



How to change front  
suspension strut on **VW  
Beetle Convertible (5C7,  
5C8)** – 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:

VW Beetle Convertible (5C7, 5C8) 1.2 TSI, VW Beetle Convertible (5C7, 5C8) 1.4 TSI,  
VW Beetle Convertible (5C7, 5C8) 1.6 TDI, VW Beetle Convertible (5C7, 5C8) 2.0 TDI,  
VW Beetle Convertible (5C7, 5C8) 2.0 TSI

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: VW Touran I (1T3) 1.6 TDI

REPLACEMENT: SUSPENSION STRUT – VW BEETLE  
CONVERTIBLE (5C7, 5C8). LIST OF THE TOOLS YOU'LL  
NEED:



- Wire brush
- WD-40 spray
- 12-point socket 15/16"
- Combination spanner #18
- Combination spanner #21
- XZN socket bit # 6
- XZN socket bit # 14
- Drive socket # 13
- Drive socket # 14
- Drive socket # 16
- Drive socket # 18
- Drive socket # 21
- HEX bit No.H6.
- Torque wrench
- Ratchet wrench
- Tap wrench
- Copper grease
- Hydraulic strut spring compressor
- Wheel impact socket #17
- Flat chisel
- Hammer
- Hydraulic transmission jack
- Rubber mallet
- Crow bar
- Wheel chock

[Buy tools](#)

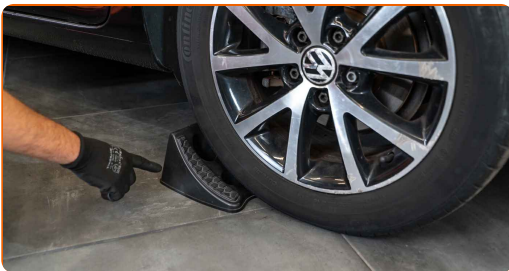
Replacement: suspension strut – VW Beetle Convertible (5C7, 5C8). Tip from AUTODOC:

- 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.

**CARRY OUT REPLACEMENT IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:**

1

Secure the wheels with chocks.

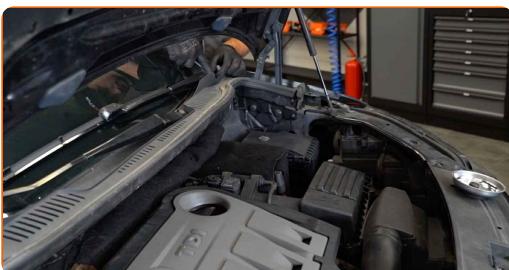


2

Open the bonnet.

3

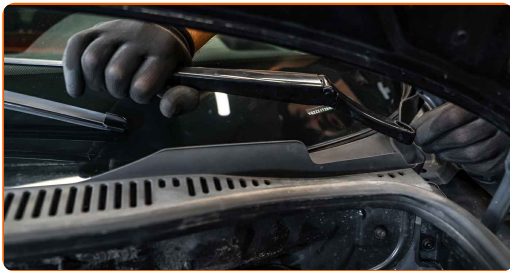
Remove the windscreen wiper arm nut covers.



4 Unscrew the fasteners of the windscreen wiper arms. Use a drive socket #14.



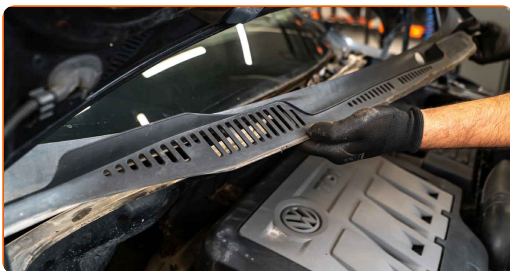
5 Remove the wiper arms.



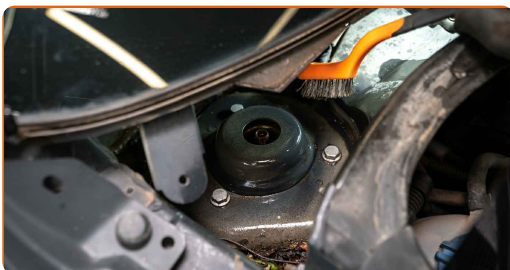
6 Remove the cowl grille seal.



