



How to change front
suspension strut on **VW**
GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521) –
replacement guide

SIMILAR VIDEO TUTORIAL



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

i Important!

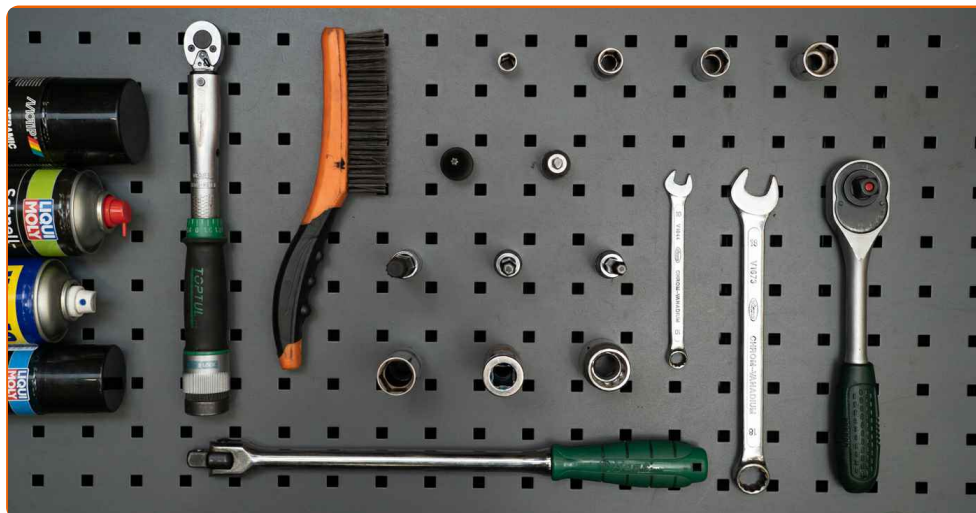
This replacement procedure can be used for:

VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521) 1.6 BiFuel, VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521) 1.6 TDI, VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521) 1.2 TSI, VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521) 1.4 16V, VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521) 1.6 FSI, VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521) 1.9 TDI, VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521) 2.0 TDI 16V, VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521) 2.0 FSI, VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521) 1.6, VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521) 2.0 TDI, VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521) 1.4 TSI, VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521) 1.4 FSI, VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521) 1.6 MultiFuel

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: SEAT Leon Hatchback (1P1) 2.0 FSI

REPLACEMENT: SUSPENSION STRUT – VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521). TOOLS YOU NEED:



- Wire brush
- WD-40 spray
- Brake cleaner
- Ceramic grease
- Copper grease
- Torque wrench
- Combination spanner #10
- Combination spanner #18
- Drive socket # 10
- Drive socket # 13
- Drive socket # 16
- Drive socket # 18
- 12-point socket # 24
- 21-mm strut nut socket
- XZN socket bit #6
- XZN socket bit #14
- Shock absorber socket
- Torx bit T30
- HEX bit No.H6
- HEX bit No.H7
- Wheel impact socket #17
- Ratchet wrench
- Tap wrench
- Hydraulic transmission jack
- Fender cover
- Wheel chock

Buy tools

Replacement: suspension strut – VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521). AUTODOC experts recommend:

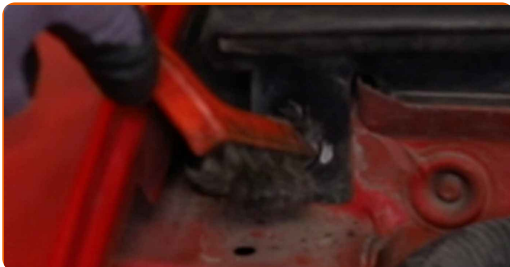
- Both shock struts of the front suspension should be replaced simultaneously.
- The replacement procedure is identical for the left and right shock struts of the front suspension.
- Please note: all work on the car – VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521) – should be done with the engine switched off.

CARRY OUT REPLACEMENT IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

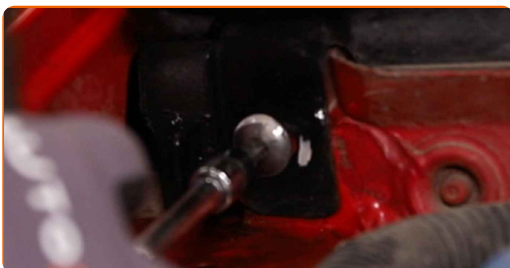
1 Open the bonnet.

