



How to change rear
shock absorbers on **VW**
Passat (A32, A33) –
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 Passat (A32, A33) 2.0 TDI

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 (1T1, 1T2) 2.0 TDI

REPLACEMENT: SHOCK ABSORBERS – VW PASSAT (A32, A33). TOOLS YOU NEED:



- Wire brush
- WD-40 spray
- Brake cleaner
- Copper grease
- Combination spanner #18
- Combination spanner #21
- Drive socket # 16
- Drive socket # 17
- Drive socket # 18
- Drive socket # 21
- Wheel impact socket #17
- Ratchet wrench
- Torque wrench
- Hammer
- Tap wrench
- Crow bar
- Shock absorber socket DD N°6
- Vice
- Hydraulic transmission jack
- Wheel chock

Buy tools

Replacement: shock absorbers – VW Passat (A32, A33). Professionals recommend:

- 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 PASSAT (A32, A33).
RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE OF STEPS:**

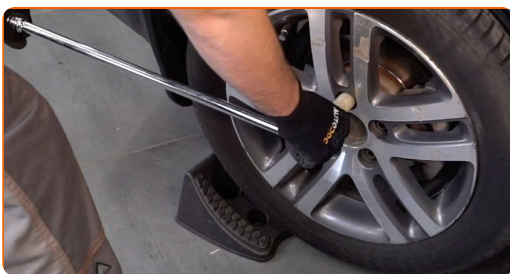
1

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.



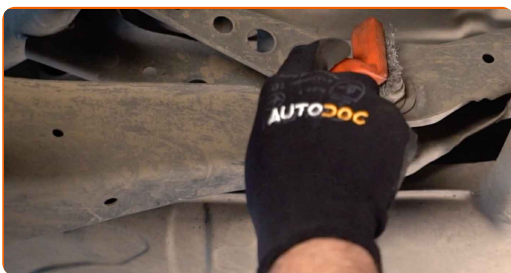
Replacement: shock absorbers – VW Passat (A32, A33). Tip:

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

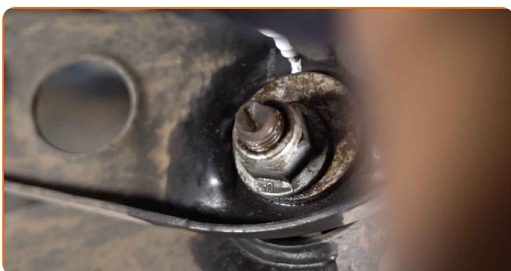
5 Remove the wheel.



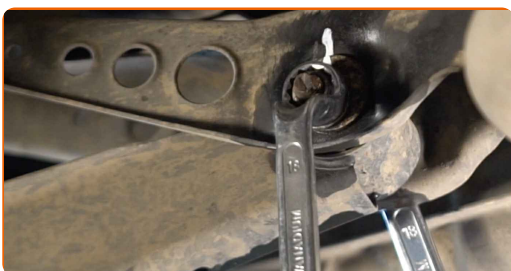
6 Clean all joints of the arm. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



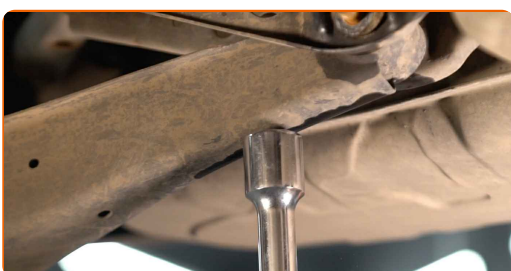
7 Make a mark on the camber adjustment bolt.



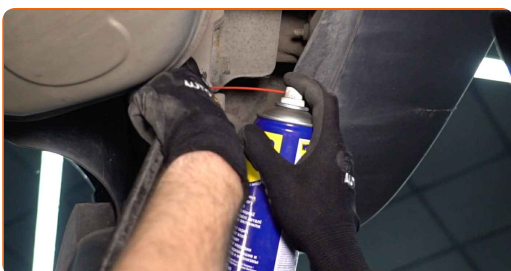
- 8 Unscrew the arm fastening to the beam. Use a combination spanner #18. Use a drive socket #18. Use a ratchet wrench.



- 9 Support the arm. Use a hydraulic transmission jack.