7 Raise up and remove the cowl grille.



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



9

Unscrew the upper fastening of the shock absorber strut. Use a drive socket #13.



Replacement: suspension strut – VW Beetle Convertible (5C7, 5C8). Tip:

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

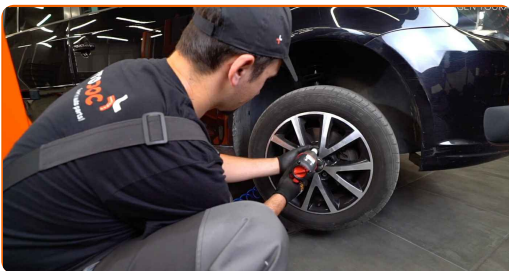
10

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



11

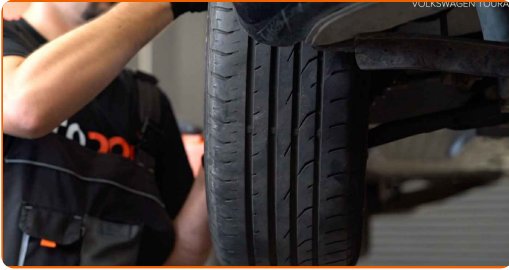
Unscrew the wheel bolts.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Warning! To avoid injury, hold the wheel while unscrewing the fastening bolts. VW Beetle Convertible (5C7, 5C8)

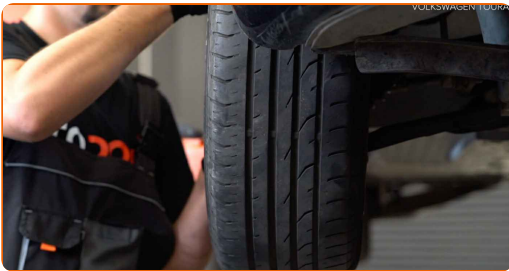
12 Remove the wheel.



13 Remove the wheel rim cover.



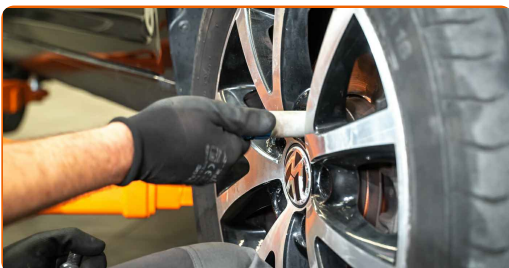
14 Install the wheel.



Replacement: suspension strut – VW Beetle Convertible (5C7, 5C8). AUTODOC recommends:

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

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



16 Loosen the wheel hub bolt. Use 15/16" drive 12-point socket.



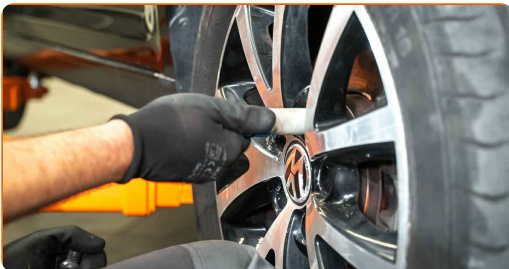
Replacement: suspension strut – VW Beetle Convertible (5C7, 5C8). AUTODOC recommends:

- Do not unscrew the fastener by more than 90 degrees.

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



18 Unscrew the wheel bolts.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Important! Hold the wheel while unscrewing the fastening bolts. VW Beetle Convertible (5C7, 5C8)



19 Remove the wheel.



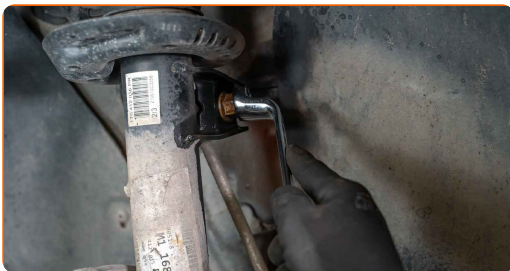
20 Disconnect the wiring and the brake hose from the bracket on the shock strut.



21 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.



