

AIR LIFT
PERFORMANCE

9th Gen Honda Civic

2012-15 Civic, 2012-13 Civic Si

Kit 78526

2014+ Civic Si

Kit 78556

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.



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Introduction

Air Lift Performance thanks you for purchasing the most complete, fully engineered high-performance air suspension made for the Honda Civic and Civic Si. Read these installation instructions to correctly and safely set up the vehicle for a #lifeonair.

Air Lift assumes that the installer has the mechanical knowledge and ability to work on vehicle suspension systems and has basic tools necessary to complete the project. Special tools needed to complete the installation are noted on the *Installation Diagram* page.

Air Lift 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 www.airliftperformance.com.

An Air Lift Performance air management system is highly recommended for this product. Learn more at air-lift.co/productlines.

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



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

Kit 78526 shown

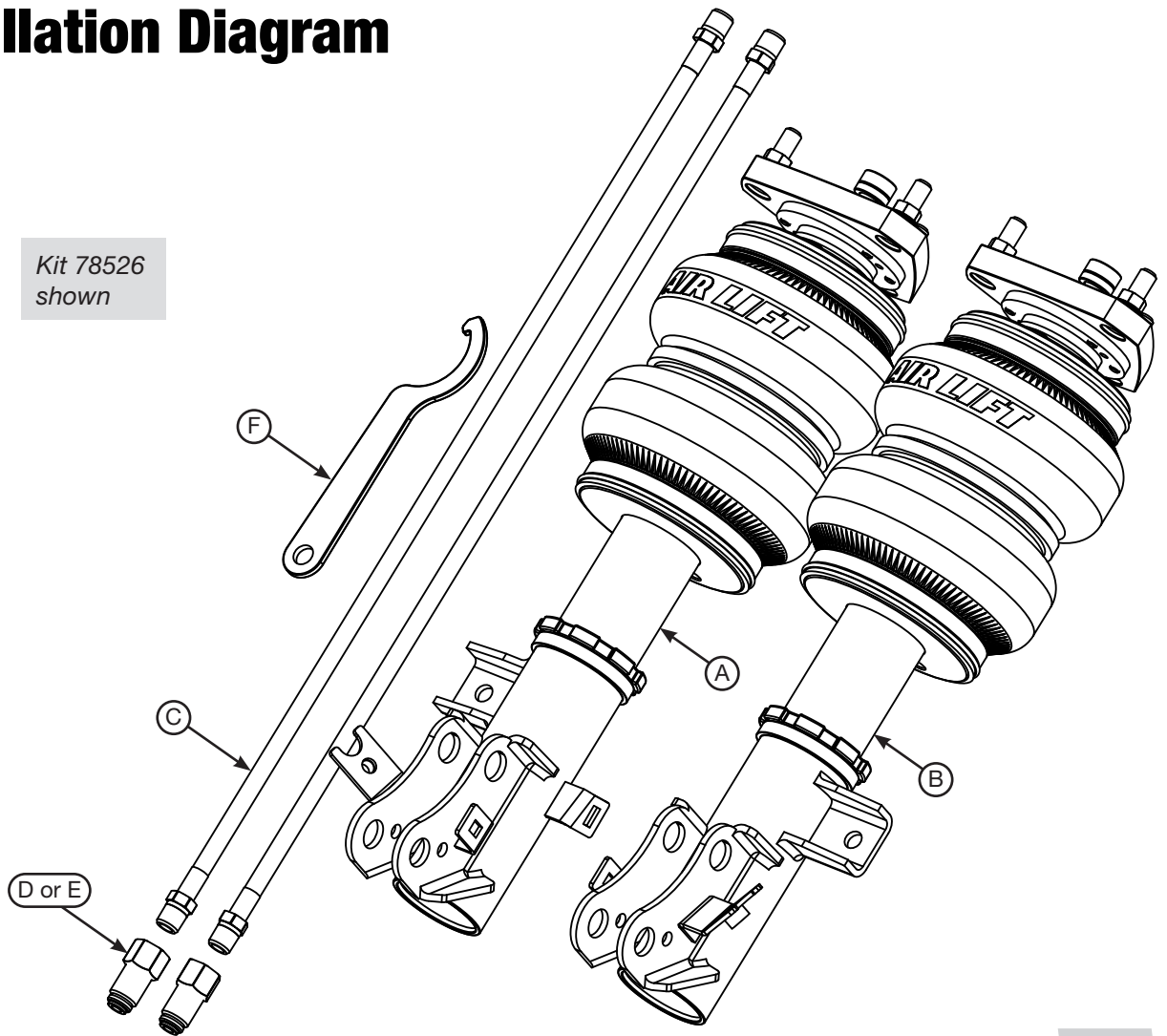


fig. 1

KIT 78556 HARDWARE LIST

KIT-SPECIFIC HARDWARE

Kit #78526 (2012-15 Honda Civic, 2012-13 Civic Si)

Item	Part #	Description	Qty
A	35318	Strut, Civic (9th Gen) right front	1
B	35317	Strut, Civic (9th Gen) left front	1

Kit #78556 (2014+ Civic Si)

Item	Part #	Description	Qty
A	35406	Strut, Civic (9th Gen) right front	1
B	35407	Strut, Civic (9th Gen) left front	1

COMMON HARDWARE

Item	Part #	Description	Qty
C	20997	Leader Line, 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		Spanner Wrench	1
