

C5 - Suspension Upgrade

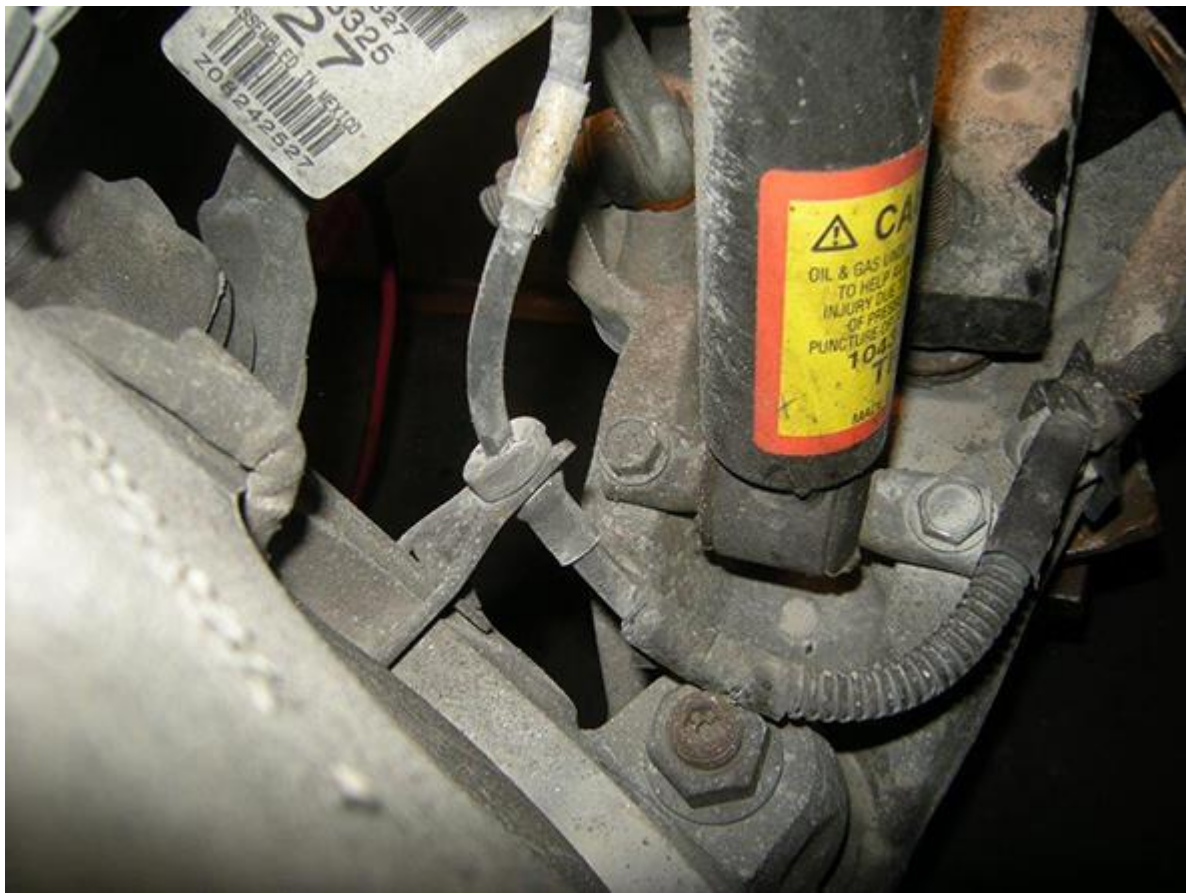
Are you happy with your Vette's relationship with the road? Do you feel like it should be tighter and more responsive to your needs? Is she feeling a little loose when hugging those curves? Well our resident relationship specialist, Ron Rail, has the remedy for your needs. Your ride will feel stiffer and the overall driving experience will be much more pleasurable after you read this article about upgrading your C5 or C6's suspension. Ron starts with the front end of the car and then moves to the back. (Captions refer to the pictures placed above the caption.)

FRONT SHOCKS

First - remove the front wheels.

Next - we are going to remove the front shocks. Once removed - install new ones.





Remove the two bottom bolts from each shock using a 13 mm socket.





