Kit 78518

Nissan R35 GT-R

Front Application

INSTALLATION GUIDE

For maximum effectiveness and safety, please read these instructions completely before proceeding with installation.

Failure to read these instructions can result in an incorrect installation.

MN-928 • (011408) • ERN 7904

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Introduction

The purpose of this publication is to assist with the installation, maintenance and troubleshooting of this Nissan R35 GT-R Performance kit.

It is important to read and understand the entire installation guide before beginning installation or performing any maintenance, service or repair. The information includes a hardware list, step-by-step installation information, maintenance tips, safety information and a troubleshooting guide.

Air Lift Performance reserves the right to make changes and improvements to its products and publications at any time. For the latest version of this manual, contact Air Lift Performance at (800) 248-0892 or visit our website at www.airliftperformance.com.

NOTATION EXPLANATION

Hazard notations appear in various locations in this publication. Information which is highlighted by one of these notations must be observed to help minimize risk of personal injury or possible improper installation which may render the vehicle unsafe. Notes are used to help emphasize areas of procedural importance and provide helpful suggestions. The following definitions explain the use of these notations as they appear throughout this guide.

⚠ DANGER INDICATES IMMEDIATE HAZARDS WHICH WILL RESULT IN SEVERE PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.

⚠ WARNING INDICATES HAZARDS OR UNSAFE PRACTICES WHICH COULD RESULT IN SEVERE PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.

⚠ CAUTION INDICATES HAZARDS OR UNSAFE PRACTICES WHICH COULD RESULT IN DAMAGE TO THE MACHINE OR MINOR PERSONAL INJURY.

NOTE *Indicates a procedure, practice or hint which is important to highlight.*

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICES

The installation of this kit does not alter the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) or payload of the vehicle. Check your vehicle's owner's manual and do not exceed the maximum load listed for your vehicle.

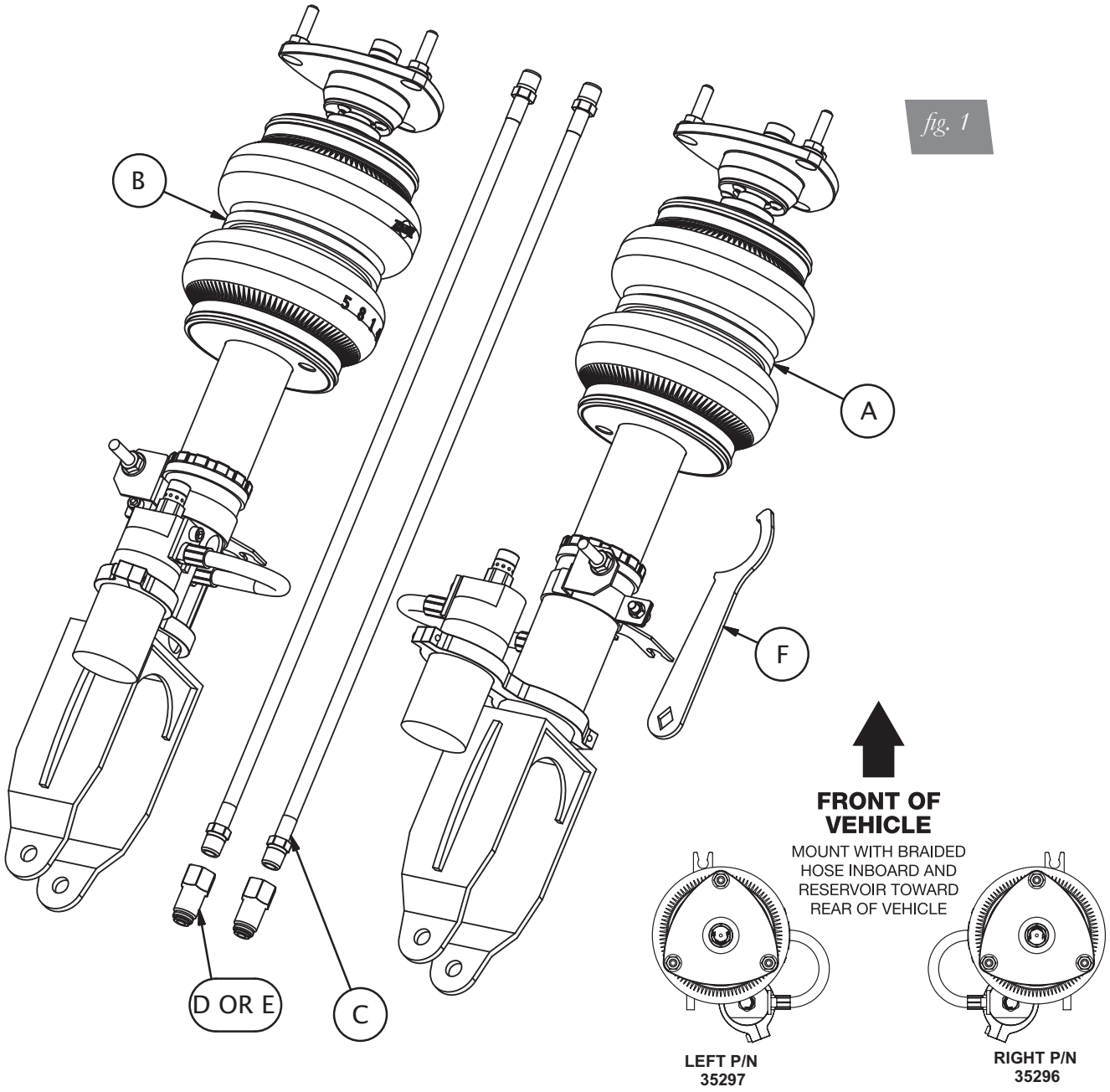
Gross Vehicle Weight Rating: The maximum allowable weight of the fully loaded vehicle (including passengers and cargo). This number — along with other weight limits, as well as tire, rim size and inflation pressure data — is shown on the vehicle's Safety Compliance Certification Label.

Payload: The combined, maximum allowable weight of cargo and passengers that the vehicle is designed to carry. Payload is GVWR minus the Base Curb Weight.

⚠ WARNING DO NOT INFLATE AIR SPRINGS WHILE OFF OF THE VEHICLE. DAMAGE TO ASSEMBLY MAY RESULT AND VOID WARRANTY.

⚠ CAUTION DO NOT WELD TO, OR MODIFY PERFORMANCE STRUTS/SHOCKS IN ANY WAY. DAMAGE TO UNIT MAY OCCUR AND WILL VOID WARRANTY.

Installation Diagram



HARDWARE LIST

Item	Part #	Description	Qty
A	35296	ASM, Shock, R-35 GT-R, RF	1
B	35297	ASM, Shock, R-35 GT-R, LF	1
C	20997	Leader Hose, 1/4” ID	2
D	21987	Union, 1/4”FNPT X 3/8” PTC, DOT	2
E	21810	Union, 1/4”FNPT X 1/4” PTC, DOT	2
F		Spanner Wrench	1

STOP! Missing or damaged parts? Call Air Lift customer service at (800) 248-0892 for a replacement part.

Installing the Air Suspension

PREPARING THE VEHICLE

1. Elevate and support the vehicle with a hoist or jack stands.
2. Remove the front tire and support the hub assembly (Figs. 2 and 3).

fig. 2

fig. 3

REMOVING THE FRONT SUSPENSION

1. Remove the axle nut and loosen the axle in the hub (Fig. 4).

fig. 4

2. Unclip the wheel sensor wire and brake line from the shock (Figs. 5a-5e).

fig. 5a

fig. 5b

fig. 5c

fig. 5d

fig. 5e

3. Loosen the forward pivot bolt for the lower control arm, but do not remove it (Fig. 6).

fig. 6

4. Support the hub and unbolt the lower shock mount from the control arm (Fig. 7).

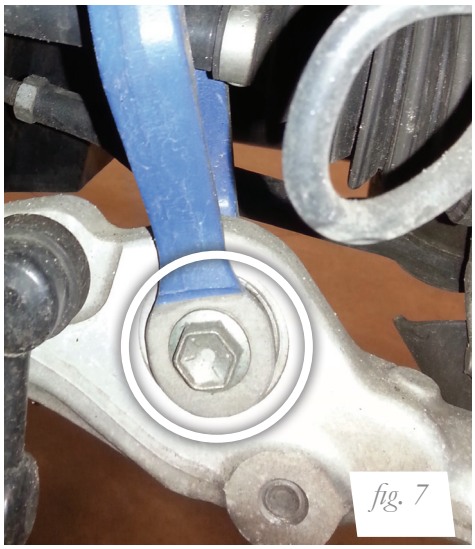
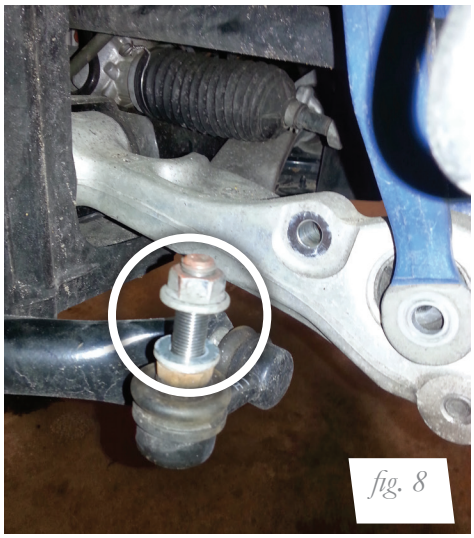
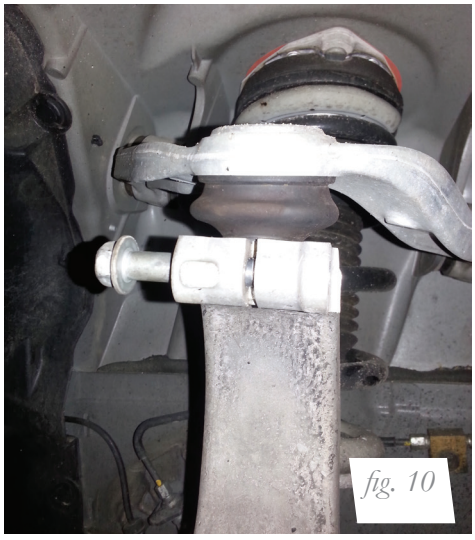