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

3 Clean the plastic panel fasteners. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



4 Unscrew the plastic panel fasteners. Use Torx T30. Use a ratchet wrench.



5 Remove the rubber strip.



6 Remove the plastic panel.



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



8 Loosen the upper fasteners of the suspension strut. Use a drive socket #13. Use a ratchet wrench.



9 Secure the wheels with chocks.

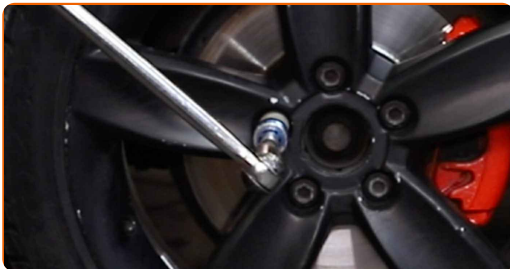
10

Loosen the fastener of the driveshaft. Use 12-point socket No.24. Use a tap wrench.



11

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



12

Raise the car.

Replacement: suspension strut – VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521). Professionals recommend:

- If you are using a jack, make sure it rests on a flat surface without any unevenness.
- Be sure to additionally secure the car with jack stands.

13

Unscrew the wheel bolts.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Warning! To avoid injury, hold the wheel while unscrewing the fastening bolts. VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521)

14

Remove the wheel.



15

Clean the fastener that connects the sway bar link to the suspension strut. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



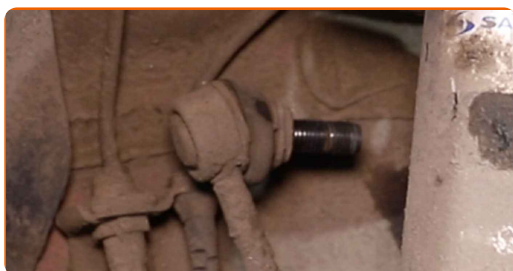
16

Unscrew the fastener connecting the stabilizer link to the shock strut. Use a combination spanner #18. Use XZN #6. Use a ratchet wrench.



17

Remove the stabilizer rod.



18 Disconnect the ABS sensor wiring.



19 Clean the fastener that connects the brake hose bracket to the suspension strut. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



20 Unscrew the fastener that connects the brake hose bracket to the suspension strut. Use a combination spanner #10.



21 Remove the brake hose bracket.



- 22** Clean the lower fastener connecting the suspension strut to the steering knuckle. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



- 23** Unscrew the lower fastener connecting the shock strut to the steering knuckle. Use a drive socket #18. Use XZN #14. Use a ratchet wrench.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Important! Hold the suspension strut while unscrewing the fastening bolts. VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521)

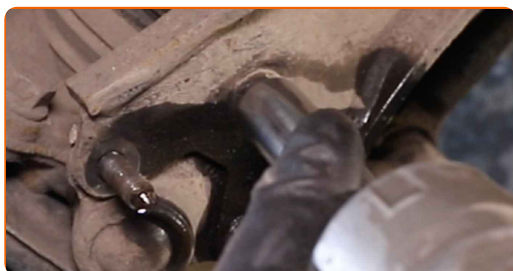
- 24** Remove the fastening bolt.



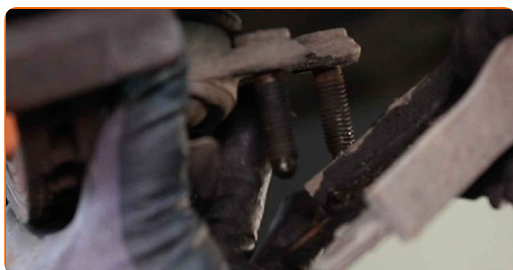
25 Clean the fasteners connecting the ball joint to the suspension control arm. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



26 Unscrew the fasteners connecting the ball joint to the control arm. Use a drive socket #16. Use a ratchet wrench.



27 Disconnect the ball joint from the control arm.



28 Unscrew the fastener connecting the drive shaft to the wheel hub.

29 Remove the fastening bolt.



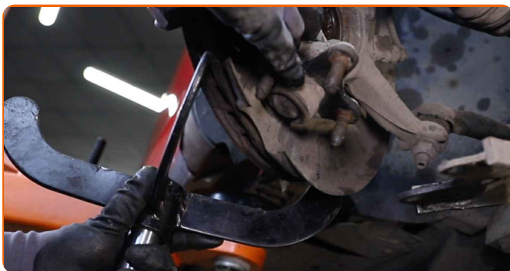
30 Detach the driveshaft from the steering knuckle.



