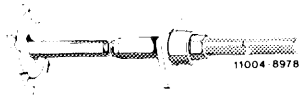
32–205 Removal and installation of front spring (in combination with removal and installation of front axle half on vehicles following an accident)

Special tools

Spring tensioner for front spring	 11004-8978	123 589 04 31 00
Contour plate (2 each) (for model 116 only)	 11004-8980	116 589 01 32 00
Socket 32 mm 1/2" square 445 mm long for spring tensioner	 11004-8984	201 589 01 09 00

Note

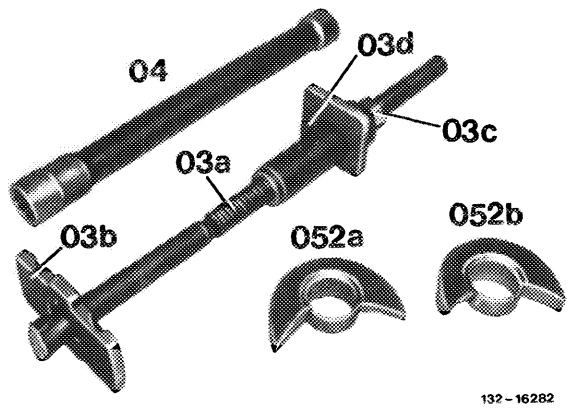
Removal and installation of front spring according to the method described below is recommended, if the front axle half on vehicles is to be removed following an accident (e.g. damaged front end, if access with other spring tensioner is not possible).
Contrary to normal method, where the spring is tensioned by way of tow pressure plates and can then be removed in this condition, the spring is tensioned by way of a single pressure plate against spring retainer at front end. The spring can then be slackened and taken out with front axle half removed.

To install front spring, align end coil in relation to lower spring retainer by means of an auxiliary control arm prior to tensioning.

As an auxiliary control arm use an old, lower control arm of respective model. For better handling, cut off rear section.

The spring tensioner comprises a tensioning screw (03a), a tensioning plate (036b), a nut and a guide sleeve (03c), a mounting plate (03d), when used on model 123. When used on model 116, the mounting plate (03d) is replaced by the contour plates (052a) at the left and (052b) at the right.

The spring tensioner is designed to permit operations by means of an impact wrench.



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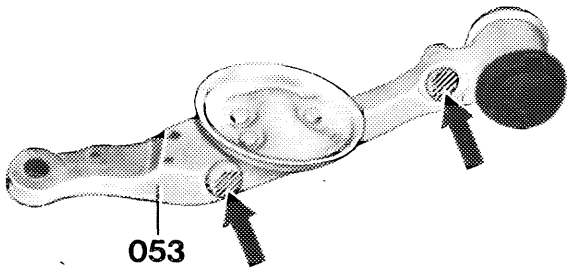
03a Tensioning screw
03b Tensioning plate
03c Nut with guide sleeve
03d Mounting plate
04 Socket
052a Contour plate left
052b Contour plate right

Note: To shape auxiliary control arm, cut off rear part (refer to arrows).

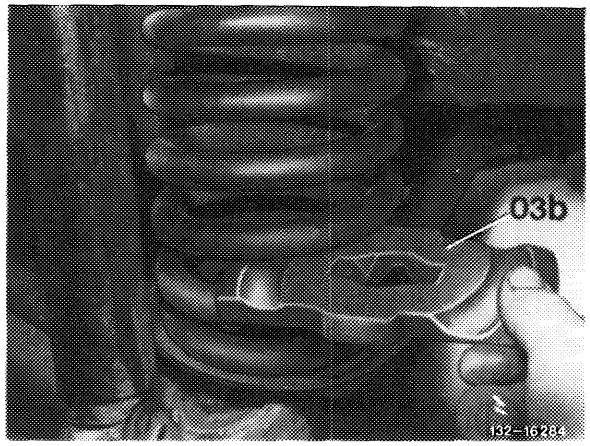


132-16281

Removal

1 Lift vehicle at the front, remove front wheel.

2 Slip tensioning plate (03b) of spring tensioner in-between second and third lower spring coil, making sure that the narrow side of the tensioning plate points in driving direction.