fig. 7

5. Disconnect the stabilizer end link from the lower control arm (Fig. 8).



6. Support the hub and unbolt the steering knuckle from the upper control arm ball joint (Figs. 9 and 10).



7. Within the engine compartment, locate the connection for the Electronic Damping Control and disconnect it (Figs. 11 and 12).

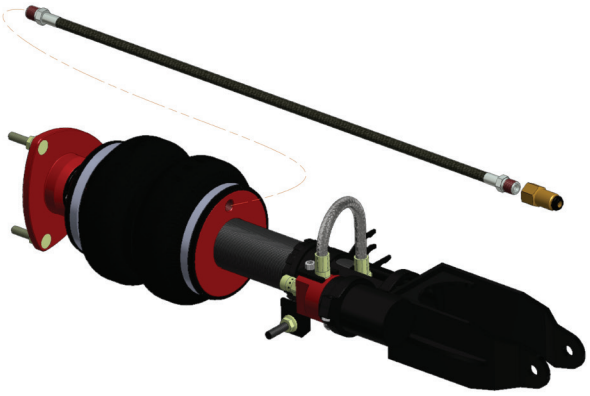
8. With the EDC disconnected and the wire lead-free, unthread the three upper mount nuts and remove the shock from the vehicle (figs. 13 and 14).

fig. 13

fig. 14

AIR SUSPENSION INSTALLATION

1. Begin by installing the leader line into the air spring (Fig. 15). Apply thread sealant to the threads of the leader hose. Tighten the appropriate fitting to the airline 1 3/4 turns beyond hand-tight. Tighten the leader line into the air spring 1 3/4 turns beyond hand-tight.



2. Remove the paper gasket from the factory shock upper mount and place onto the new shock assembly (Fig. 16).

fig. 16

3. Insert the shock assembly so that the braided hose faces toward the engine compartment, and the external reservoir faces the rear of the vehicle (Fig. 17). Torque upper mount nuts (Fig. 18) to 27 Nm (20 lb.-ft.)

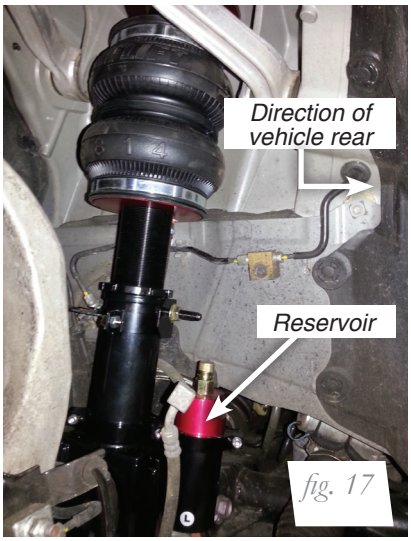


fig. 17

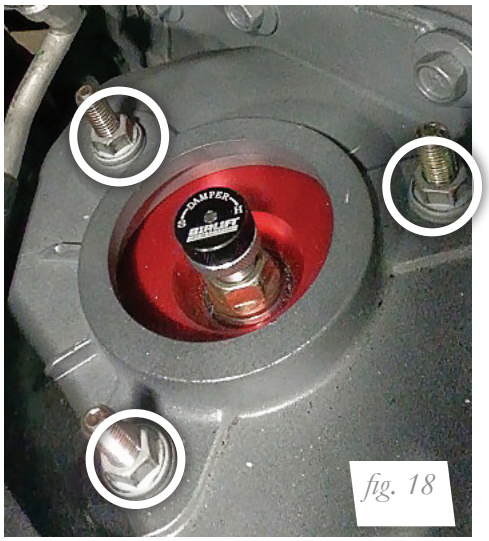


fig. 18

4. Reattach the upper control arm to the steering knuckle (Fig. 19) and torque pinch bolt (Fig. 20) to factory specification.

fig. 19

fig. 20

5. Lift the lower control arm up and reinstall the lower shock mount bolt (Fig. 21). Do not torque at this time.

6. Align the stabilizer end link and insert it into the lower control arm (Fig. 22). Torque to 100 Nm (74 lb.-ft.) (Fig. 23).

7. Attach the brake line to shock (Fig. 24) and torque nut (Fig. 25) to 13 Nm (10 lb.-ft.)

fig. 24

fig. 25

8. Re-seat and torque the axle nut (Fig. 26) to factory specifications.

fig. 26

9. Cycle the suspension and check for clearances around the air spring. The air spring is quite close to the upper control arm attaching bolts (Fig. 27). Sourcing a round head bolt may be required if contact with the air spring occurs.

fig. 27

10. Fully compress the suspension using a jack. With the suspension compressed, review the best routing for the leader hose that is clear of all suspension components and axle. Routing should also allow for the suspension to extend without kinking or pulling the line tight or rubbing on other components. Following the brake line routing is often a good place to start. Check clearances to all other components.

11. With the suspension fully compressed, take a measurement from the fender to some reference point – typically the center of the axle. Record this measurement as Max Compression.

12. Cycle the suspension to Max Extension and record the measurement from the same reference points.

13. Add ME and MC then divide by 2. Set the suspension to this point. This position will give 50% stroke in either direction and is a starting point for ride height (Fig. 28).

Formula for Calculating Ride Height
(ME+MC)÷2=MID STROKE

fig. 28

14. With the suspension at this position, loosen, then re-torque the lower control arm bolts to manufacturer's specifications.

Torque Specifications		
Location	Nm	lb-ft
Lower shock mount bolt/nut	107	79
Lower control arm forward bolt	100	74
Swaybar endlink to lower control arm	100	74
Upper mount nut	27	20
Brake line attachment nut	13	10
Air Fitting (with sealant)	1.5-3.0 turns beyond hand tight	
Lower damper locking collar	.5 turns beyond hand tight	
Reservoir collar bolts	5	44 in-lbs.
Wheel studs	131	97

Table 1

DAMPING ADJUSTMENT

There are two forms of damping adjustment with this Nissan R35 GT-R suspension kit.

Rebound adjustment is controlled by the adjuster on the shock rod, located within the engine compartment (Fig. 29). Turn the damping knob clockwise to “harden” the suspension rebound. Turn the knob counterclockwise to “soften” the suspension rebound. The Air Lift setting is -17R (17 clicks away from full hard). This was developed on a 2009 GT-R and may need adjustment to meet vehicle differences or driving demands.

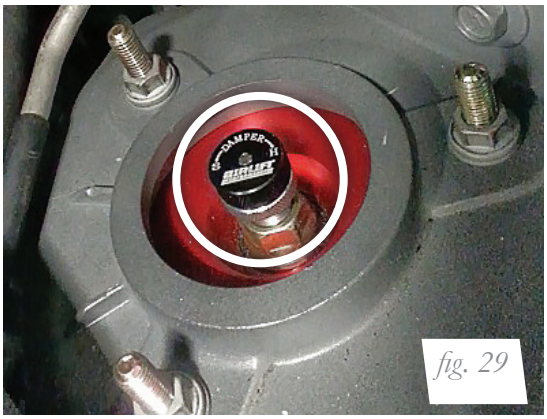


fig. 29

Compression damping is adjusted through the remote reservoir attached to the shock body (Fig. 30). Turn the damping knob on the reservoir clockwise to “harden” the suspension compression setting. Turn the knob counterclockwise to “soften” the suspension compression setting. The Air Lift setting is -21C (21 clicks away from full hard). This was developed on a 2009 GT-R and may need adjustment to meet vehicle differences or driving demands.

