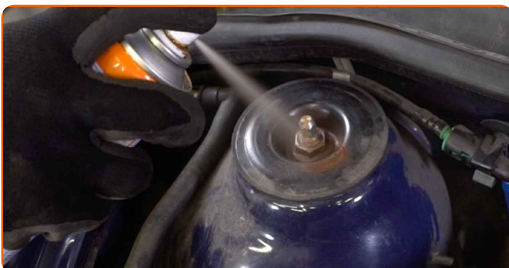
- 46 Tighten the shock strut top mount. Use a drive socket #19. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 50 Nm torque.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Important! Be sure to use new fasteners.

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





48

Remove the jacks and chocks.



49

Remove the fender protection cover.

50

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**

### **(i) 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 2022 – 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 GmbH.