22 Unscrew the nut and remove the stabilizer rod from the shock strut. Use a combination spanner #18. Use XZN #6.

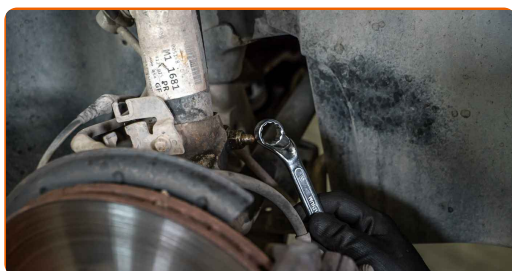


23 Remove the level control system sensor from the suspension control arm.

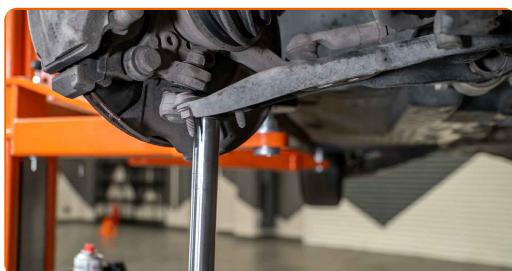
Please note!

- Some cars are not equipped with level control system sensors.

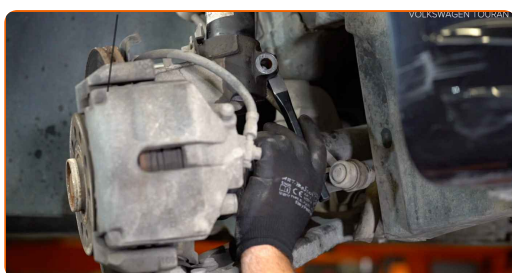
**24** Unscrew the nut and remove the shock absorber lower mounting bolt. Use a combination spanner #18. Use XZN #14.



**25** Prop up the steering knuckle. Use a hydraulic transmission jack.



**26** Disconnect the steering knuckle from the shock absorber strut. Use a flat metal-working chisel. Use a hammer.

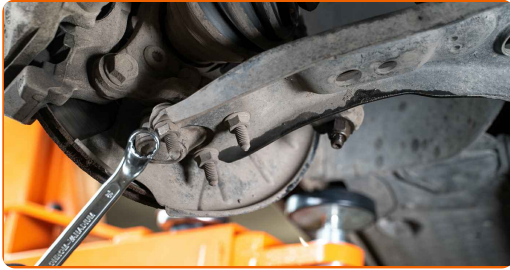


**27** Unscrew the fastener connecting the drive shaft to the wheel hub. Use 15/16" drive 12-point socket. Use a tap wrench.



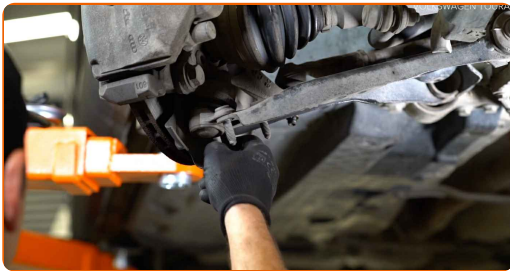
28

Unscrew the fastener connecting the ball joint to the suspension control arm. Use a drive socket #16.



29

Disconnect the spherical joint from the arm. Use a crowbar.



30

Remove the drive shaft from the wheel hub.



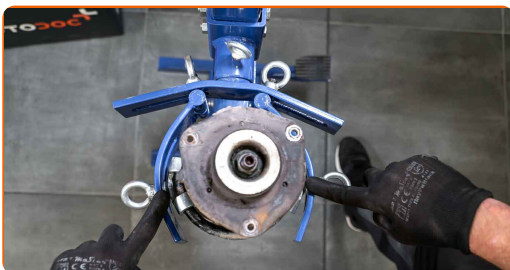
31

Remove the suspension strut.



32

Set the shock absorber strut on the spring compressor tool.



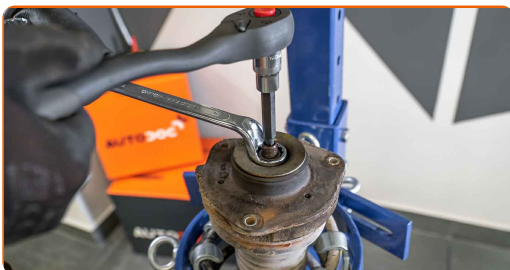
Replacement: suspension strut – VW Beetle Convertible (5C7, 5C8). Tip from AUTODOC experts:

- 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.