Next - remove the top nut holding the stem. Loosen the nut on the stem with a 15mm wrench for the nut and a 6mm socket or vicegrips for the stem. Compress the shock and remove.



Old shock absorber on the left, new one on the right. Driver side shock was done in about 15 minutes. The passenger side required a bit more effort and took about 20 minutes.



Upper shock rubber mount and flat steel washer.



Tools used for front shocks - two 1/2" drive sockets, 1 X 15 mm wrench & 1 X 6 mm wrench

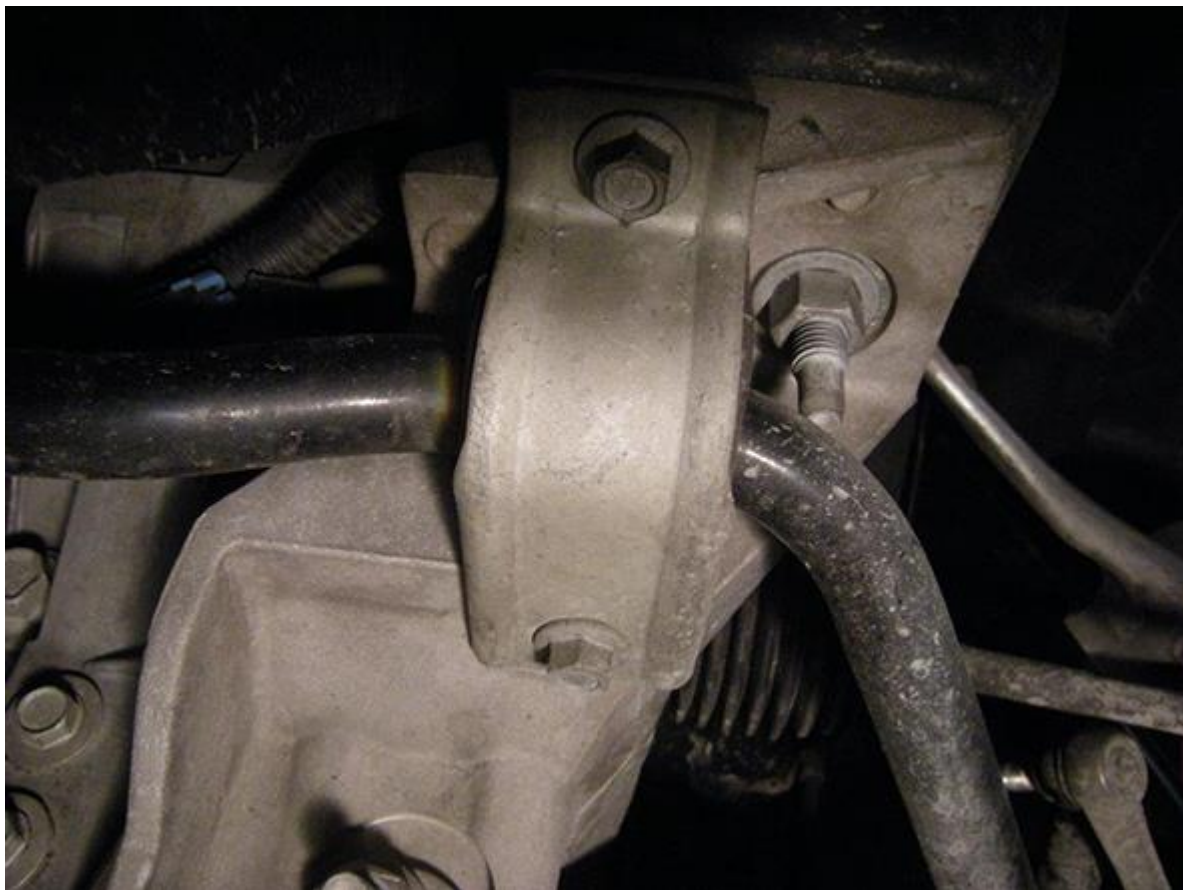
FRONT SWAY BAR



Remove nut from sway bar upper link with 18 mm socket or wrench, 6 mm allen socket.