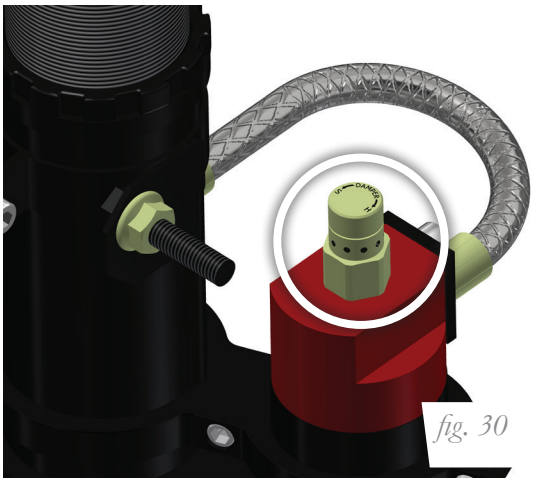


fig. 30

ALIGNING THE VEHICLE

1. Using the control system, set the vehicle height to the new custom ride height.
2. If the custom ride height is lower than stock, we recommend loosening all pivot points (bolts, nuts) on any control arm, strut arm or radius rod that contains bushings. Once they have been loosened, re-torque to stock specifications.

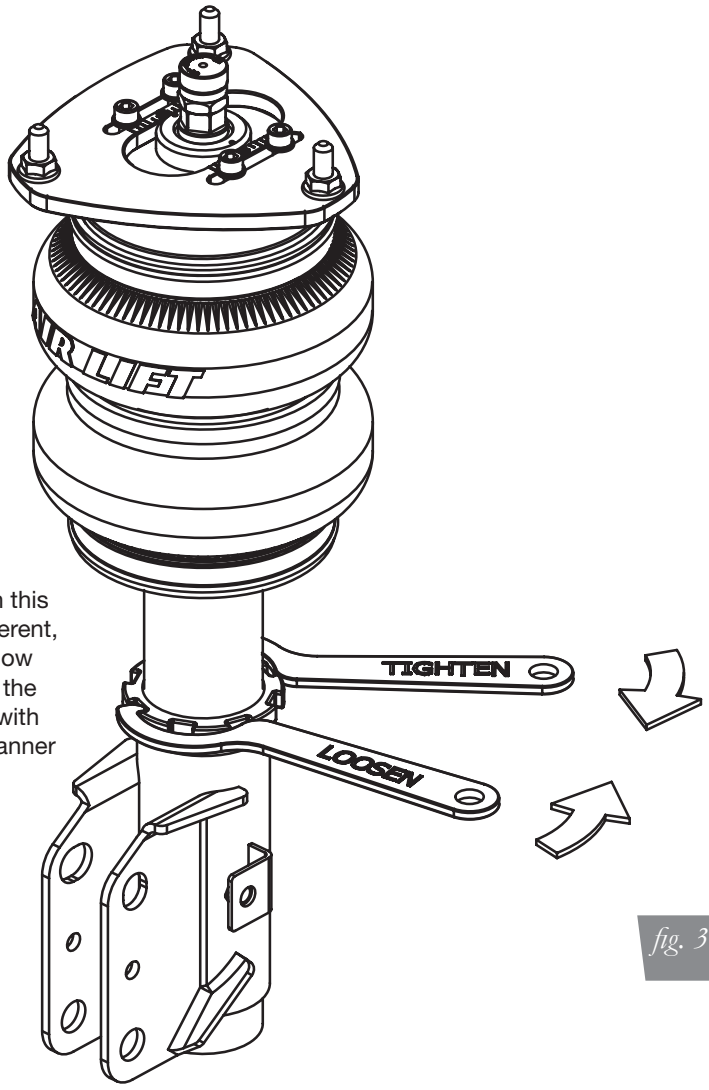
NOTE

It may be necessary to cycle the suspension to loosen the bushing up from its mount. This will help re-orient the bushing at its new position and increase life of the bushings based on the custom ride height.

ADJUSTING EXTENDED OR DROP HEIGHT USING LOWER MOUNT

These dampers have been pre-set at the factory to provide maximum drop height while maintaining adequate tire clearance to the air spring. If you wish to gain more extended height (lift), which is the same as reducing drop height, or want to lower the chassis further and there is still adjustment available at the lower mount, please use the following procedure:

1. Support the vehicle with jack stands or a hoist at approved lifting points.
2. Remove the wheel.
3. Using the supplied spanner wrench, loosen the lower locking collar (Fig. 31).



The dampers in this kit may look different, but they all allow adjustment of the locking collar with the included spanner wrench.

fig. 31

4. Deflate the air spring to 0 PSI on the corner you are adjusting.
5. Disconnect lower mount from suspension.
6. Spin the lower mount to the desired location.

NOTE

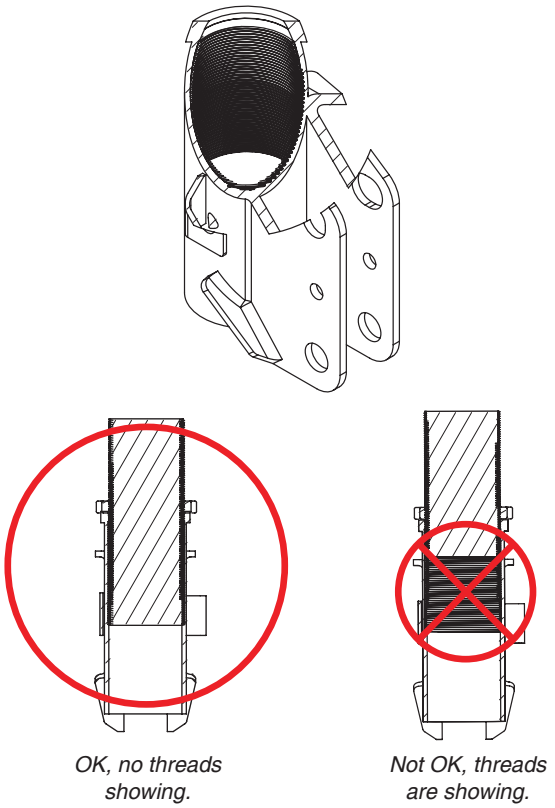
Not all models will have further drop height available.

7. Re-install lower mount to suspension and torque fasteners.
8. Tighten the lower locking collar to the lower mount using significant force.

⚠ CAUTION WHEN ADJUSTING HEIGHT UPWARD, MAKE SURE THAT THE DAMPER BODY ENGAGES ALL THE THREADS OF THE LOWER MOUNT (FIG. 32). WHEN ADJUSTING DOWNWARD, MAKE SURE THERE IS ADEQUATE AIR SPRING CLEARANCE TO THE TIRE/WHEEL ASSEMBLY. CLEARANCE MUST BE CHECKED WITH SYSTEM FULLY DEFLATED AS WELL AS FULLY INFLATED TO ENSURE THAT NO RUBBING OCCURS. FAILURE TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE CLEARANCE CAN RESULT IN AIR SPRING FAILURE AND WILL NOT BE COVERED UNDER WARRANTY.

⚠ CAUTION DO NOT ADJUST HEIGHT BY SPINNING AIR SPRING ON DAMPER! DOING SO MAY CAUSE AN AIR LEAK AND COMPROMISE THE ASSEMBLY.

FOR STRUTS:



OK, no threads showing.

Not OK, threads are showing.

FOR SHOCKS:

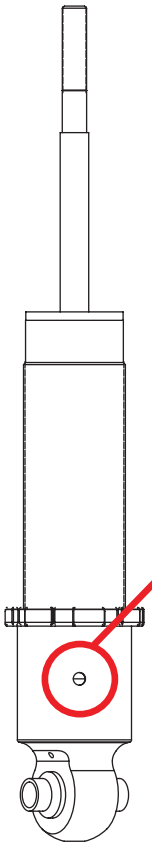


fig. 32

Before Operating

⚠ CAUTION MAKE SURE THE FRONT WHEELS ARE STRAIGHT WHEN DEFLATING AND REINFLATING AIR BAGS.

1. Inflate and deflate the system (do not exceed 125 PSI) to check for clearance or binding issues. With the air springs deflated, check clearances on everything so as not to pinch brake lines, vent tubes, etc. Clear lines if necessary.
2. Inflate the air springs to 75-90 PSI and check all connections for leaks.
3. An Air Lift air management system such as 3H/3P is highly recommended for this product.
4. Please familiarize yourself further with this product by reading the Product Use, Maintenance and Servicing section.

INSTALLATION CHECKLIST

- ❑ Clearance test — Inflate the air springs to 75-90 PSI and make sure there is at least 1/2" clearance from anything that might rub against each sleeve. Be sure to check the tire, brake drum, frame, shock absorbers and brake cables.
- ❑ Leak test before road test — Inflate the air springs to 75-90 PSI and check all connections for leaks. All leaks must be eliminated before the vehicle is road tested.
- ❑ Heat test — Be sure there is sufficient clearance from heat sources, at least 6" for air springs and air lines. If a heat shield was included in the kit, install it. If there is no heat shield, but one is required, call Air Lift customer service at (800) 248-0892.
- ❑ Fastener test — Recheck all bolts for proper torque.
- ❑ Road test — The vehicle should be road tested after the preceding tests. Inflate the springs to recommended driving pressures. Drive the vehicle 10 miles and recheck for clearance, loose fasteners and air leaks.
- ❑ Operating instructions — If professionally installed, the installer should review the operating instructions with the owner. Be sure to provide the owner with all of the paperwork that came with the kit.