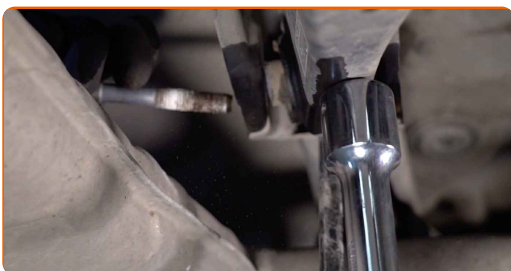
- 10 Clean the exhaust system fastener. Use WD-40 spray.



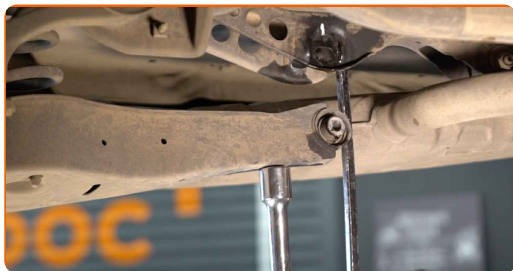
- 11 Remove the exhaust system fastener. Use a crowbar.



- 12 Remove the fastening bolt. Use a crowbar. Use a hammer.



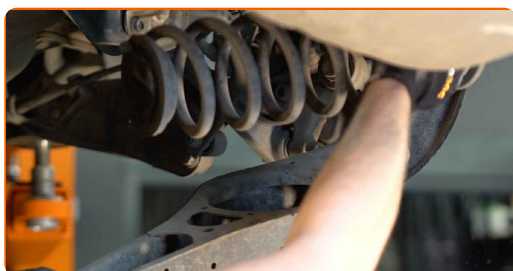
13 Remove the support from under the arm.



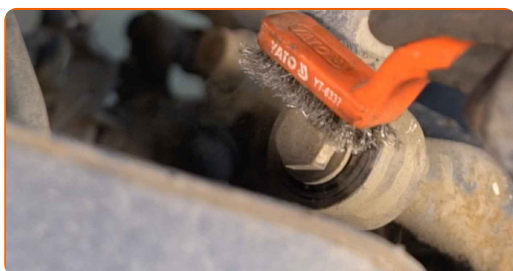
AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: shock absorbers – VW Passat (A32, A33). Lower the transmission jack smoothly, without jerks, to avoid damaging components and mechanisms.

14 Take out the spring.



15 Clean the shock absorber fasteners. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



16

Unscrew the lower fastener of the shock absorber. Use a drive socket #16. Use a tap wrench.



17

Unscrew the upper fastener of the shock absorber. Use a drive socket #16. Use a tap wrench.

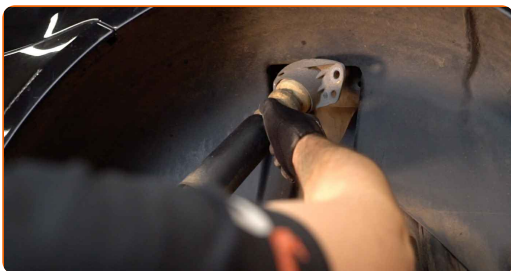


Replacement: shock absorbers – VW Passat (A32, A33). AUTODOC recommends:

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

18

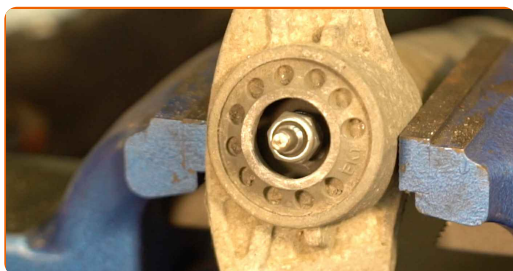
Remove the shock absorber.



19 Grip the shock absorber in a vice.



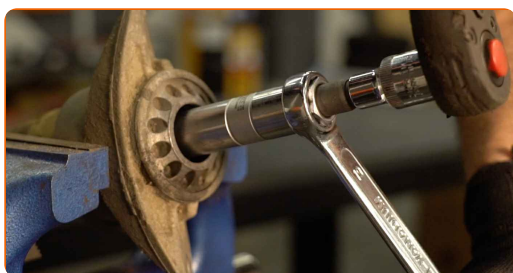
20 Remove the protective cap of the shock absorber mount. Use a crowbar.



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



22 Remove the shock absorber piston rod fastening. Use a shock absorber socket DDN#6. Use a drive socket #17. Use a ratchet wrench.



23 Remove the shock absorber mount, boot and bump stop.



Replacement: shock absorbers – VW Passat (A32, A33). Tip from AUTODOC:

- Examine the shock absorber dust cap and the bump stop. Replace them if necessary.
- Before installing a new shock absorber you should pump it manually 3-5 times.