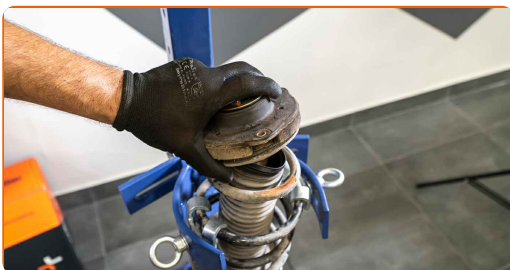
**33** Compress the spring.



**34** Remove the strut rod nut. Use a combination spanner #18. Use HEX No.H6.



**35** Remove the top strut mount.



36 Release the coil spring.



37 Remove the spring.



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



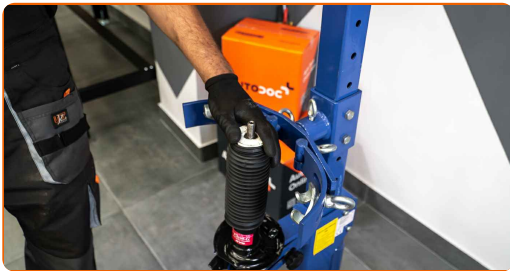
**AUTODOC recommends:**

- Replacement: suspension strut – VW Beetle Convertible (5C7, 5C8). Carefully inspect the mount, the boot, and the bump stop of the shock absorber. Replace if necessary.
- Before installing a new shock absorber you should pump it manually 3-5 times.

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



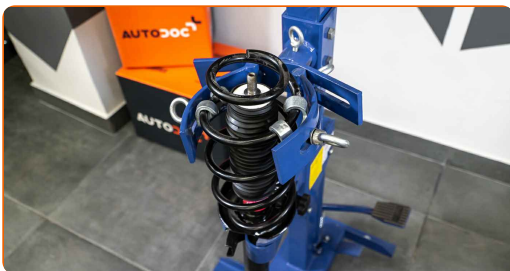
40 Install the dust sleeve and the bump stop on the new shock absorber.



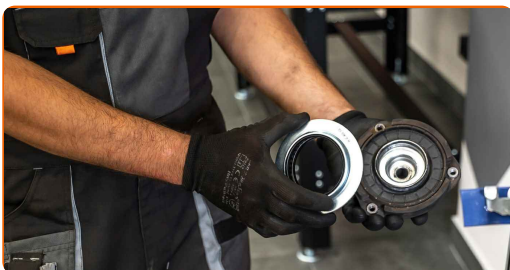
41 Install the spring on the shock absorber.



42 Compress the spring.



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



- 44 Tighten the shock strut piston rod nut. Use a drive socket #21. Use HEX No.H6. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 60 Nm torque.



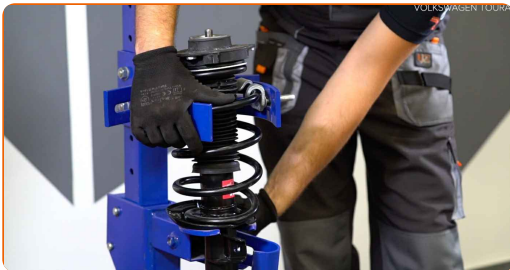
Replacement: suspension strut – VW Beetle Convertible (5C7, 5C8). AUTODOC experts recommend:

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

- 45 Decompress the spring.



- 46 Remove the assembled shock strut.



47

Install the shock strut into the wheel arch.



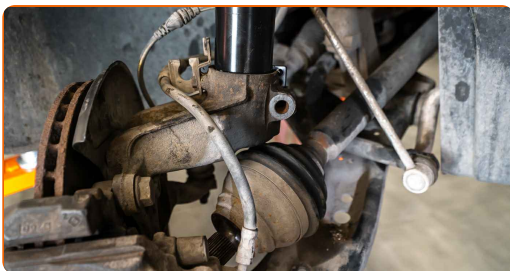
48

Tighten the shock strut top mount. Use a drive socket #13. Use a ratchet wrench.



49

Fix the shock absorber strut on the steering knuckle.

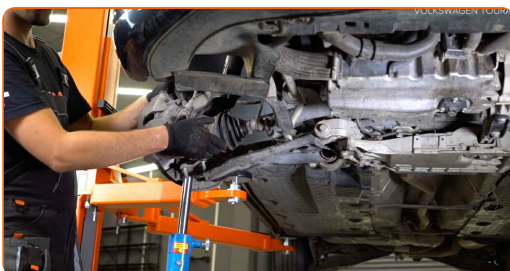


Replacement: suspension strut – VW Beetle Convertible (5C7, 5C8). Tip:

- If necessary, use a rubber mallet.