	26783-009	End link (not shown)	2



Honda changed the lower mount for the Civic Si for 2014. While this manual shows the original mount, the kits are otherwise the same.



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

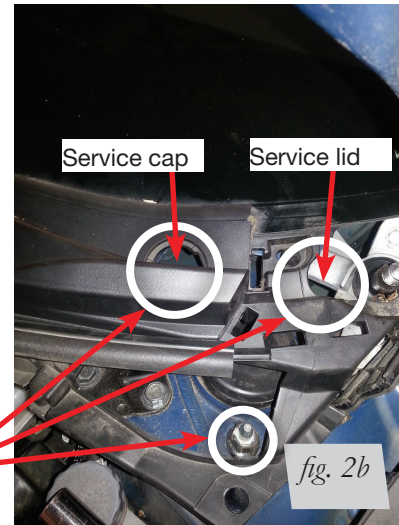
Installing the Air Suspension

PREPARING THE VEHICLE

1. Key the ignition on and activate the windshield wipers. Turn the ignition off when the wipers' position is nearest the A-pillar. Remove the service cap above the strut mounts as well as the service lid (Fig. 2a). This provides access to the upper strut mount nuts (Fig. 2b).



fig. 2a



Location of
strut mount nuts

fig. 2b

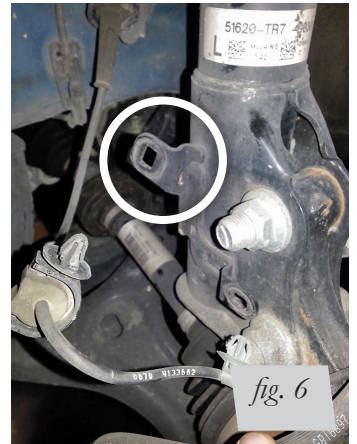
2. Elevate and support the vehicle using its approved lifting points.
3. Remove the front wheels (Fig. 3).



fig. 3

REMOVAL OF STOCK SUSPENSION

1. Unclip the wheel sensor harness from the strut (Figs. 4, 5 & 6).



2. Unbolt the brake line tab from the bracket (Figs. 7 & 8).



3. Disconnect the stabilizer bar end link from the strut and stabilizer bar (Figs. 9 & 10).



- Support the hub and remove the two lower strut bolts (Figs. 11 & 12).



fig. 11



fig. 12

- Remove the three strut upper mount nuts and remove the strut from the vehicle (Fig. 13).



fig. 13

AIR SUSPENSION INSTALLATION

- Begin by installing the leader line into the air spring. Apply thread sealant to the threads of the leader line. Tighten the appropriate fitting to the air line (1 3/4 turns beyond hand-tight). Tighten the leader line into the air spring 1 3/4 turns beyond hand-tight (Fig. 14).