24

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



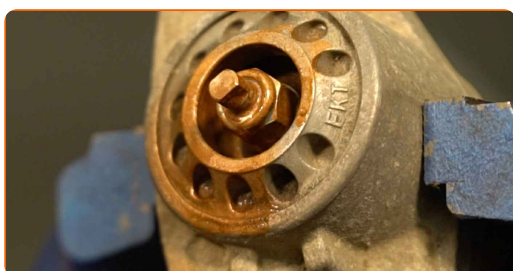
25

Screw the shock strut piston rod upper fastening. Use a shock absorber socket DDN⁰⁶. Use a drive socket #17. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 25 Nm torque.



26

Treat the shock absorber rod fastener. Use copper grease.



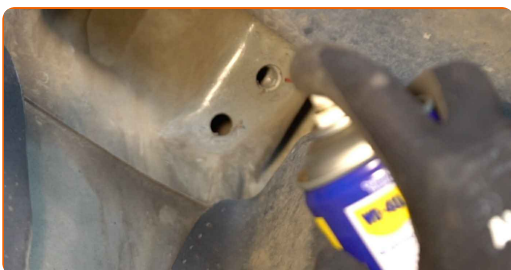
27 Install the protective cap of the shock absorber mount.



28 Release the vice and take out the shock absorber.



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



30 Place the shock absorber in the wheel arch and secure it.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Important! Hold the shock absorber while screwing in the fastening bolts. VW Passat (A32, A33)

- 31** Tighten the top shock absorber fastening. Use a drive socket #16. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 50 Nm torque.+45°



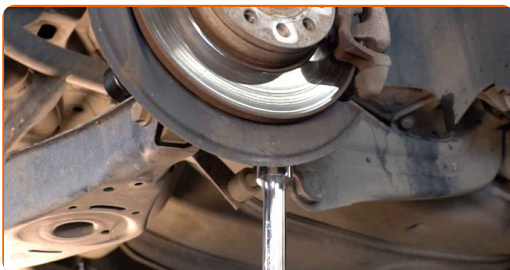
AUTODOC recommends:

- Important! Be sure to use new fasteners.

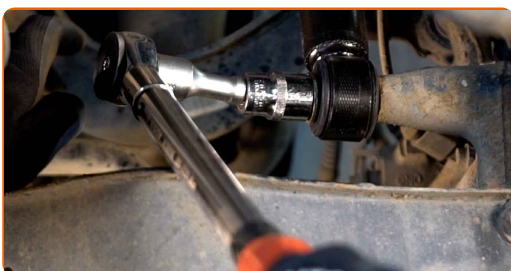
- 32** Screw in the lower fastener of the shock absorber. Use a drive socket #21. Use a combination spanner #21.



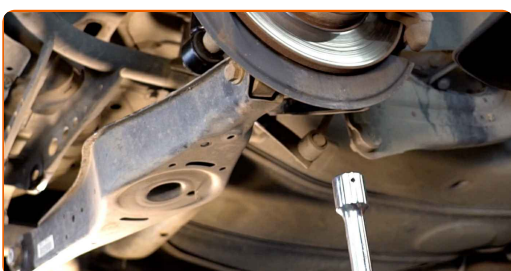
- 33** Support the arm. Use a hydraulic transmission jack.



- 34** 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 180 Nm torque.



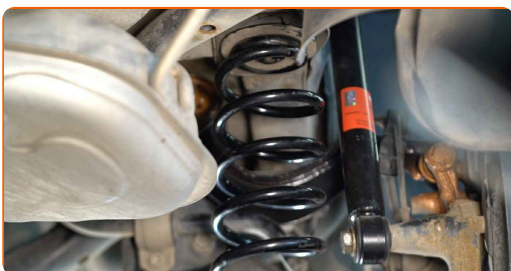
- 35** Remove the support from under the arm.



AUTODOC recommends:

- VW Passat (A32, A33) – Do not lower the transmission jack sharply to avoid damaging components and mechanisms of the car.

- 36** Install the coil spring together with the rubber mounts into the mounting seats.



37 Clean the mounting seats and the thread of the suspension arm. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



38 Support the arm. Use a hydraulic transmission jack.



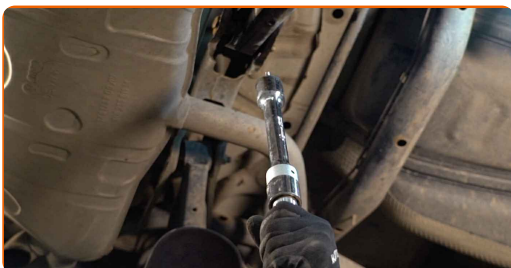
39 Install the fastening bolt.