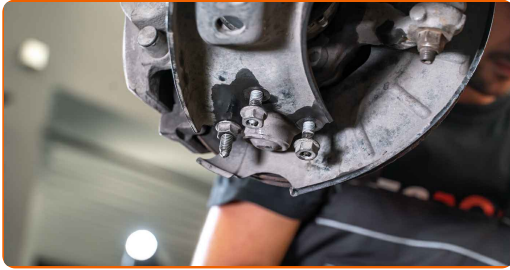
50

Mount the drive shaft into the wheel hub.

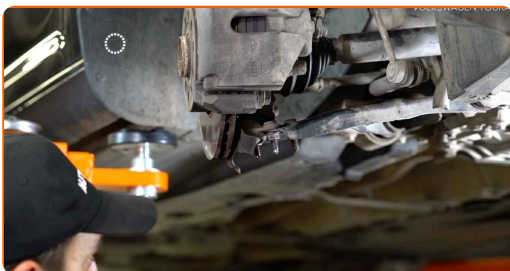




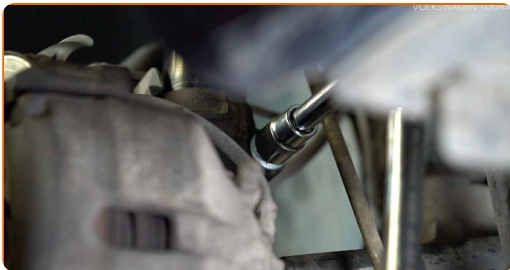
51 Attach the ball joint to the control arm.



52 Screw in the fasteners of the ball joint lock plate (3 pieces). Use a drive socket #16. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 60 Nm torque.



53 Install and tighten a new bolt of the steering knuckle. Important! Be sure to use new fasteners. Use a combination spanner #18. Use XZN #14. Use a drive socket #18. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 70 Nm torque.+90°



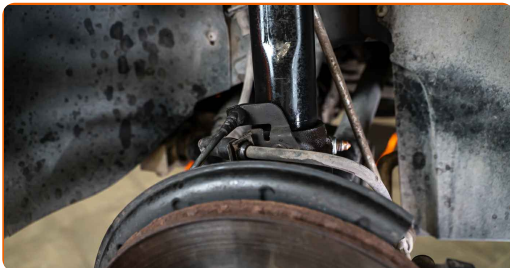
Please note!

- The tightening torque is indicated for a steel steering knuckle.

- 54** Secure the stabilizer link on the suspension strut. Use a combination spanner #18. Use XZN #6. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 65 Nm torque.



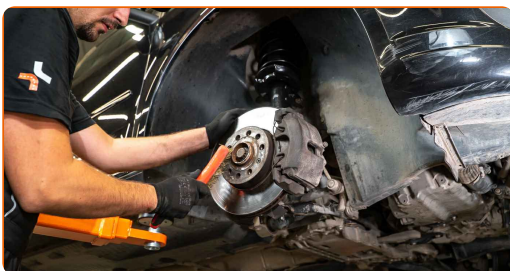
- 55** Fasten the brake hose on the strut. Connect the fastener of the ABS sensor cable to the shock absorber strut.



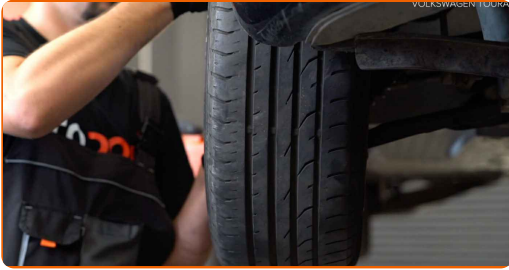
- 56** Install and tighten the drive shaft bolt. Use 15/16" drive 12-point socket.



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



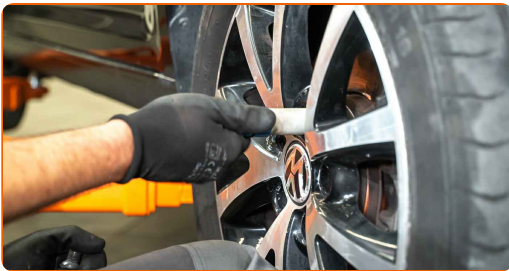
58 Install the wheel.



