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Service Tips and Best Practices

Audi and VW – Front Upper Control Arms & Steering Knuckle Pinch Bolt

Brand	Supreme	Product	Front Upper Control Arms	Date	May 2020
Part Number(s)	MS70145/MS70146/MS70198/MS70199				

The majority of Audi and some VW vehicle models feature a multilink front suspension setup. This setup includes dual front upper control arms mounted to the steering knuckle via a steel pinch bolt.

Owing to performance and light-weighting considerations, this steering knuckle is constructed from aluminum (exception of some early production Audi/VW vehicles where the knuckle is constructed from steel).

To replace one or both front upper control arms, this pinch bolt must be removed. However, often due to galvanic corrosion, this pinch bolt becomes seized to the steering knuckle and difficult to remove in situation. This effect is more prevalent in regions where salt is used during winter.

To prevent damage to the aluminum knuckle:

- Do not use an air tool such as a hammer or chisel to force out the bolt. This may enlarge the diameter or alter the taper of the bolt hole. The constant application of force from an air tool may also travel through the steering knuckle, damaging related components.
- Do not use a hammer or hammer/drift combination. A missed strike may cause personal injury and or damage the steering knuckle, strut assembly or upper control arms.
- Do not apply a heat source. Excessive heat can melt the aluminum knuckle. Additionally, due to their proximity, heat can also damage one or both upper control arms. Even at a lower temperature, a heat source can remove the protective heat treatment, softening the aluminum and increasing the possibility of breakage under load.
- Do inspect knuckle ears for damage, abnormal wear, and “out of roundness” before installing new pinch bolt.
- Do remove all rust, burrs and other contaminants from the bolt hole before installing new pinch bolt.
- Do not reuse the old pinch bolt and nut. Always ensure to renew hardware.
- Do follow the correct torque value when installing the new pinch bolt and nut. Do not overtighten as this may damage the knuckle ear.

Depending on the vehicle model, it is recommended to use the factory tool (VAS 6085) or Geodore-Klann extraction kits (KL-0250-40, KL-0250-41 KA, KL-0250-43 K) to remove pinch bolts from Audi/VW steering knuckles.

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