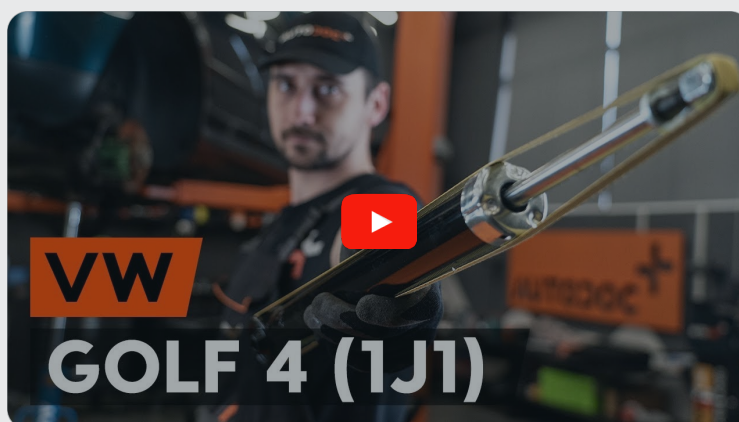




How to change rear  
shock absorbers on **VW**  
**Golf IV Variant (1J5)** –  
replacement guide

### 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 Golf IV Variant (1J5) 1.4 16V, VW Golf IV Variant (1J5) 1.6, VW Golf IV Variant (1J5) 2.0, VW Golf IV Variant (1J5) 1.9 SDI, VW Golf IV Variant (1J5) 1.9 TDI, VW Golf IV Variant (1J5) 2.3 V5, VW Golf IV Variant (1J5) 1.6 16V, VW Golf IV Variant (1J5) 2.0 Bi-Fuel, VW Golf IV Variant (1J5) 1.6 FSI, VW Golf IV Variant (1J5) 1.8 T

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 Golf IV Hatchback (1J1) 1.6

**REPLACEMENT: SHOCK ABSORBERS – VW GOLF IV  
VARIANT (1J5). TOOLS YOU MIGHT NEED:**



- Wire brush
- WD-40 spray
- Brake cleaner
- Copper grease
- Combination spanner #16
- Combination spanner #21
- Drive socket # 16
- Drive socket # 21
- Wheel impact socket #17
- Ratchet wrench
- Torque wrench
- Tap wrench
- Crow bar
- Vice
- Locking pliers
- Hydraulic transmission jack
- Wheel chock

**Buy tools**

Replacement: shock absorbers – VW Golf IV Variant (1J5). Tip from AUTODOC:

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

**REPLACEMENT: SHOCK ABSORBERS – VW GOLF IV VARIANT (1J5).  
RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE OF STEPS:**

**1** Secure the wheels with chocks.

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



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

**4** Unscrew the wheel bolts.

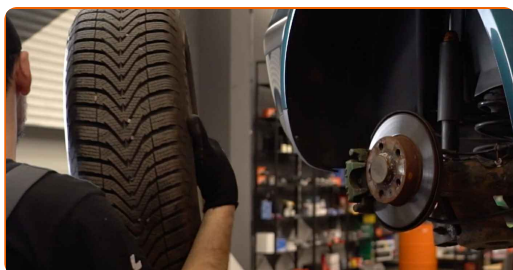


Replacement: shock absorbers – VW Golf IV Variant (1J5). Professionals recommend:

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

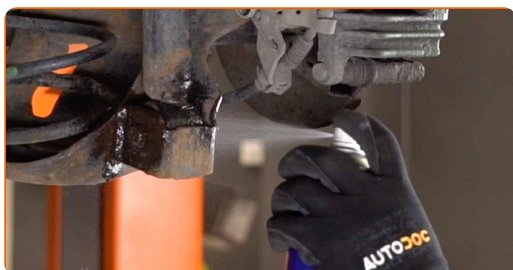
5

Remove the wheel.