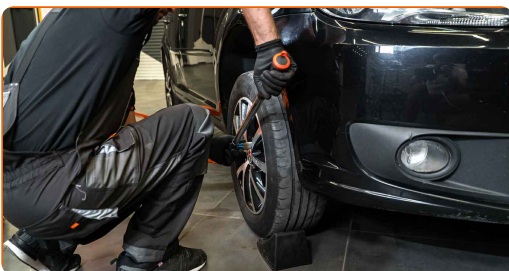
Replacement: suspension strut – VW Beetle Convertible (5C7, 5C8). Tip from AUTODOC:

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

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



60 Tighten the bolt connecting the drive shaft to the wheel hub. Important! Be sure to use new fasteners. Use 15/16" drive 12-point socket. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 70 Nm torque.+90°



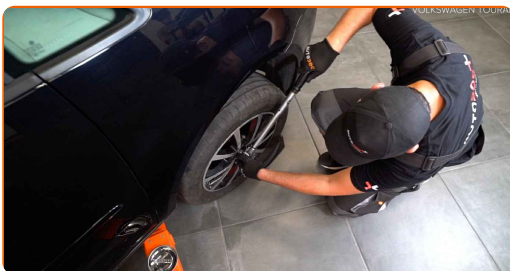
61

Install the wheel rim cover.



62

Lower the car and working in a cross order, tighten the wheel bolts. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 120 Nm torque.



63

Tighten the shock strut top mount. Use a drive socket #13. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 15 Nm torque.

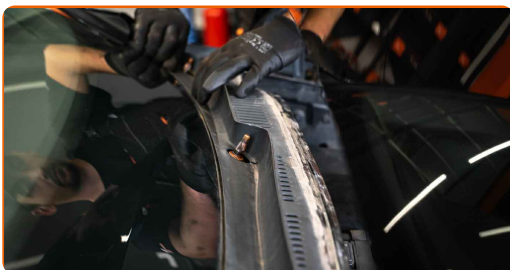


64

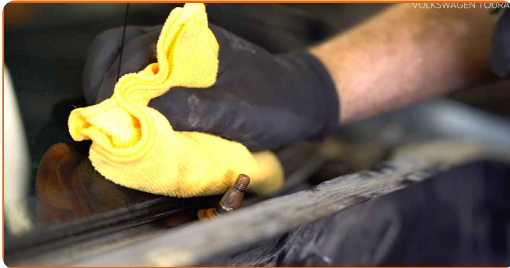
Clean the mounting seat of the cowl grille.

65

Install and secure the cowl grille.



- 66 Clean the pivots of the windscreen wiper arms. Use a wire brush. Treat the pivots of the windscreen wiper arms. Use copper grease.



- 67 Reinstall the wiper arms.



- 68 Tighten the fasteners of the wiper arms. Use a drive socket #14. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 10 Nm torque.

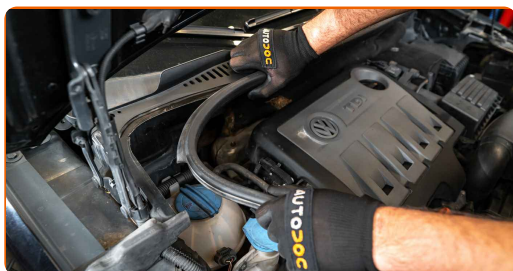


Replacement: suspension strut – VW Beetle Convertible (5C7, 5C8).  
Professionals recommend:

- Make sure not to mix up the wiper arms on the driver's and passenger's sides.

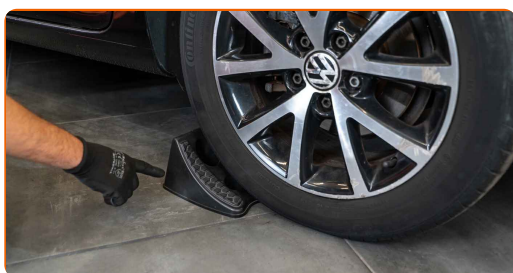
69

Install the cowl grille seal.



70

Remove the jacks and chocks.



71

Close the hood.

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