Replacement: shock absorbers – VW Passat (A32, A33). Tip from AUTODOC experts:

- Adjust the position of the alignment bolt according to the mark.

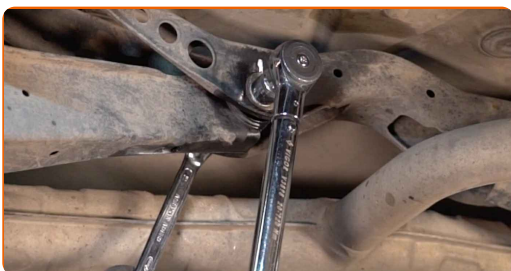
40 Remove the support from under the arm.



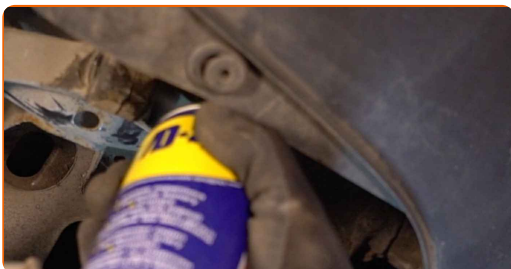
AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: shock absorbers – VW Passat (A32, A33). Lower the transmission jack smoothly, without jerks, to avoid damaging components and mechanisms.

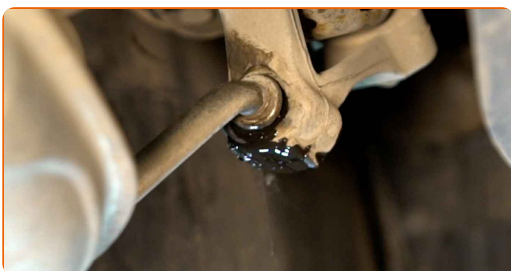
41 Tighten the fastener connecting the control arm to the rear subframe. Use a combination spanner #18. Use a drive socket #18. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 95 Nm torque.



42 Clean the exhaust system fastener. Use WD-40 spray.

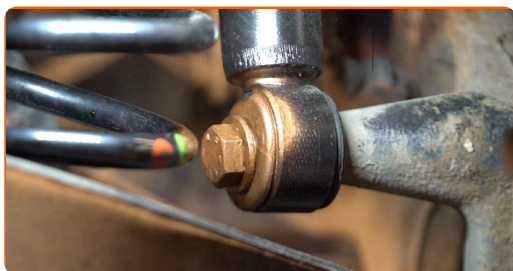


43 Install the exhaust system fastener.



44

Treat the shock absorber fasteners. Treat all joints of the arm. Use copper grease.



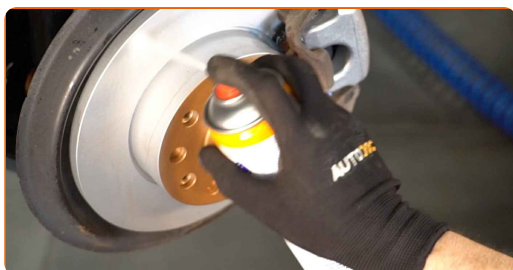
45

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



46

Clean the brake disk surface. Use a brake cleaner.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: shock absorbers – VW Passat (A32, A33). After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

47

Install the wheel.

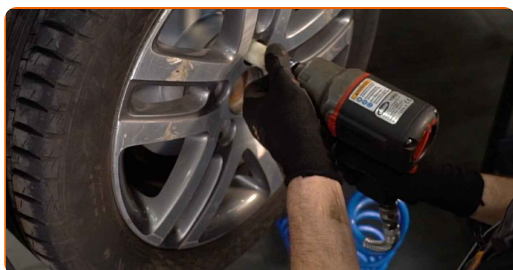


Replacement: shock absorbers – VW Passat (A32, A33). AUTODOC experts recommend:

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

48

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



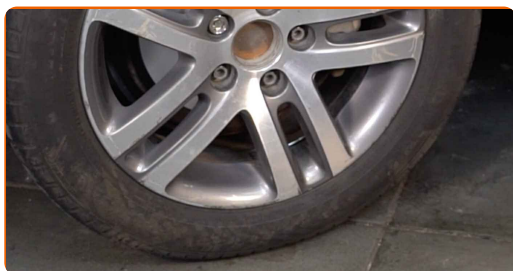
49

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



50

Remove the jacks and chocks.



WELL DONE! 

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