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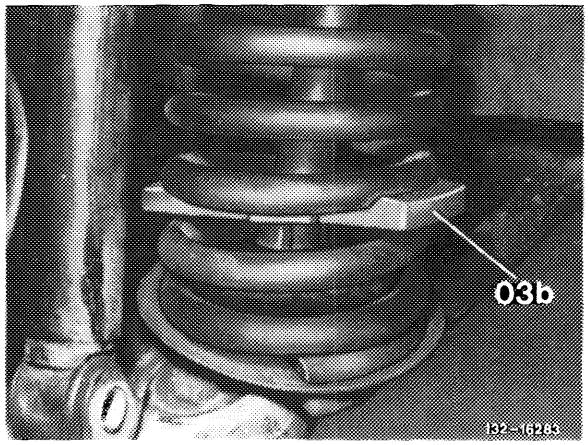
03b Tensioning plate

3 Introduce tensioning screw (03a) of spring tensioner from direction of engine compartment into slot of tensioning plate and hook to tensioning plate by means of a 90° turn.



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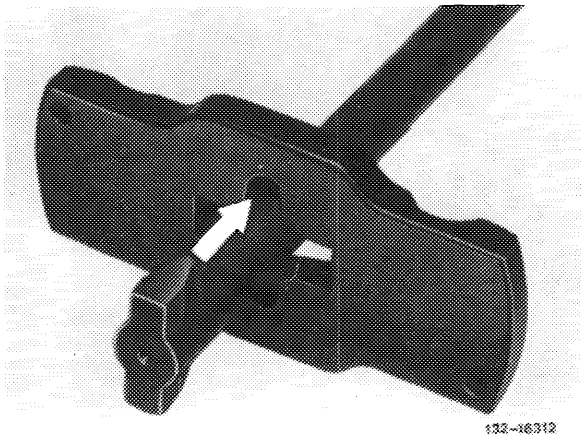
03b Tensioning plate

Attention!
The webs of the tensioning screw and the guide sleeve should be correctly located in grooves of tensioning plate. Danger!



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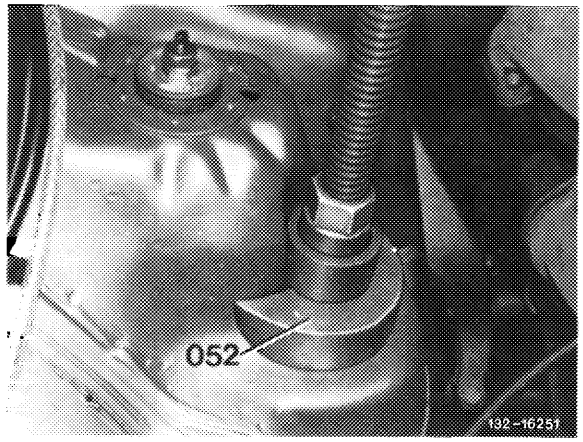
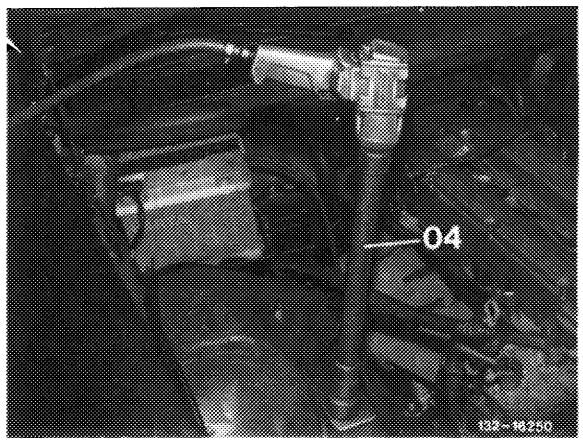
4 Tighten tensioning nut by means of socket, making sure that the contour plate (052) is correctly seated and that the tensioning screw is not rotating in tensioning plate.