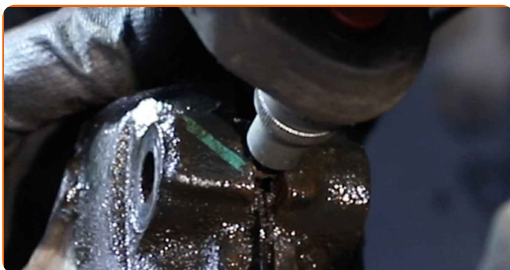
Replacement: suspension strut – VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521). Tip:

- Make sure that the drive shaft is not unloaded (when the car is jacked).

31 Prop up the steering knuckle. Use a hydraulic transmission jack.



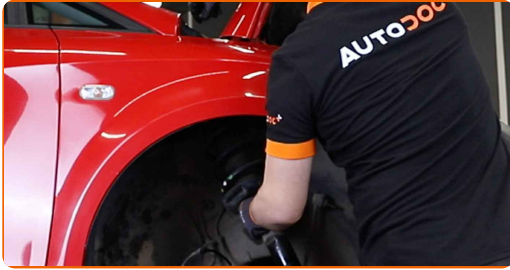
32 Release the lower fastener connecting the shock strut to the steering knuckle. Use a special drive socket to remove the shock absorber.



33 Disconnect the steering knuckle from the shock absorber strut.



34 Unscrew the upper fasteners of the shock strut.



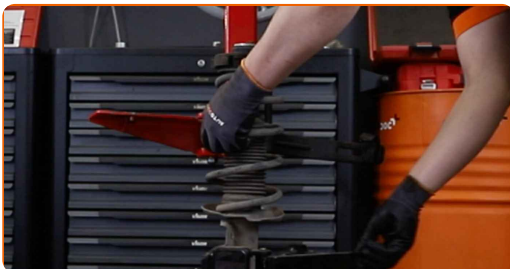
AUTODOC recommends:

- VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521) – To avoid injury, hold the suspension strut while unscrewing the fastening bolts.

35 Remove the suspension strut.



36 Set the suspension strut on the spring compressor tool.



AUTODOC recommends:

- 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.

37

Compress the spring.



38

Clean the strut piston rod. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



39

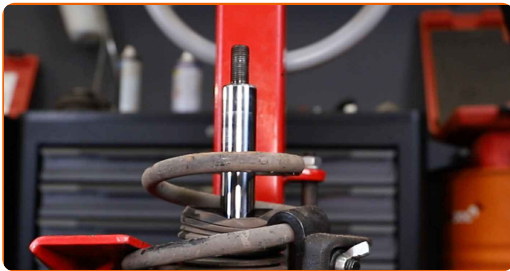
Remove the strut piston rod nut. Use a 21-mm strut nut socket. Use HEX No.H7. Use a ratchet wrench.



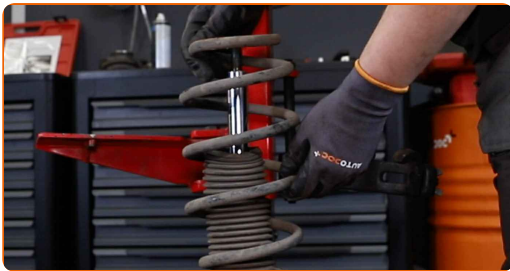
40 Remove the upper strut mount together with the bump stop.



41 Release the coil spring.



42 Remove the spring.



43 Remove the dust boot.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: suspension strut – VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521). Carefully inspect the mount, the boot, and the bump stop of the shock absorber. Replace if necessary.

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



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



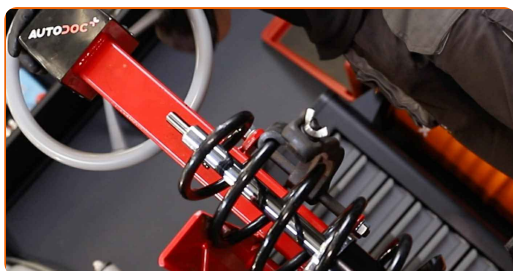
AUTODOC recommends:

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

46 Install the spring on the shock absorber.



47 Compress the spring.



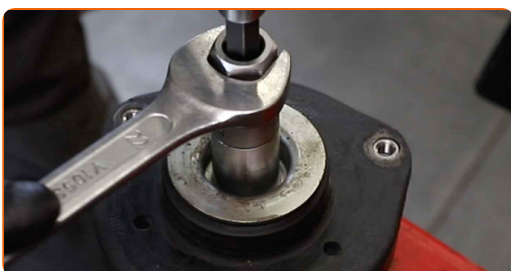
48 Install the dust boot.