Technician's Signature _____

Date _____

POST-INSTALLATION CHECKLIST

- ❑ Overnight leak down test — Recheck air pressure after the vehicle has been used for 24 hours. If the pressure has dropped more than 5 PSI, then there is a leak that must be fixed. Either fix the leak yourself or return to the installer for service.
- ❑ Air pressure requirements — Regardless of load, the air pressure should always be adjusted to maintain adequate ride height at all times while driving.
- ❑ Thirty day or 500 mile test — Recheck the air spring system after 30 days or 500 miles, whichever comes first. If any part shows signs of rubbing or abrasion, the source should be identified and moved, if possible. If it is not possible to relocate the cause of the abrasion, the air spring may need to be remounted. If professionally installed, the installer should be consulted. Check all fasteners for tightness.

Product Use, Maintenance and Servicing

Suggested Driving Air Pressure	Maximum Air Pressure
70 PSI	125 PSI
FAILURE TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE MINIMUM PRESSURE (OR PRESSURE PROPORTIONAL TO LOAD) WILL RESULT IN BOTTOMING OUT, OVER-EXTENSION OR RUBBING AGAINST ANOTHER COMPONENT AND WILL **VOID THE WARRANTY**.	

MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

NOTE *By following these steps, vehicle owners will obtain the longest life and best results from their air spring.*

1. Check the air pressure before driving.
2. Never inflate beyond 125 PSI.
3. If you develop an air leak in the system, use a soapy water solution to check all air line connections, before deflating and removing the spring.
4. When increasing load, always adjust the air pressure to maintain normal ride height. Increase or decrease pressure from the system as necessary to attain normal ride height for optimal ride and handling. Remember that loads carried behind the axle (including tongue loads) require more leveling force (pressure) than those carried directly over the axle.

⚠ CAUTION FOR YOUR SAFETY AND TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO YOUR VEHICLE, DO NOT EXCEED MAXIMUM GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT RATING (GVWR), AS INDICATED BY THE VEHICLE MANUFACTURER. ALTHOUGH YOUR AIR SPRINGS ARE RATED AT A MAXIMUM INFLATION PRESSURE OF 125 PSI, THE AIR PRESSURE ACTUALLY NEEDED IS DEPENDENT ON YOUR LOAD.

5. Always add air to the springs in small quantities, checking the pressure frequently. Sleeves require less air volume than a tire and inflate quickly.
6. Should it become necessary to raise the vehicle by the frame, make sure the control system is turned off before lifting.

Troubleshooting Guide

1. Leak test the air line connections, the threaded connection into the air spring, and all fittings in the control system.
2. Inspect the air lines to be sure none are pinched. Tie straps may be too tight. Loosen or replace the strap and replace leaking components.
3. Inspect the air line for holes and cracks. Replace as needed.
4. Look for a kink or fold in the air line. Reroute as needed.

If the preceding steps do not solve the problem, it is possibly caused by a failed air spring — either a factory defect or an operating problem. Please call Air Lift at (800) 248-0892 for assistance.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Will installing air springs increase the weight ratings of a vehicle?

No. Adding air springs will not change the weight ratings (GAWR, GCWR and/or GVWR) of a vehicle. Exceeding the GVWR is dangerous and voids the Air Lift warranty.

Q. How long should air springs last?

If the air springs are properly installed and maintained they can last indefinitely.

Q. Will raising the vehicle on a hoist for service work damage the air springs?

No. The vehicle can be lifted on a hoist for short-term service work such as tire rotation or oil changes. However, if the vehicle will be on the hoist for a prolonged period of time, support the axle with jack stands in order to take the tension off of the air springs.

Tuning the Air Pressure

Pressure determination comes down to three things — level vehicle, ride comfort, and stability.

1. **Level vehicle**

   If the vehicle's headlights are shining into the trees or the vehicle is leaning to one side, then it is not level. Raise the air pressure to correct either of these problems and level the vehicle.

2. **Ride comfort**

   If the vehicle has a rough or harsh ride it may be due to either too much pressure or not enough. Try different pressures to determine the best ride comfort. See Air Lift suggested driving air pressure.

3. **Stability**

   Stability translates into safety and should be the priority, meaning the driver may need to sacrifice a perfectly level and comfortable ride. Stability issues include roll control, bounce, dive during braking and sponginess. Tuning out these problems usually requires additional air pressure, strut damping, or both.

Checking for leaks

1. Inflate the air spring to 80 PSI.
2. Spray all connections and the inflation valves with a solution of 1/5 liquid dish soap and 4/5 water. Spot leaks easily by looking for bubbles in the soapy water.
3. After the test, deflate the springs to the minimum pressure required to restore the system to normal ride height.
4. Check the air pressure again after 24 hours. A 2-4 PSI loss after initial installation is normal. Retest for leaks if the loss is more than 5 PSI.

Fixing Leaks

1. If there is a problem with a swivel fitting:
   a. Check the air line connection by deflating the spring and removing the line by pulling the collar against the fitting and pulling firmly on the air line. Trim 1" off the end of the air line. Be sure the cut is clean and square (see Fig. 33). Reinsert the air line into the push-to-connect fitting.
   b. Check the threaded connection by tightening the swivel fitting another 1/2 turn. If it still leaks, deflate the air spring, remove the fitting, and re-coat the threads with thread sealant. Reinstall by hand tightening as much as possible and then use a wrench for an additional two turns.
2. If the preceding steps have not resolved the problem, call Air Lift customer service at (800) 248-0892.

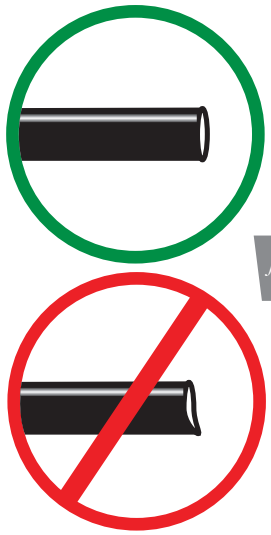


fig. 33

Notes

Notes

Limited Warranty and Return Policy

WHAT THIS WARRANTY COVERS

Air Lift Company, for all Air Lift Performance products, except its Air Lift Performance 3H™ and 3P™ systems, warrants to the original purchaser for a period of one year from the date of original purchase that the Air Lift Performance damper kits will be free from defects in workmanship and materials for the normal expected life of the part when used on cars and trucks as specified by Air Lift Company and under normal operating conditions, subject to the requirements and exclusions set forth below.

Air Lift Company provides a Limited Lifetime Warranty to the original purchaser of its Air Lift Performance 3H™ and 3P™ Control/Air Management Systems, that the Air Lift Performance products will be free from defects in workmanship and materials for the normal expected life of the part when used on cars and trucks as specified by Air Lift Company and under normal operating conditions, subject to the requirements and exclusions set forth below.

WHAT THIS WARRANTY DOES NOT COVER

The warranty does not apply to products that have been improperly applied, improperly installed, or which have not been maintained in accordance with installation instructions furnished with all products. This warranty does not apply and is void if damage or failure is caused by: accident, abuse, misuse (including but not limited to racing or off-road activities or commercial use), abnormal use, faulty installation, liquid contact, fire, earthquake or other external cause; operating the product outside Air Lift Company's instructions, specifications or guidelines; or service, alteration, maintenance or repairs performed by anyone other than Air Lift Company to the product from its purchased condition. This warranty also does not apply to: Universal Air (Fabricator Kits), consumable parts, such as batteries; cosmetic damage, including but not limited to scratches or dents; defects caused by normal wear and tear or otherwise due to the normal aging of the product, or if any serial or identification number has been removed or defaced from the product. Air Lift Company reserves the right to change the design of any product without assuming any obligation to modify any product previously manufactured.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

To the extent permitted by law, this warranty and the remedies set forth herein are exclusive and in lieu of all other warranties, remedies and conditions, whether oral, written, statutory, express or implied. AIR LIFT COMPANY DISCLAIMS ALL STATUTORY AND IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND WARRANTIES AGAINST HIDDEN OR LATENT DEFECTS TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW. To the extent such warranties cannot be disclaimed, such implied warranties shall apply only for the warranty period specified above. Please note that some states do not allow limitation on how long an implied warranty (or condition) lasts. So the above limitation may not apply to you.

Except as provided in this warranty and to the extent permitted by law, Air Lift Company shall not be liable for any direct, special, incidental or consequential damages resulting from any breach of warranty or condition, or arising in connection with the sale, use or repair of air lift products, or under any other legal theory, including but not limited to loss of use, loss of revenue, loss of actual or anticipated profits, loss of the use of money, loss of business, loss of opportunity, loss of goodwill, and loss of reputation. Air Lift Company's maximum liability shall not in any case exceed the purchase price paid by you for the Air Lift product. Please note that some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you.

