



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

## SIMILAR VIDEO TUTORIAL



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

### Important!

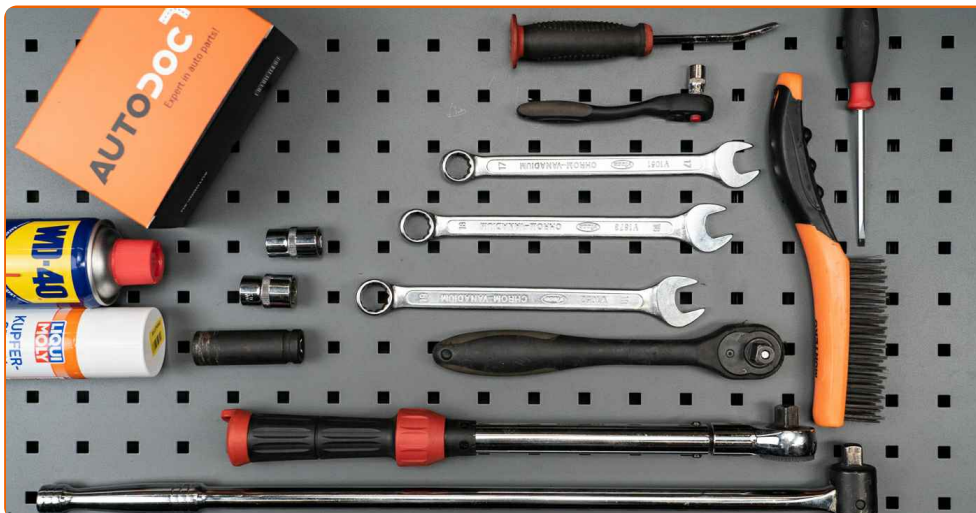
This replacement procedure can be used for:

VAUXHALL Vectra (B) Estate (J96) 1.8 i 16V, VAUXHALL Vectra (B) Estate (J96) 1.8 i 16V (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 – VAUXHALL 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 – VAUXHALL 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 – VAUXHALL 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.



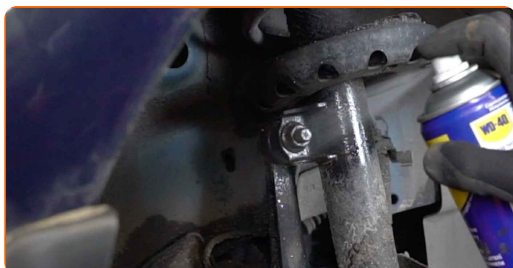
**AUTODOC recommends:**

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



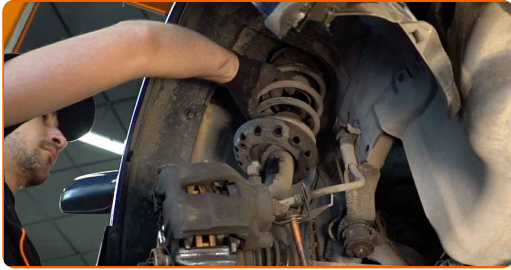
Replacement: suspension strut – VAUXHALL Vectra (B) Estate (J96).  
Professionals recommend:

- 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 – VAUXHALL 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.





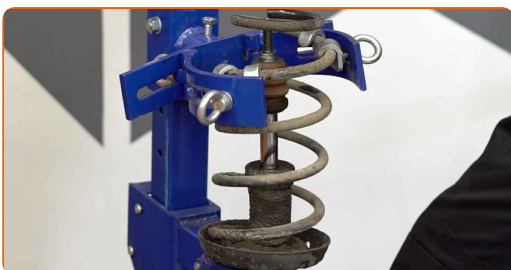
**19** Remove the strut piston rod nut. Use a combination spanner #19. Use a drive socket #9.



**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 – VAUXHALL 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 – VAUXHALL 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.



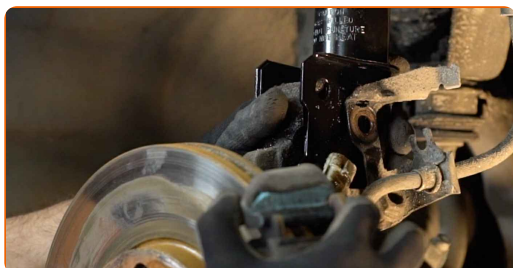
**AUTODOC recommends:**

- Important! Hold the suspension strut while screwing in the fastening bolts.  
VAUXHALL 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 – VAUXHALL 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 – VAUXHALL 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.



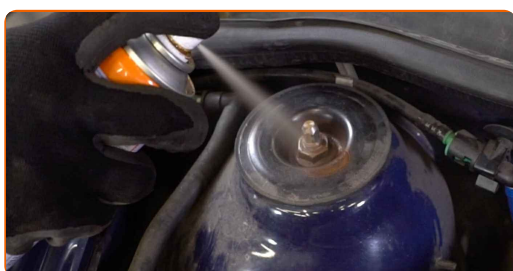
- 46** Tighten the shock strut top mount. Use a drive socket #19. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 50 Nm torque.



**AUTODOC recommends:**

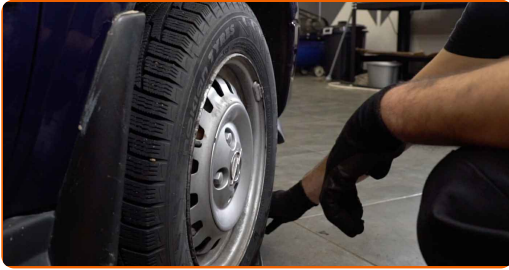
- Important! Be sure to use new fasteners.

- 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!** 

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