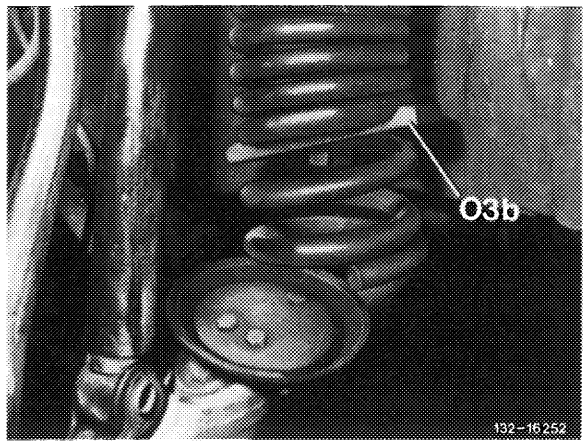


5 Use an impact wrench for tensioning spring, if available.



04 Socket

6 Tension spring until spring lifts off from spring retainer on lower control arm.

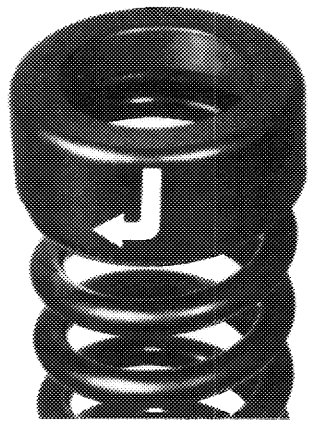


03b Tensioning plate

7 Upon removal of lower control arm or of front axle half, slacken front spring and remove.

Installation

8 Place rubber mount on front spring and locate on spring by turning to the right.
Attach rubber mount with textile adhesive tape to spring at two points.



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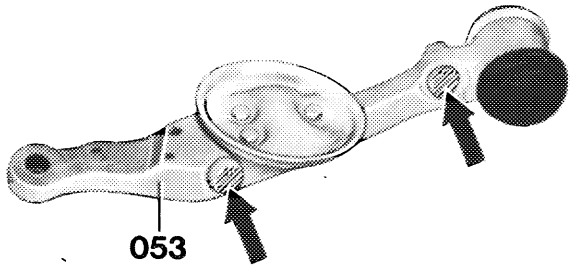
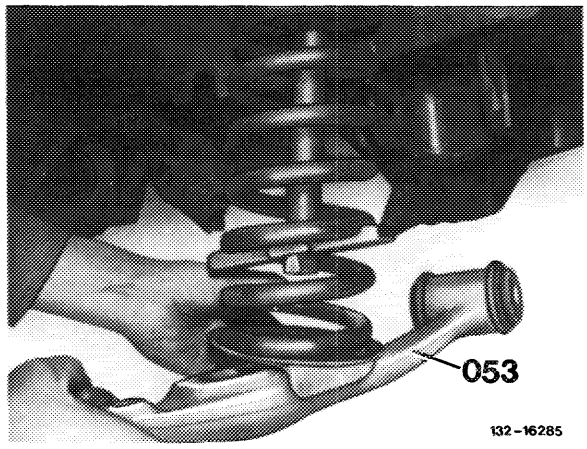


053 Auxiliary control arm

132-16281

9 Insert front spring with rubber mount and slackened spring tensioner.
Locate spring with spring tensioner and auxiliary control arm (053) in such a manner that the lower end coil is in alignment with lower spring retainer.



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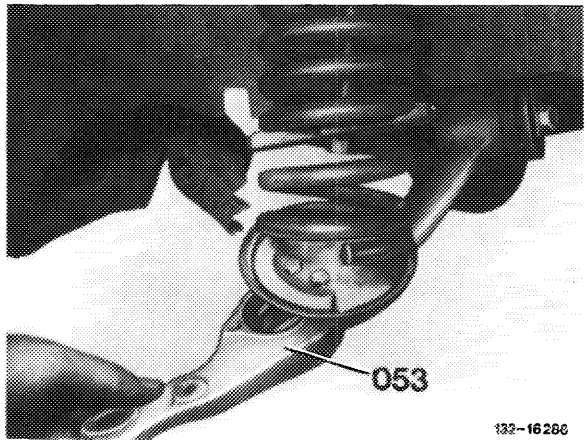
10 Position control arm eye against frame cross member and insert cam bolt.



053 Auxiliary control arm

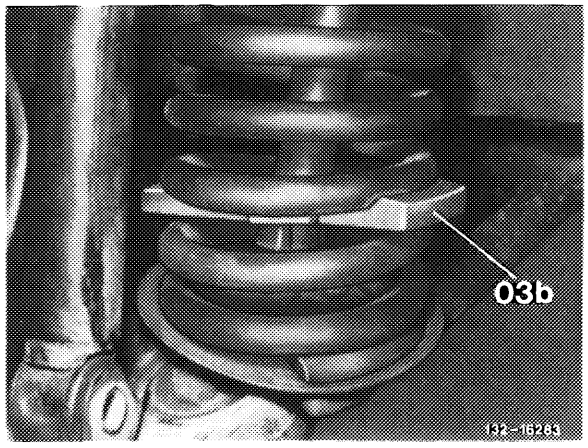
132-16286

11 Tension front spring.

12 Remove auxiliary control arm.

13 Mount front axle half.

14 Slacken front spring.
Make sure that the lower end coil of spring rests correctly on spring retainer. If required, assist with a tire lever.



03b Tensioning plate