HOW TO GET SERVICE

If a defect in workmanship or materials causes your Air Lift Performance product to become inoperable within the warranty period, before returning any defective product, call Air Lift Company at (800) 248-0892 in the U.S. and Canada (elsewhere, (517) 322-2144) to obtain a Returned Materials Authorization (RMA) number. The consumer shall be responsible for removing (labor charges) the defective product from the vehicle and returning it, shipping costs prepaid, to Air Lift Company for verification. Returns to Air Lift Company must be postage prepaid and sent to: Air Lift Company • 2727 Snow Road • Lansing, MI • 48917. You must prove to the satisfaction of Air Lift Company the date of original purchase of your Air Lift Performance product. You must also enclose the RMA number and a return address. A minimum $10 shipping and handling charge will apply to all warranty claims. You must also pack the product to minimize the risk of it being damaged in transit. If we receive a product in damaged condition as the result of shipping, we will notify you and you must seek a claim with the shipper.

WHAT AIR LIFT COMPANY WILL DO

If you submit a valid claim to Air Lift Company during the warranty period, Air Lift Company will, at its option, repair your Air Lift Performance product or furnish you with a new or rebuilt product. Air Lift Company will not reimburse you for repairs or replacement parts provided by other parties. Your repaired or replacement Air Lift Performance product will be returned to you (subject to payment of the required warranty claim shipping and handling charge) and it will be covered under the warranty for the balance of the warranty period, if any. When a product or part is replaced, any replacement item becomes your property and the replaced item becomes property of Air Lift Company. You are responsible for installation/reinstallation (labor charges) of the product.

HOW THE LAW RELATES TO THIS WARRANTY

This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state. By this warranty, Air Lift Company does not limit or exclude your rights except as allowed by law. To fully understand your rights, you should consult the laws of your state.

Replacement Part Information

If replacement parts are needed, contact the local dealer or call Air Lift customer service at **(800) 248-0892**. Most parts are immediately available and can be shipped the same day.

Contact Air Lift Company customer service at (800) 248-0892 first if:

- Parts are missing from the kit.
- Need technical assistance on installation or operation.
- Broken or defective parts in the kit.
- Wrong parts in the kit.
- Have a warranty claim or question.

Contact the retailer where the kit was purchased:

- If it is necessary to return or exchange the kit for any reason.
- If there is a problem with shipping if shipped from the retailer.
- If there is a problem with the price.

Contact Information

Mailing address	P.O. Box 80167 Lansing, MI 48908-0167
Shipping address for returns	2727 Snow Road Lansing, MI 48917
Phone	Toll free: (800) 248-0892 International: (517) 322-2144
Email	service@airliftcompany.com
Web address	www.airliftcompany.com

Need Help?

Contact our customer service department by calling (800) 248-0892. For calls from outside the USA or Canada, our local number is (517) 322-2144.

Thank you for purchasing Air Lift Performance products!

Air Lift Performance • 2727 Snow Road • Lansing, MI 48917 or PO Box 80167 • Lansing, MI 48908-0167
Toll Free (800) 248-0892 • Local (517) 322-2144 • Fax (517) 322-0240 • www.airliftperformance.com

Printed in
the USA

Air Lift™
PERFORMANCE

Kit 78618

Nissan R35 GT-R

Rear Application

AIR LIFT PERFORMANCE™

INSTALLATION GUIDE

For maximum effectiveness and safety, please read these instructions completely before proceeding with installation.

Failure to read these instructions can result in an incorrect installation.

MN-929 • (011408) • ERN 7904

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Introduction

The purpose of this publication is to assist with the installation, maintenance and troubleshooting of this Nissan R35 GT-R Performance kit.

It is important to read and understand the entire installation guide before beginning installation or performing any maintenance, service or repair. The information includes a hardware list, step-by-step installation information, maintenance tips, safety information and a troubleshooting guide.

Air Lift Performance reserves the right to make changes and improvements to its products and publications at any time. For the latest version of this manual, contact Air Lift Performance at (800) 248-0892 or visit our website at www.airliftperformance.com.

NOTATION EXPLANATION

Hazard notations appear in various locations in this publication. Information which is highlighted by one of these notations must be observed to help minimize risk of personal injury or possible improper installation which may render the vehicle unsafe. Notes are used to help emphasize areas of procedural importance and provide helpful suggestions. The following definitions explain the use of these notations as they appear throughout this guide.

⚠ DANGER INDICATES IMMEDIATE HAZARDS WHICH WILL RESULT IN SEVERE PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.

⚠ WARNING INDICATES HAZARDS OR UNSAFE PRACTICES WHICH COULD RESULT IN SEVERE PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.

⚠ CAUTION INDICATES HAZARDS OR UNSAFE PRACTICES WHICH COULD RESULT IN DAMAGE TO THE MACHINE OR MINOR PERSONAL INJURY.

NOTE *Indicates a procedure, practice or hint which is important to highlight.*

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICES

The installation of this kit does not alter the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) or payload of the vehicle. Check your vehicle's owner's manual and do not exceed the maximum load listed for your vehicle.

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating: The maximum allowable weight of the fully loaded vehicle (including passengers and cargo). This number — along with other weight limits, as well as tire, rim size and inflation pressure data — is shown on the vehicle's Safety Compliance Certification Label.

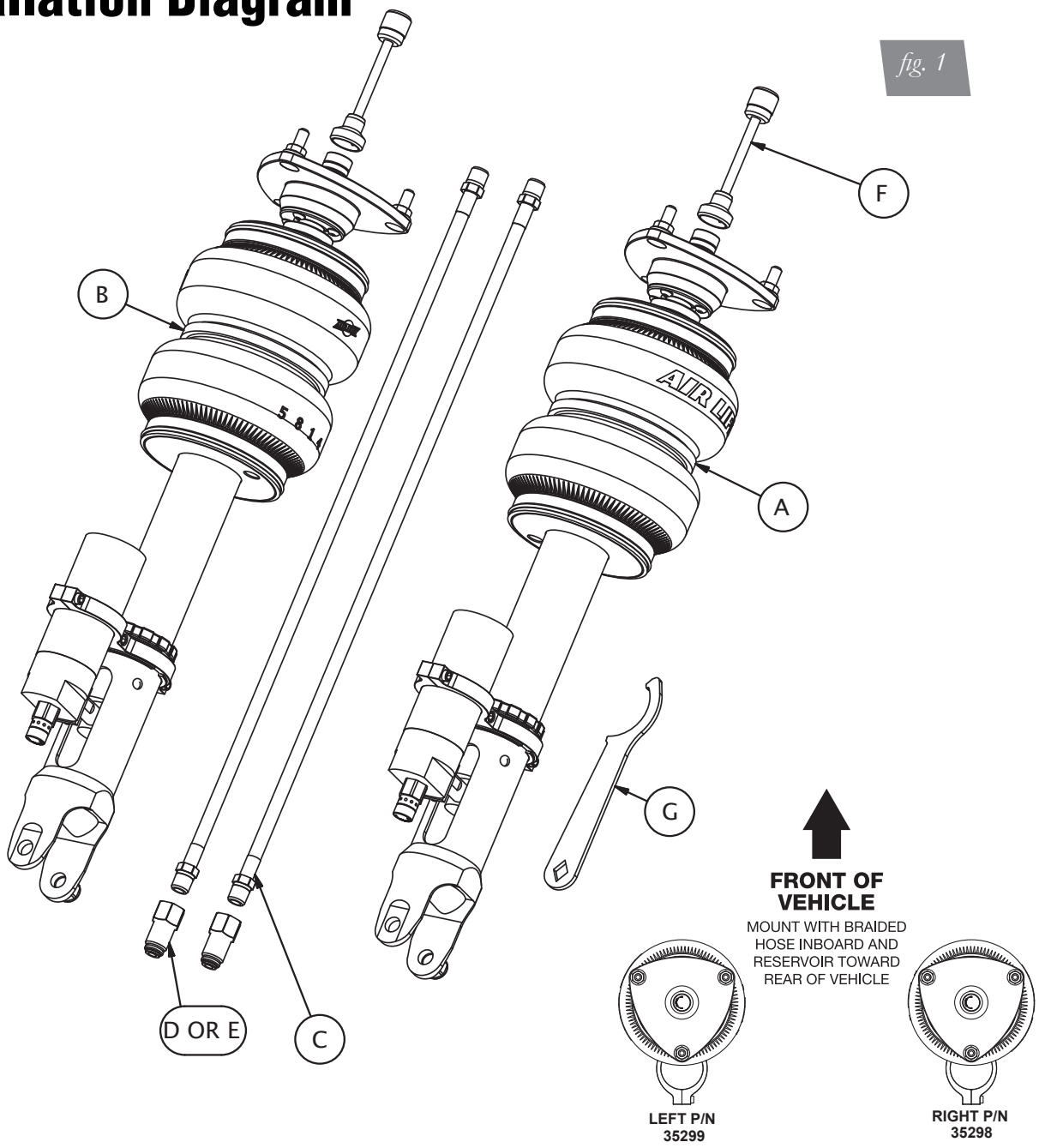
Payload: The combined, maximum allowable weight of cargo and passengers that the vehicle is designed to carry. Payload is GVWR minus the Base Curb Weight.

⚠ WARNING DO NOT INFLATE AIR SPRINGS WHILE OFF OF THE VEHICLE. DAMAGE TO ASSEMBLY MAY RESULT AND VOID WARRANTY.