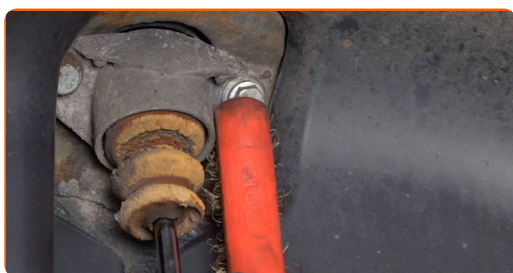
6.1

Clean the shock absorber fasteners.



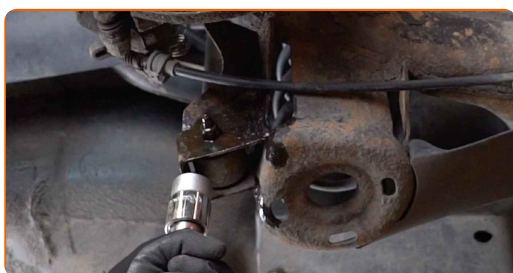
6.2

Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.

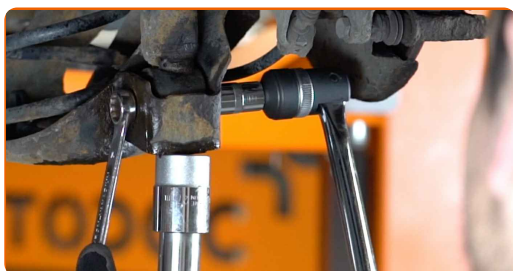


7

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



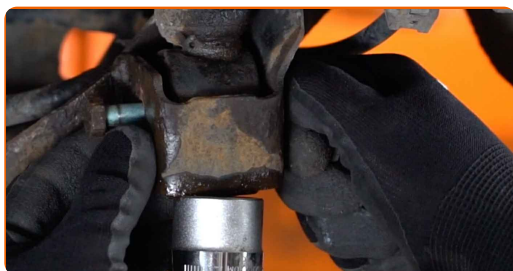
- 8** Unscrew the lower fastener of the shock absorber. Use a combination spanner #21. Use a drive socket #21. Use a tap wrench.



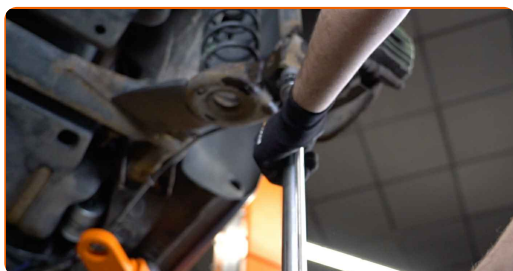
**AUTODOC recommends:**

- Important! Hold the shock absorber while unscrewing the fastening bolts. VW Golf IV Variant (1J5)

- 9** Remove the fastening bolt.



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



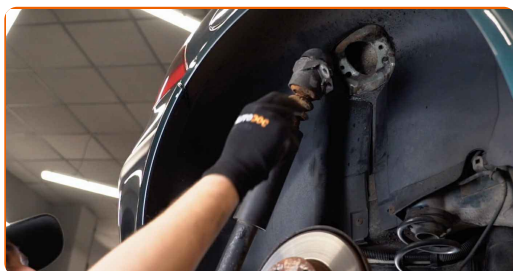
**AUTODOC recommends:**

- VW Golf IV Variant (1J5) – Do not lower the transmission jack sharply to avoid damaging components and mechanisms of the car.

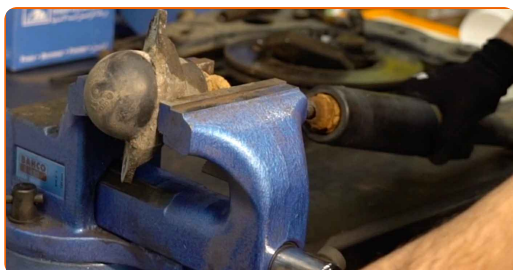
**11** Unscrew the upper fastener of the shock absorber. Use a drive socket #16. Use a ratchet wrench.



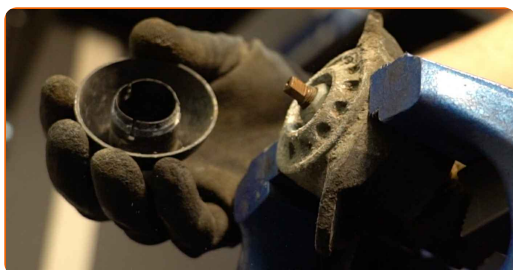
**12** Remove the shock absorber.