Upper link removed



Remove the two 13mm bolts on each end of the bar.

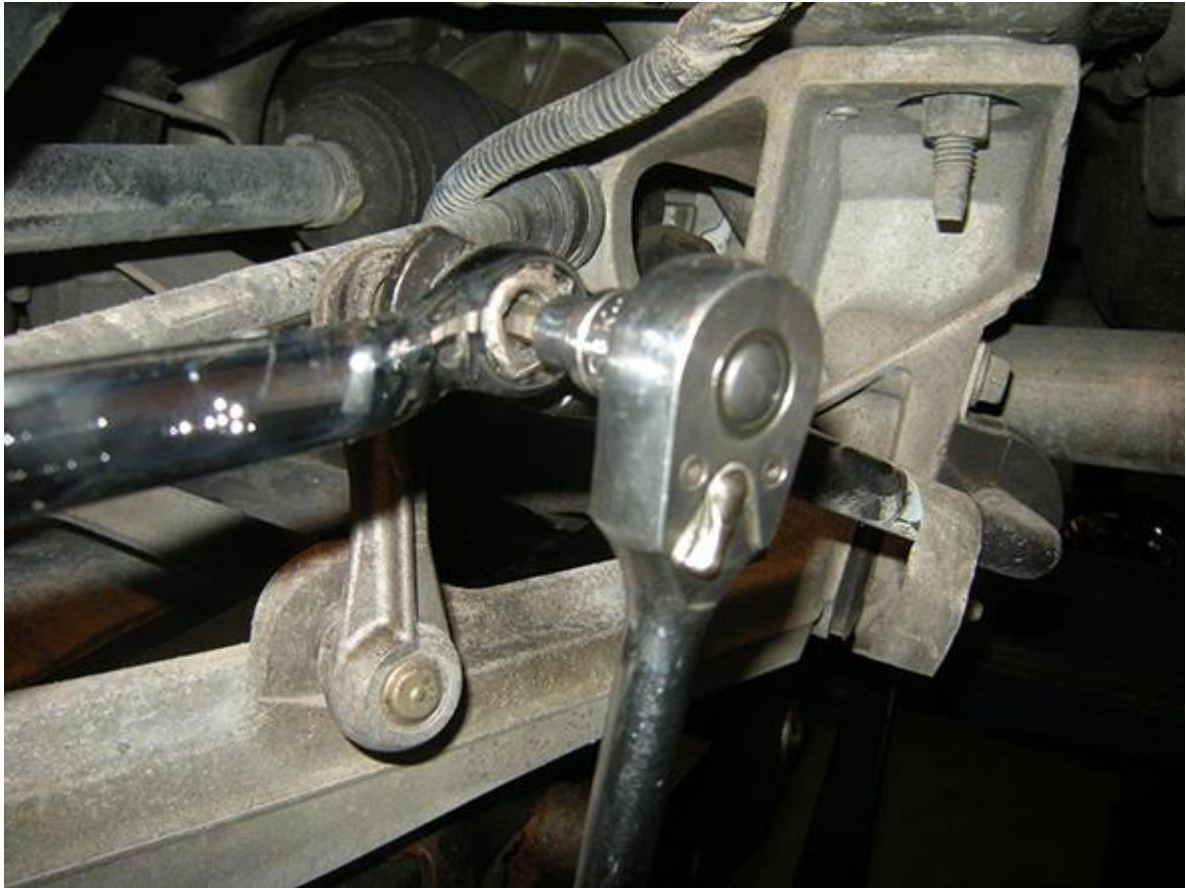


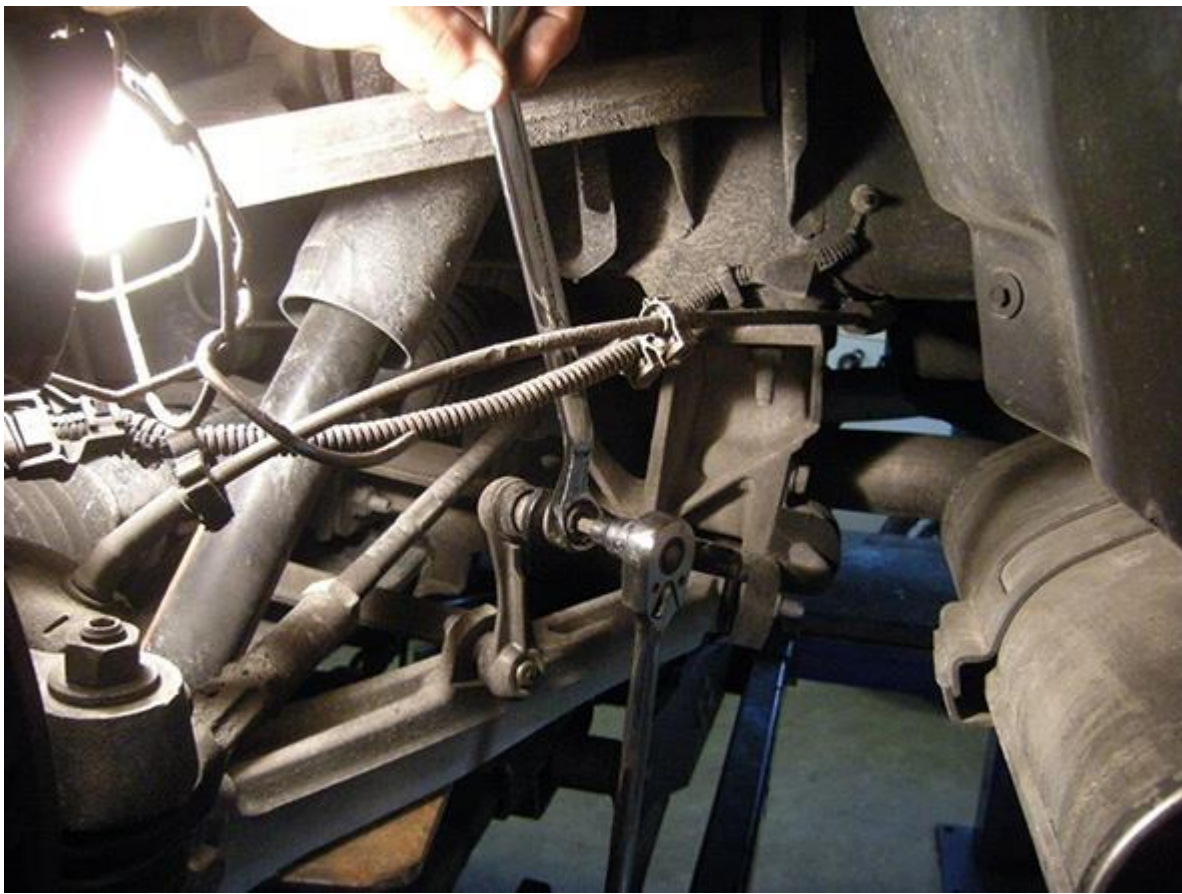
After removal. You can compare the old smaller sway bar beside the new larger sway bar.



Installation of the new bar is a reverse procedure of the removal of the old sway bar. Here is a picture of it installed.

REAR SWAY BAR





Remove sway bar link upper nut using 18mm and 6 mm wrenches and sockets.







Rear sway bar mounts - remove nut and bolt on each side with 15 & 18 mm wrenches and sockets.



Old sway bar has been removed and is compared to the new sway bar - (soon to be installed by following reverse order of the removal process.)



New sway bar installed.



Label says; "Genuine GM Parts Made in Germany" !!



Use lubricant on bushings to stop from squeaking. Be sure to re-torque all nuts to specs. Total time for removal and installation of new rear sway bar - 1/2 an hour.

REAR SHOCKS





Remove 24 mm bottom nut and bolt from each rear shock.





Remove 2 top 13 mm bolts from each shock.



Compress old shocks and remove. Old shock on left, new one on right.



Installation of new shock begins with the new shock being compressed.



It is then tied or strapped in compressed position.





The shock is positioned.



The lower bolts are installed first and then the strap is removed. The top two bolts are then installed and all bolts are torqued.



Tools used. Time to install rear shocks - 15 minutes per side.