⚠ CAUTION DO NOT WELD TO, OR MODIFY PERFORMANCE STRUTS/SHOCKS IN ANY WAY. DAMAGE TO UNIT MAY OCCUR AND WILL VOID WARRANTY.

Installation Diagram

fig. 1



HARDWARE LIST

Item	Part #	Description ..... Qty
A	35298	ASM, Shock, R-35 GT-R, RR 1
B	35299	ASM, Shock, R-35 GT-R, LR..... 1
C	20997	Leader Hose, 1/4” ID 2
D	21810	Union, 1/4”FNPT X 1/4” PTC, DOT 2
E	21987	Union, 1/4”FNPT X 3/8” PTC, DOT 2
F		Flexible Adjuster Extension 2
G		Spanner Wrench..... 1

STOP! Missing or damaged parts? Call Air Lift customer service at (800) 248-0892 for a replacement part.

Installing the Air Suspension

PREPARING THE VEHICLE

1. Unclip the rear seat bases and remove the bases from the vehicle (fig. 2).

fig. 2

2. At the base of each rear seat back, remove the bolt shown in Figure 3, then push upward on the seat back. Remove both seat backs this way (figs. 4 and 5).

fig. 3

fig. 4

fig. 5

3. Unclip and remove the center cup holder between the rear seat locations.
4. Unbolt the two bolts at the base of the rear center speaker cover (fig. 6). With the two lower bolts removed, carefully unclip the speaker cover from the rear support and remove from the vehicle (fig. 7).

fig. 6

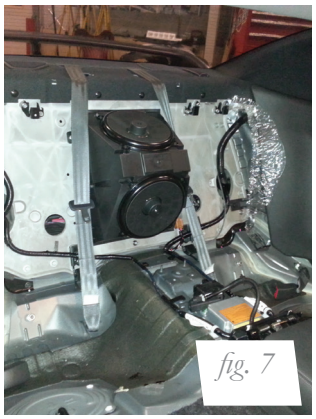


fig. 7

5. Remove both side sills (figs. 8 and 9).

fig. 8

fig. 9

6. Remove the weather-stripping from the rear most portion of the door opening (fig 10).

fig. 10

7. Unclip the rear side panel from the rear support and side (figs. 11 and 12). Remove it from the vehicle (fig. 13).

fig. 11

fig. 12

fig. 13

8. Remove the upper side trim by unthreading the screw beneath the hanger, unbolting the seat belt from the pillar and unclipping the remaining plastic retention clips (figs. 14a-14i).

fig. 14a

fig. 14b

fig. 14c

fig. 14d

fig. 14e

fig. 14f

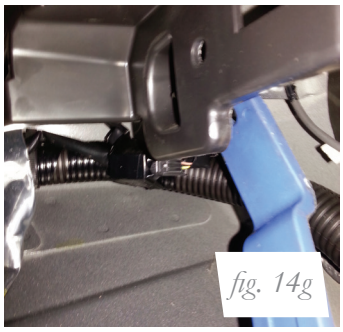


fig. 14g

fig. 14h

fig. 14i

9. Remove all the plastic screws holding the rear parcel shelf (figs. 15-17) and pull the shelf straight forward, then down (fig. 18).

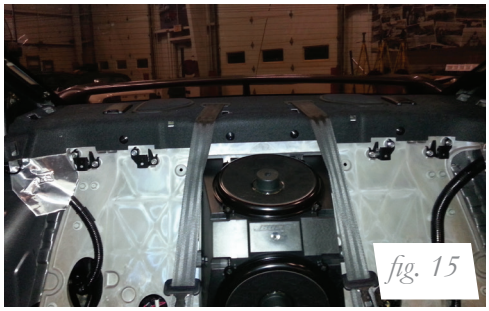


fig. 15

fig. 16

fig. 17

fig. 18

10. Disconnect the Electronic Damping Control on each rear shock (figs. 19 and 20). This may be located beneath a foil shield with an adhesive backing (fig 21); remove it if necessary.

fig. 19

fig. 20

fig. 21

REMOVING THE REAR SUSPENSION

1. Elevate and support the vehicle with a hoist or jack stands (fig. 22).

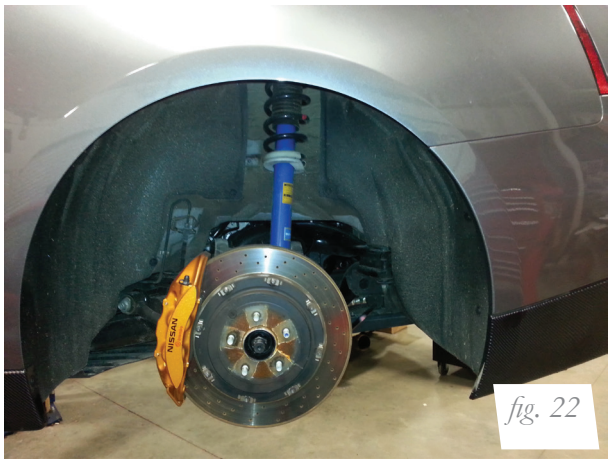


fig. 22

2. Remove the rear wheel and support the hub assembly (fig. 23).

fig. 23

3. Remove the three upper shock mount nuts (fig. 24).

fig. 24

4. Remove the lower shock bolt and extract the stock rear shock assembly (fig. 25) from the vehicle.

fig. 25

5. AIR SUSPENSION INSTALLATION

1. Begin by installing the leader line into the air spring (fig. 26). Apply thread sealant to the threads of the leader hose. Tighten the appropriate fitting to the airline 1 3/4 turns beyond hand-tight. Tighten the leader line into the air spring 1 3/4 turns beyond hand-tight.

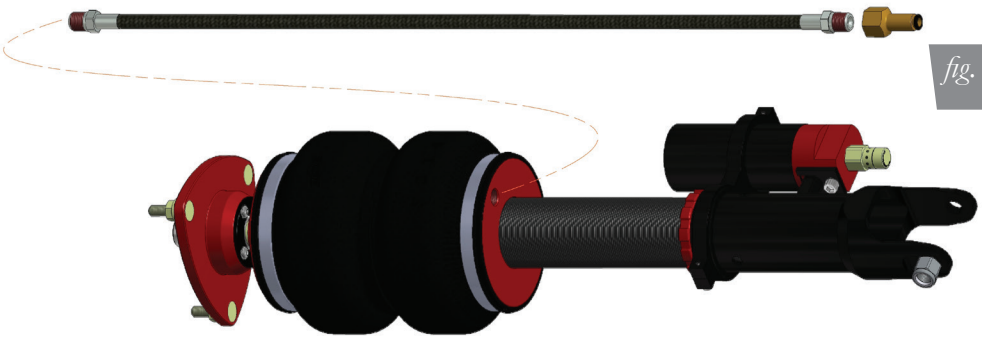


fig. 26

2. Remove the paper gasket from the factory shock upper mount and place onto the new shock assembly (fig. 27).

fig. 27

3. Add the damping adjuster flexible adjuster extension (fig. 28) to the top of the shock. Ensure the main damping adjuster knob is tight on the shock rod before sliding adjuster extension over knob and tightening set screw.

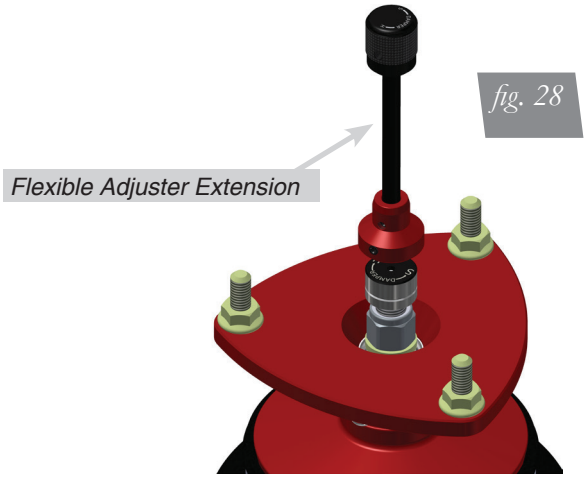


fig. 28

4. Attach the shock assembly to the shock tower with the three upper mount nuts. The external reservoir should be directed toward the rear of the vehicle and braided air line inboard (figs. 29 and 30). Torque to 27 Nm (20 ft-lbs.)

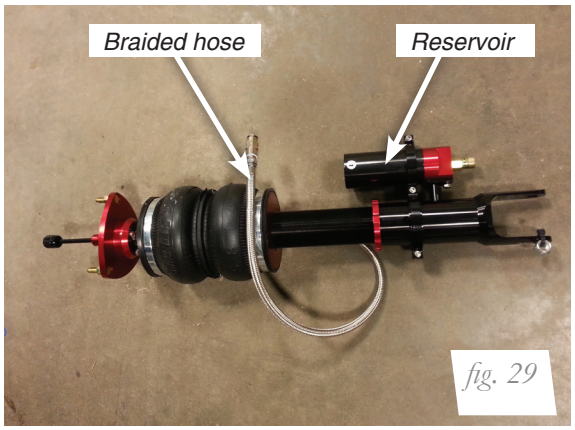


fig. 29

fig. 30

5. Lift the hub assembly and install the lower shock mount bolt (fig. 31). Do not torque at this time.

fig. 31

6. Alter the rear parcel shelf so that the flexible damping adjuster can be accessible from within the vehicle cabin.

7. Reinstall the interior by reversing the steps 1-9 of Preparing the Vehicle.

8. With the suspension fully compressed, take a measurement from the fender to some reference point – typically the center of the axle. Record this measurement as Max Compression.