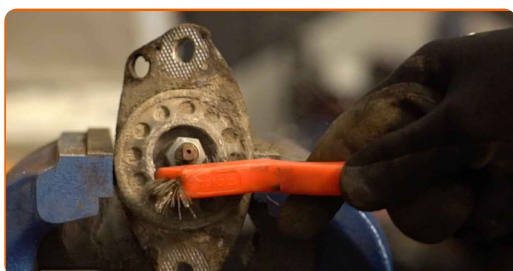
**13** Grip the shock absorber in a vice.



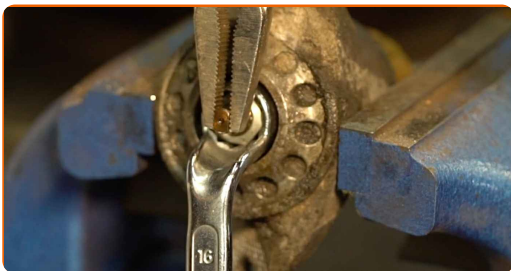
**14** Remove the protective cap of the shock absorber mount. Use a crowbar.



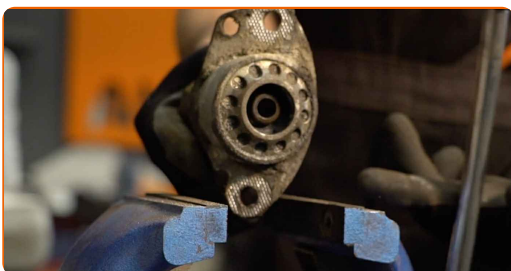
**15** Clean the shock absorber rod fastener. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



**16** Remove the shock absorber piston rod fastening. Use a combination spanner #16. Use locking pliers.



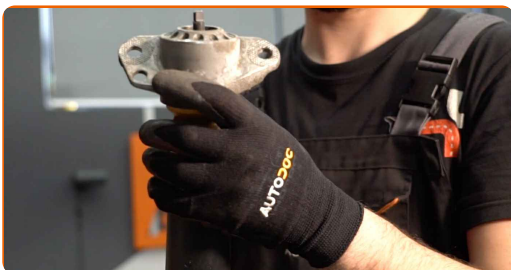
**17** Remove the shock absorber mount, boot and bump stop.



Replacement: shock absorbers – VW Golf IV Variant (1J5). AUTODOC experts recommend:

- Thoroughly examine the shock absorber mount, dust boot, bump stop. Replace them if necessary.
- Before installing a new shock absorber you should pump it manually 3-5 times.

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





- 19 Screw the shock strut piston rod upper fastening. Use a combination spanner #16. Use a drive socket #16. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 25 Nm torque.



- 20 Release the vice and take out the shock absorber.



- 21 Install the protective cap of the shock absorber mount.



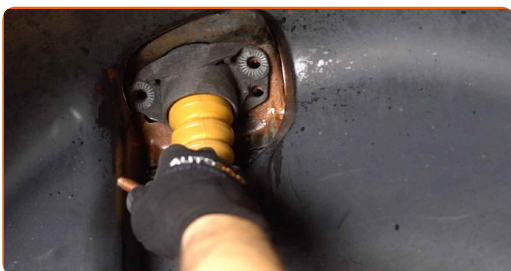
- 22 Clean the shock absorber mounting seats. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



**23** Treat the shock absorber mounting seats. Use copper grease.



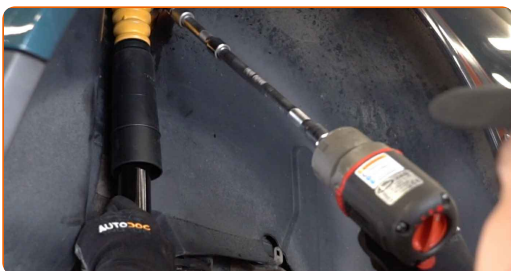
**24** Place the shock absorber in the wheel arch and secure it.