49 Install the upper strut mount together with the bump stop.



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



Replacement: suspension strut – VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521). Tip:

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

51 Decompress the spring.



52 Treat the shock strut rod. Use copper grease.



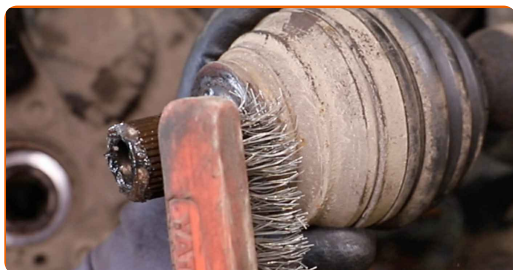
53 Remove the assembled shock strut.



54 Clean the mounting seats of the shock strut. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



55 Clean the splines of the drive shaft CV joint. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



56 Treat the splines of the driveshaft CV joint. Use copper grease.



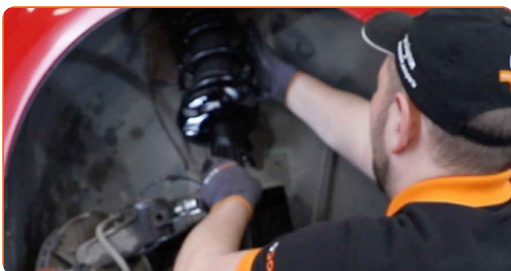
57 Clean the ball joint mounting seat. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



58 Clean the suspension strut mounting seat on the steering knuckle. Clean the CV axle mounting seat. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



59 Install the shock strut into the wheel arch.



60

Secure the upper fasteners of the shock strut. Do not tighten it.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Important! Hold the suspension strut while screwing in the fastening bolts. VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521)

61

Fix the shock absorber strut on the steering knuckle.



62

Install the fastening bolt.



63

Screw in the fastener that connects the shock strut to the steering knuckle. Use a drive socket #18. Use XZN #14. Use a ratchet wrench.



64

Remove the support from under the steering knuckle.

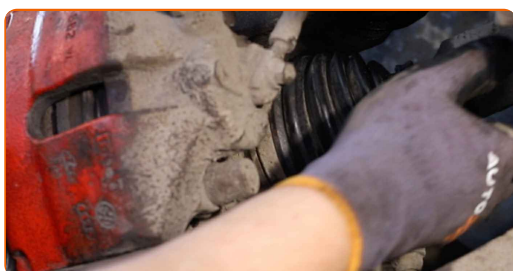


AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: suspension strut – VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521). Lower the transmission jack smoothly, without jerks, to avoid damaging components and mechanisms.

65

Install the drive shaft.



66

Install and tighten the drive shaft bolt. Use 12-point socket No.24. Use a ratchet wrench.



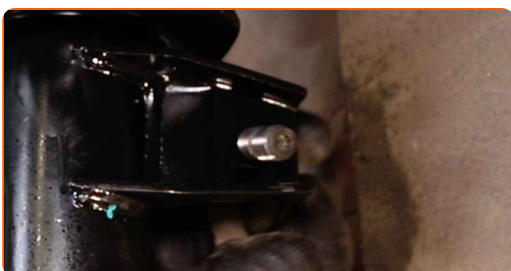
67 Attach the ball joint to the control arm.



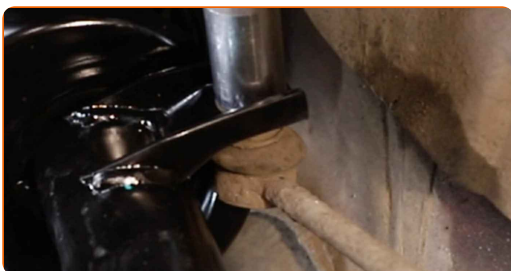
68 Tighten the fasteners that connect the ball joint to the suspension arm. Use a drive socket #16. Use a ratchet wrench.



69 Install the transverse stabilizer link.



70 Tighten the stabiliser link fastener. Use a drive socket #18. Use XZN #6. Use a ratchet wrench.



- 71 Tighten the lower fasteners of the suspension strut. Use a drive socket #18. Use XZN #14. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 70 Nm torque.+90°



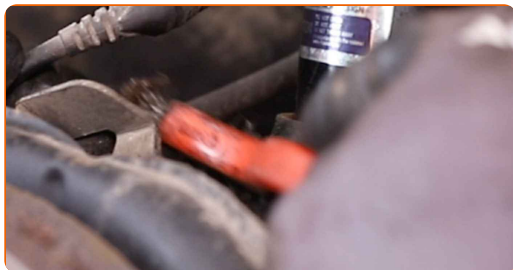
- 72 Tighten the fastener connecting the stabilizer link to the shock strut. Use a drive socket #18. Use XZN #6. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 65 Nm torque.



