

E4-WM5-Y381A00

MOUNTING INSTRUCTION



IMPORTANT!

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS FIRST!

If in doubt, please contact your local BILSTEIN dealer or our sales department before installation.

When replacing other brands, BILSTEIN shock absorbers should always be installed as a set. Installation of shock absorbers, struts and cartridges requires special tools and expert knowledge. Accordingly, installation of all BILSTEIN products must be performed by a qualified suspension specialist.

Always use a chassis hoist for the installation of BILSTEIN products, and make certain that the raised vehicle is securely attached to the hoist to prevent the vehicle from slipping, falling, or moving during the installation process.

If you choose to install any BILSTEIN product without the necessary special tools, expertise or chassis hoist, you may subject yourself to the risk of serious bodily injury or death. If you elect not to use a chassis hoist, at least make sure the vehicle is on level ground, that all tires on the ground during installation are blocked to prevent movement, that at least two tires are on the ground at all times, and that adequately secured safety stands (jack stands) are used to support the chassis. **NEVER** get under the vehicle until you have checked to make sure all of these things are done.

All BILSTEIN products must only be used for the specific, intended application as indicated in the application guide. **Any use of any BILSTEIN product other than for its intended use may result in serious bodily injury or death.**

BILSTEIN suspension products are gas-filled and are highly pressurized. Never place any BILSTEIN product in a vise or use a clamp on any BILSTEIN product; never apply heat near any BILSTEIN product, and never attempt to open or repair any BILSTEIN product, in order to prevent **serious bodily injury or death**. Any attempt to misuse, misapply, modify, or tamper with any BILSTEIN suspension product voids any warranty and **may result in serious bodily injury or death**.

Do not use impact tools for loosening or tightening fasteners, because this may destroy the screw threads. Self-locking nuts must only be used **once!**

Reuse original equipment components only if they are in good condition, otherwise replace them with new components. Never remove the slight film of oil on the piston rod and seal.

All mounting fasteners for shocks and struts must be securely tightened before tension is placed on the suspension system.

After installing any BILSTEIN product, the suspension caster and camber must be checked and/or adjusted to comply with the vehicle manufacturer's specifications. Also, the (load dependent) brake compensator and the anti-lock brake system must be checked and/or reset to comply with the vehicle manufacturer's specifications. Also the headlight aim must be checked and adjusted.

Be sure to properly dispose of all old parts.

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BILSTEIN 5160 Series Reservoir Shock Absorbers are designed to fit your vehicle's original shock mounts with no modifications. With the exception of reservoir placement, the 5160 Series shocks are installed in the same manner as a standard replacement shock. The shocks and hardware depicted herein may differ slightly in appearance from the supplied components.

In order to complete the installation, the following tools in addition to common hand tools will be required:

- Drill
- Size 7 drill bit (.201")
- ¼"-20 tap and tap wrench
- Centerpunch and/or marker

Shock Installation Procedure:

- A. Remove the existing front shocks from the vehicle following all procedures in the vehicle manufacturer's service manual.
- B. Install the front shock in the original location. The lower mount fasteners can be reused. The upper mount hardware is supplied new. Do not fully tighten the fasteners at this time.

Please note that the reservoir and hose should be supported until the reservoir is mounted. Figure 1 depicts the front shock installed. The driver side is shown.



Figure 1

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Front Reservoir Bracket Installation Procedure:

- A. The reservoir brackets are recommended to be installed on the outer frame rail, just above the sway bar bushings. Each front shock includes a bracket kit.
- B. Each bracket kit includes two ¼"-20 screws and two split washers. The frame rail must be drilled and tapped in order to install the screws.

Figures 2 & 3 depict the recommended bracket position. The driver side is shown.

- C. It is recommended to hold the reservoir up to the frame rail in the appropriate position and mark or scribe lines on the frame rail on either side of the reservoir. Then center the bracket between the lines and mark the bolt hole centers with a centerpunch or marker.



Figure 2



Figure 3

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- D. Using the size 7 drill bit, drill a hole in side of the frame rail at each of the points marked. It is recommended to drill a smaller pilot hole first to prevent the larger bit from wandering. Be sure to keep the drill bit as perpendicular as possible to the side of the frame rail. It is also recommended to use cutting oil to drill the frame.
- E. Tap the holes using the 1/4"-20 tap. Be sure to keep the tap as perpendicular as possible to the side of the frame rail. It is recommended to use cutting oil to tap the threads in the frame. Clean out the chips and oil after tapping.
- F. Using the provided 1/4"-20 bolts and split washers, install the reservoir bracket onto the frame. The concave side of the bracket must face outward. It is recommended that a non-permanent thread locking compound be used on the threads.
- G. Torque both bolts to 10 lb•ft (13.6 N•m).
- H. Using the provided hose clamps, slide the open bands through the thin slots on the sides of the bracket.
- I. Secure the reservoir to the bracket using the hose clamps. The hose fittings are designed to swivel to allow the reservoir and hose to be more easily positioned. Tighten the hose clamps sufficiently to prevent the reservoir from slipping, but loose enough to allow for small subsequent adjustments of position. Figure 4 depicts the reservoir installed.



Figure 4

- J. Carefully check for any possible interference between the reservoir/hose and any other components on the vehicle, then make any necessary adjustments to the reservoir/hose positions. The reservoir mounting locations depicted are appropriate for most trucks for which this kit is intended, however, some wheel/tire and/or lift kit combinations may create interference problems. It is the responsibility of the installer to determine if the reservoirs are mounted appropriately and if there is any potential for interference.
- K. If no potential interference is found, tighten the hose clamps until the reservoir cannot be manually moved.
- L. If a chassis hoist has been used, be sure to lower the vehicle such that its full weight is on the suspension prior to fully tightening the shock fasteners.
- M. Tighten the locknut on the stem to 25 N•m (19 lb•ft). Tighten the lower mount to the vehicle manufacturer's service manual torque specifications.