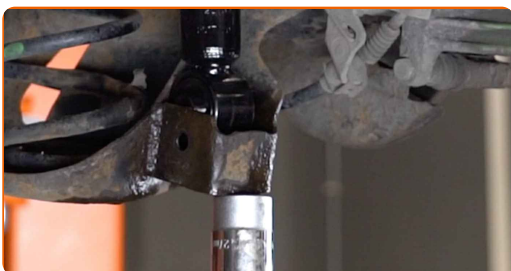
Replacement: shock absorbers – VW Golf IV Variant (1J5). AUTODOC recommends:

- To avoid injury, hold the shock absorber cautiously tight when screwing in the fastening bolts.

**25** Screw the upper fastener of the shock absorber. Use a drive socket #16.



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

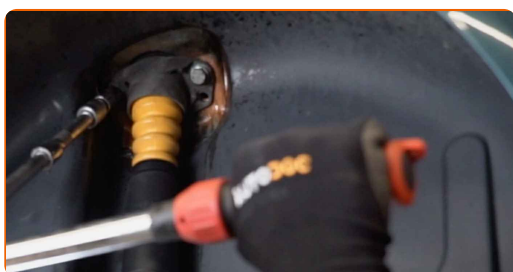


**27** Install the fastening bolt.

**28** Screw in the lower fastener of the shock absorber. Use a combination spanner #21. Use a drive socket #21.



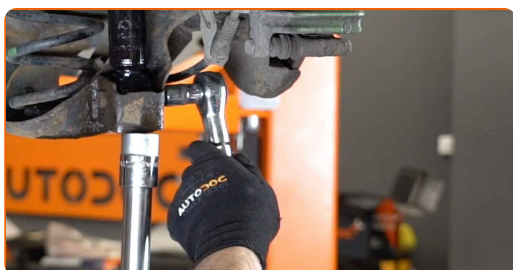
**29** Tighten the top shock absorber fastening. Use a combination spanner #16. Use a drive socket #16. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 30 Nm torque.+90°



**AUTODOC recommends:**

- Important! Be sure to use new fasteners.

**30** Tighten the lower fastener of the shock absorber. Use a combination spanner #21. Use a drive socket #21. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 40 Nm torque.+90°



**AUTODOC recommends:**

- Important! Be sure to use new fasteners.

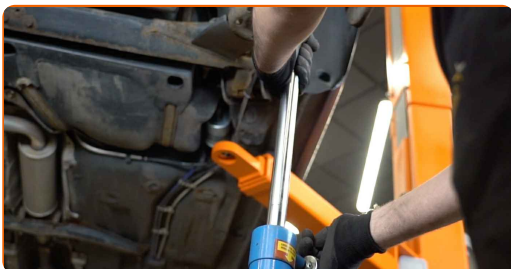
**31**

Treat the shock absorber fasteners. Use copper grease.



**32**

Remove the mounting from under the rear axle beam.



**AUTODOC recommends:**

- Replacement: shock absorbers – VW Golf IV Variant (1J5). Lower the transmission jack smoothly, without jerks, to avoid damaging components and mechanisms.

**33**

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



**34**

Clean the brake disk surface. Use a brake cleaner.

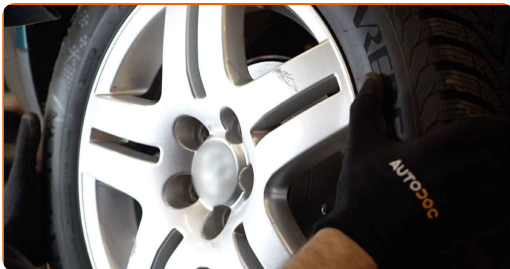


Replacement: shock absorbers – VW Golf IV Variant (1J5). Tip from AUTODOC experts:

- After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

**35**

Install the wheel.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Important! Hold the wheel while screwing in the fastening bolts. VW Golf IV Variant (1J5)

**36**

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



**37**

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

**38**

Remove the jacks and chocks.

**WELL DONE!** 

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