9. Cycle the suspension to Max Extension and record the measurement from the same reference points.

10. Add ME and MC then divide by 2. Set the suspension to this point. This position will give 50% stroke in either direction and is a starting point for ride height (fig. 32).

Formula for Calculating Ride Height
(ME+MC)÷2=MID STROKE

fig. 32

11. With the suspension at this position, loosen, then re-torque the lower control arm bolts to manufacturer's specifications.

Torque Specifications		
Location	Nm	lb-ft
Lower shock mount bolt/nut	75	55
Upper mount nut	27	20
Air Fitting (with sealant)	1.5-3.0 turns beyond hand tight	
Lower damper locking collar	.5 turns beyond hand tight	
Reservoir collar bolts	5	44 in-lbs.
Wheel studs	131	97

Table 1

DAMPING ADJUSTMENT

There are two forms of damping adjustment with this Nissan R35 GT-R suspension kit.

Rebound adjustment is controlled by the adjuster on the shock rod, located within the passenger compartment (fig. 33). Turn the damping knob clockwise to “harden” the suspension rebound. Turn the knob counterclockwise to “soften” the suspension rebound. The Air Lift setting is -13R (13 clicks away from full Hard). This was developed on a 2009 GT-R and may need adjustment to meet vehicle differences or driving demands.

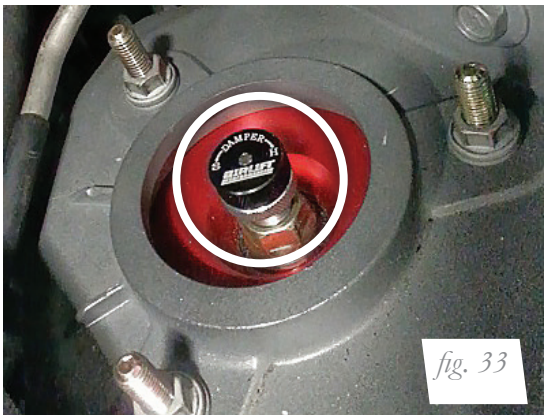


fig. 33

Compression damping is adjusted through the remote reservoir attached to the shock body. Turn the damping knob on the reservoir (fig. 34) clockwise to “harden” the suspension compression setting. Turn the knob counterclockwise to “soften” the suspension compression setting. The Air Lift setting is -18C (18 clicks away from full hard). This was developed on a 2009 GT-R and may need adjustment to meet vehicle differences or driving demands.

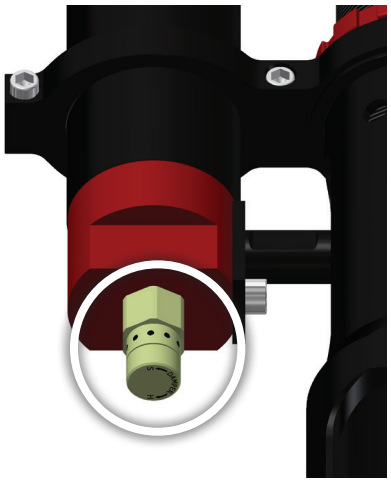


fig. 34

THREADED HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT

The shock assembly can be adjusted by threading the damper cartridge in or out of the lower mount. To do this, the collar holding the external reservoir must be loosened first!

⚠ CAUTION

FAILURE TO LOOSEN THE THREE ATTACHING BOLTS (FIG. 35) OF THE RESERVOIR COLLAR CAN RESULT IN THE ATTACHING TUBE TO DETACH OR BECOME SIDE-LOADED, CAUSING A LEAK OR PREMATURE FAILURE OF THE DAMPER.

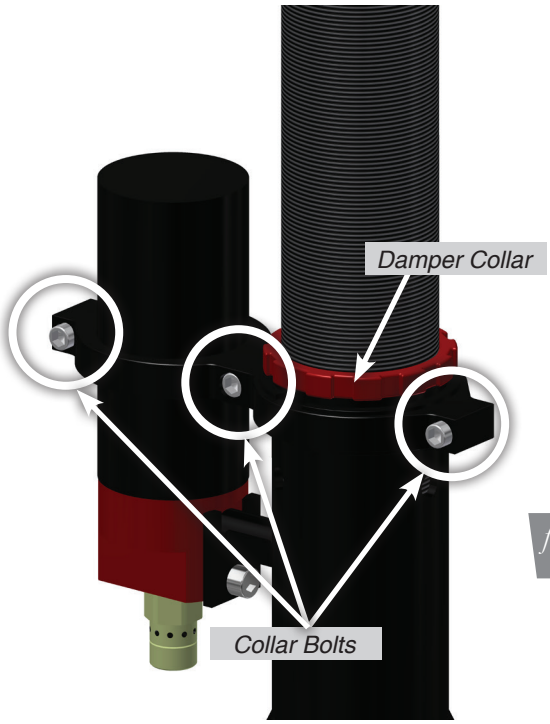


fig. 35

1. Loosen the three reservoir collar bolts.
2. Loosen the damper collar.
3. Make the threaded height adjustment.
4. Tighten the damper collar 1/2 turn beyond hand-tight.
5. Tighten the reservoir collar bolts evenly to 5 Nm (44 in-lbs.)

ALIGNING THE VEHICLE

1. Using the control system, set the vehicle height to the new custom ride height.
2. If the custom ride height is lower than stock, we recommend loosening all pivot points (bolts, nuts) on any control arm, strut arm or radius rod that contains bushings. Once they have been loosened, re-torque to stock specifications.

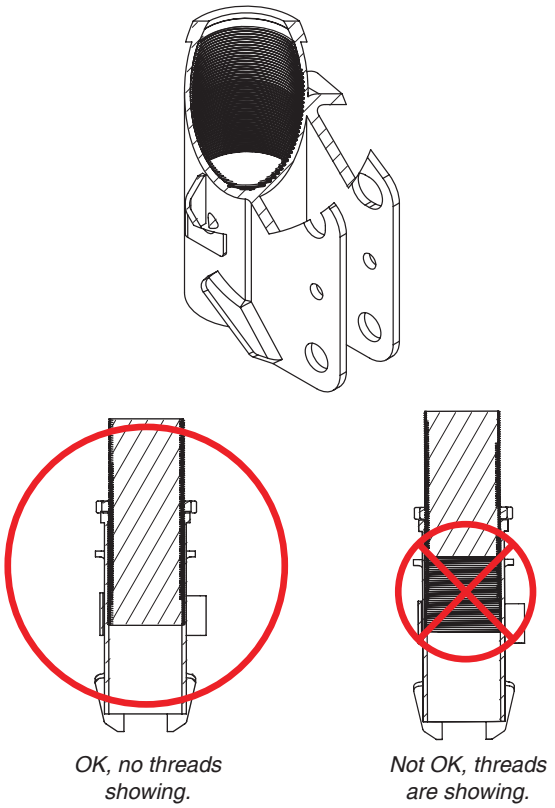
NOTE

It may be necessary to cycle the suspension to loosen the bushing up from its mount. This will help re-orient the bushing at its new position and increase life of the bushings based on the custom ride height.

⚠ CAUTION WHEN ADJUSTING HEIGHT UPWARDS, MAKE SURE THAT THE STRUT BODY ENGAGES ALL THE THREADS OF THE LOWER MOUNT (FIG. 36). WHEN ADJUSTING DOWNWARDS, MAKE SURE THERE IS ADEQUATE AIR SPRING CLEARANCE TO THE TIRE/WHEEL ASSEMBLY. CLEARANCE MUST BE CHECKED WITH SYSTEM FULLY DEFLATED AS WELL AS FULLY INFLATED TO ENSURE THAT NO RUBBING OCCURS. FAILURE TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE CLEARANCE CAN RESULT IN AIR SPRING FAILURE AND WILL NOT BE COVERED UNDER WARRANTY.

⚠ CAUTION DO NOT ADJUST HEIGHT BY SPINNING AIR SPRING ON STRUT! DOING SO MAY CAUSE AN AIR LEAK AND COMPROMISE THE ASSEMBLY.

FOR STRUTS:



OK, no threads showing.

Not OK, threads are showing.

FOR SHOCKS:

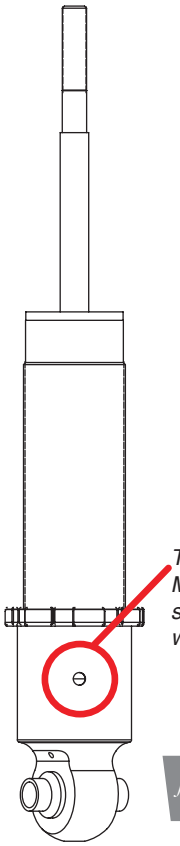


fig. 36

Before Operating

⚠ CAUTION MAKE SURE THE FRONT WHEELS ARE STRAIGHT WHEN DEFLATING AND REINFLATING AIR BAGS.