- 73 Tighten the fasteners connecting the ball joint to the control arm. Use a drive socket #16. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 60 Nm torque.



- 74 Clean the brake hose bracket fasteners. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



75 Install the brake hose bracket.



76 Tighten the fastener that connects the brake hose bracket to the suspension strut. Use a combination spanner #10.



77 Tighten the brake hose fastening bracket to the shock strut. Use a drive socket #10. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 12 Nm torque.



78 Connect the ABS sensor wiring.



79 Clean the wheel rim mounting seat. Use a wire brush.



80

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



81

Clean the brake disk surface. Use a brake cleaner.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: suspension strut – VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521). After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

82

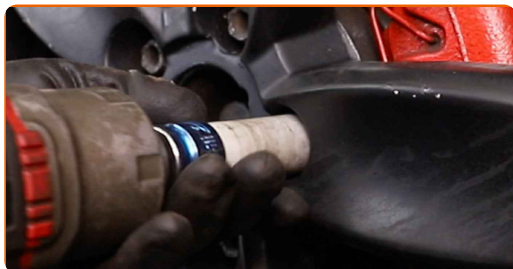
Install the wheel.



AUTODOC recommends:

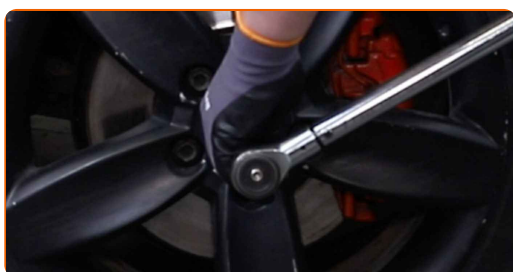
- Warning! To avoid injury, hold the wheel while screwing in the fastening bolts on the car. VW GOLF PLUS (5M1, 521)

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



84 Lower the car.

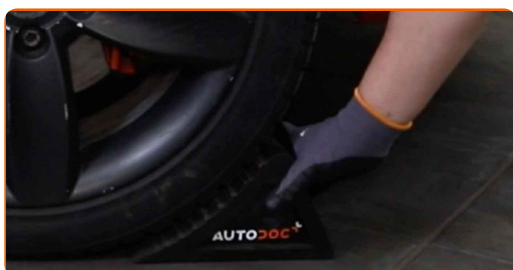
85 Tighten the bolt connecting the drive shaft to the wheel hub. Use 12-point socket No.24. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 70 Nm torque.+90°



86 Tighten the wheel bolts using a criss-cross pattern. Use wheel impact socket #17. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 120 Nm torque.



87 Remove the jacks and chocks.



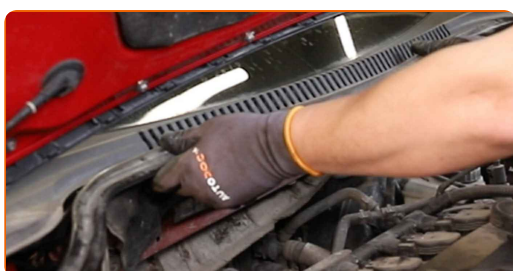
- 88 Tighten the upper fasteners of the shock strut. Use a drive socket #13. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 15 Nm torque.+90°



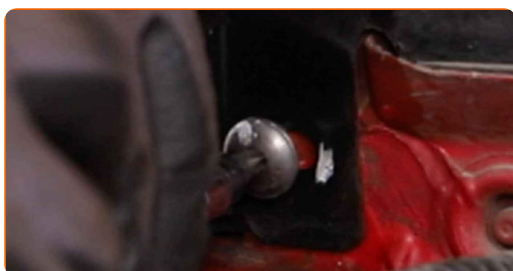
- 89 Treat the fasteners of the shock strut mount. Use copper grease.



- 90 Install the plastic panel.

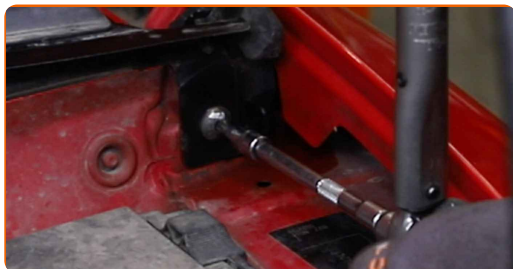


- 91 Screw on the plastic panel fasteners. Use Torx T30. Use a ratchet wrench.



92

Tighten the plastic panel fasteners. Use Torx T30. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 8 Nm torque.



93

Install the rubber strip.



94

Remove the fender protection cover.

95

Close the hood.

WELL DONE! 

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