1. Inflate and deflate the system (do not exceed 125 PSI) to check for clearance or binding issues. With the air springs deflated, check clearances on everything so as not to pinch brake lines, vent tubes, etc. Clear lines if necessary.
2. Inflate the air springs to 75-90 PSI and check all connections for leaks.
3. Air Lift part #27669 or #27671, AutoPilot V2 Air Management System, is highly recommended for this product.
4. Please familiarize yourself further with this product by reading the Product Use, Maintenance and Servicing section.

INSTALLATION CHECKLIST

- ❑ Clearance test — Inflate the air springs to 75-90 PSI and make sure there is at least 1/2" clearance from anything that might rub against each sleeve. Be sure to check the tire, brake drum, frame, shock absorbers and brake cables.
- ❑ Leak test before road test — Inflate the air springs to 75-90 PSI and check all connections for leaks. All leaks must be eliminated before the vehicle is road tested.
- ❑ Heat test — Be sure there is sufficient clearance from heat sources, at least 6" for air springs and air lines. If a heat shield was included in the kit, install it. If there is no heat shield, but one is required, call Air Lift customer service at (800) 248-0892.
- ❑ Fastener test — Recheck all bolts for proper torque.
- ❑ Road test — The vehicle should be road tested after the preceding tests. Inflate the springs to recommended driving pressures. Drive the vehicle 10 miles and recheck for clearance, loose fasteners and air leaks.
- ❑ Operating instructions — If professionally installed, the installer should review the operating instructions with the owner. Be sure to provide the owner with all of the paperwork that came with the kit.

Technician's Signature _____

Date _____

POST-INSTALLATION CHECKLIST

- ❑ Overnight leak down test — Recheck air pressure after the vehicle has been used for 24 hours. If the pressure has dropped more than 5 PSI, then there is a leak that must be fixed. Either fix the leak yourself or return to the installer for service.
- ❑ Air pressure requirements — Regardless of load, the air pressure should always be adjusted to maintain adequate ride height at all times while driving.
- ❑ Thirty day or 500 mile test — Recheck the air spring system after 30 days or 500 miles, whichever comes first. If any part shows signs of rubbing or abrasion, the source should be identified and moved, if possible. If it is not possible to relocate the cause of the abrasion, the air spring may need to be remounted. If professionally installed, the installer should be consulted. Check all fasteners for tightness.

Product Use, Maintenance and Servicing

Suggested Driving Air Pressure	Maximum Air Pressure
40 PSI	125 PSI
FAILURE TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE MINIMUM PRESSURE (OR PRESSURE PROPORTIONAL TO LOAD) WILL RESULT IN BOTTOMING OUT, OVER-EXTENSION OR RUBBING AGAINST ANOTHER COMPONENT AND WILL **VOID THE WARRANTY**.	

MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

NOTE *By following these steps, vehicle owners will obtain the longest life and best results from their air spring.*

1. Check the air pressure before driving.
2. Never inflate beyond 125 PSI.
3. If you develop an air leak in the system, use a soapy water solution to check all air line connections, before deflating and removing the spring.
4. When increasing load, always adjust the air pressure to maintain normal ride height. Increase or decrease pressure from the system as necessary to attain normal ride height for optimal ride and handling. Remember that loads carried behind the axle (including tongue loads) require more leveling force (pressure) than those carried directly over the axle.

⚠ CAUTION FOR YOUR SAFETY AND TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO YOUR VEHICLE, DO NOT EXCEED MAXIMUM GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT RATING (GVWR), AS INDICATED BY THE VEHICLE MANUFACTURER. ALTHOUGH YOUR AIR SPRINGS ARE RATED AT A MAXIMUM INFLATION PRESSURE OF 125 PSI, THE AIR PRESSURE ACTUALLY NEEDED IS DEPENDENT ON YOUR LOAD.

5. Always add air to the springs in small quantities, checking the pressure frequently. Sleeves require less air volume than a tire and inflate quickly.
6. Should it become necessary to raise the vehicle by the frame, make sure the control system is turned off before lifting.

Troubleshooting Guide

1. Leak test the air line connections, the threaded connection into the air spring, and all fittings in the control system.
2. Inspect the air lines to be sure none are pinched. Tie straps may be too tight. Loosen or replace the strap and replace leaking components.
3. Inspect the air line for holes and cracks. Replace as needed.
4. Look for a kink or fold in the air line. Reroute as needed.

If the preceding steps do not solve the problem, it is possibly caused by a failed air spring — either a factory defect or an operating problem. Please call Air Lift at (800) 248-0892 for assistance.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Will installing air springs increase the weight ratings of a vehicle?

No. Adding air springs will not change the weight ratings (GAWR, GCWR and/or GVWR) of a vehicle. Exceeding the GVWR is dangerous and voids the Air Lift warranty.

Q. How long should air springs last?

If the air springs are properly installed and maintained they can last indefinitely.

Q. Will raising the vehicle on a hoist for service work damage the air springs?

No. The vehicle can be lifted on a hoist for short-term service work such as tire rotation or oil changes. However, if the vehicle will be on the hoist for a prolonged period of time, support the axle with jack stands in order to take the tension off of the air springs.

Tuning the Air Pressure

Pressure determination comes down to three things — level vehicle, ride comfort, and stability.

1. **Level vehicle**

   If the vehicle's headlights are shining into the trees or the vehicle is leaning to one side, then it is not level. Raise the air pressure to correct either of these problems and level the vehicle.

2. **Ride comfort**

   If the vehicle has a rough or harsh ride it may be due to either too much pressure or not enough. Try different pressures to determine the best ride comfort. See Air Lift suggested driving air pressure.

3. **Stability**

   Stability translates into safety and should be the priority, meaning the driver may need to sacrifice a perfectly level and comfortable ride. Stability issues include roll control, bounce, dive during braking and sponginess. Tuning out these problems usually requires additional air pressure, strut damping, or both.

Checking for leaks

1. Inflate the air spring to 80 PSI.
2. Spray all connections and the inflation valves with a solution of 1/5 liquid dish soap and 4/5 water. Spot leaks easily by looking for bubbles in the soapy water.
3. After the test, deflate the springs to the minimum pressure required to restore the system to normal ride height.
4. Check the air pressure again after 24 hours. A 2-4 PSI loss after initial installation is normal. Retest for leaks if the loss is more than 5 PSI.

Fixing Leaks

1. If there is a problem with a swivel fitting:
   a. Check the air line connection by deflating the spring and removing the line by pulling the collar against the fitting and pulling firmly on the air line. Trim 1" off the end of the air line. Be sure the cut is clean and square (see fig. 33). Reinsert the air line into the push-to-connect fitting.
   b. Check the threaded connection by tightening the swivel fitting another ½ turn. If it still leaks, deflate the air spring, remove the fitting, and re-coat the threads with thread sealant. Reinstall by hand tightening as much as possible and then use a wrench for an additional two turns.
2. If the preceding steps have not resolved the problem, call Air Lift customer service at (800) 248-0892.

fig. 33

Warranty and Returns Policy

Air Lift Performance warrants its performance products for one year to the original purchaser against manufacturing defects one year from the date of purchase when used on cars and trucks as specified under normal operating conditions. The warranty does not apply to products that have been improperly applied, improperly installed, or which have not been maintained in accordance with installation instructions furnished with all products. The consumer will be responsible for removing (labor charges) the defective product from the vehicle and returning it, transportation costs prepaid, to the dealer from which it was purchased or to Air Lift Performance for verification.

Air Lift will repair or replace, at its option, defective products or components. A minimum $10.00 shipping and handling charge will apply to all warranty claims. Before returning any defective product, you must call Air Lift at (800) 248-0892 in the U.S. and Canada (elsewhere, (517) 322-2144) for a Returned Materials Authorization (RMA) number. Returns can be sent to: Air Lift Performance • 2727 Snow Road • Lansing, MI • 48917.

Product failures resulting from abnormal use or misuse are excluded from this warranty. The loss of use of the product, loss of time, inconvenience, commercial loss or consequential damages is not covered. The consumer is responsible for installation/reinstallation (labor charges) of the product. Air Lift Performance reserves the right to change the design of any product without assuming any obligation to modify any product previously manufactured.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights that may vary from state-to-state. Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts or allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages. The above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you. There are no warranties, expressed or implied including any implied warranties of merchantability and fitness, which extend beyond this warranty period. There are no warranties that extend beyond the description on the face hereof. Seller disclaims the implied warranty of merchantability. (Dated proof of purchase required.)

Replacement Information

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For inquiries by mail, our address is PO Box 80167, Lansing, MI 48908-0167. Our shipping address for returns is 2727 Snow Road, Lansing, MI 48917.

You may also contact our sales team anytime by e-mail at sales@airliftperformance.com or on the web at www.airliftperformance.com.

Notes

Notes

Need Help?

Contact our customer service department by calling (800) 248-0892. For calls from outside the USA or Canada, our local number is (517) 322-2144.

Thank you for purchasing Air Lift Performance products!

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