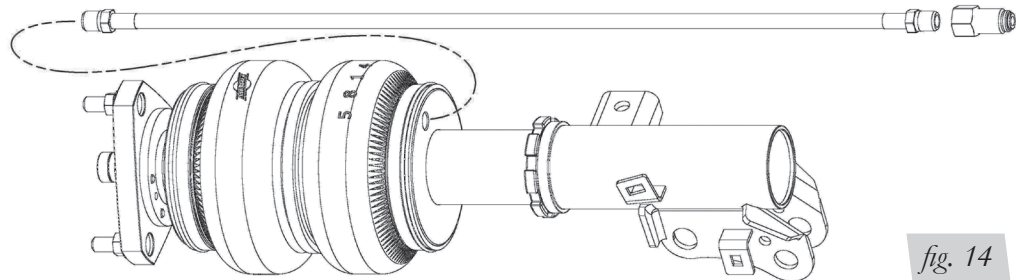


fig. 14

2. Attach the camber plate to the chassis (Fig. 15). Torque nuts to 59Nm (44 lb.-ft.).

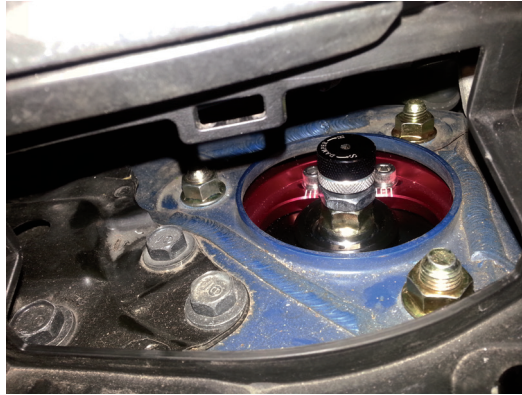


fig. 15

NOTE

When adjusting the camber in the negative direction with the camber plates, check clearance around the inflated air spring throughout the suspension travel. Fasteners located inside the strut tower alongside the air spring may require trimming to prevent the air spring from rubbing (Fig. 16).

CAUTION

ANY CONTACT WITH THE AIR SPRING WILL CAUSE PREMATURE WEAR AND WILL NOT BE COVERED UNDER WARRANTY.



fig. 16

3. Reattach the spindle (Fig. 17). Standard models: torque bolts to 115Nm (85 lb.-ft.). Si models: torque bolts to 157Nm (116 lb.-ft.).



fig. 17

4. Connect the supplied stabilizer bar end link to the strut and stabilizer bar (Figs. 18 & 19). Torque nut to 34Nm (25 lb.-ft.).

*fig. 18**fig. 19*

5. Reattach the brake line tab (Fig. 20) and torque bolt to 22Nm (16 lb.-ft.). Clip the wheel speed sensor harness into the supporting bracket on the strut (Fig. 21).

*fig. 20**fig. 21*

6. Reinstall the service cap and lid (Fig. 22).

*fig. 22*

ROUTING THE AIR LINES

1. Fully compress the suspension using a jack. With the suspension compressed, review the best routing for the leader line that is clear of all suspension and steering components.
2. Routing should allow for the suspension to extend and steer without kinking, 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.

Before Operating

SETTING THE RIDE HEIGHT

1. Refer to the User Guide supplied with this kit to set up the suspension.

Torque Specifications		
Location	Nm	Lb.-ft.
Camber plate to chassis	59	43
Lower spindle nuts (standard models)	115	85
Lower spindle nuts (Si models)	157	116
Brake line bracket	22	16
Stabilizer end link	34	25
Wheel studs	108	80
Camber plate bolts	10	7
Leader line	1 3/4 turns beyond hand-tight	

Table 1

Suggested Driving Air Pressure	Maximum Air Pressure
40-55 PSI (2.8-3.8BAR)	125 PSI (8.6BAR)
FAILURE TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE MINIMUM PRESSURE (OR PRESSURE PROPORTIONAL TO LOAD) MAY RESULT IN EXCESSIVE BOTTOMING OUT AND WILL VOID THE WARRANTY.	

Table 2

CHECK FOR BINDING

1. Inflate and deflate the system (do not exceed 125 PSI [8.6BAR]) 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 (5.2-6.2BAR) and check all connections for leaks.



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

INSTALLATION CHECKLIST

- Clearance** — Inflate the air springs to 75-90 PSI (5.2-6.2BAR) and make sure there is at least 1/2" (13mm) clearance from anything that might rub against the air spring. This should be checked with the air spring fully inflated and fully deflated.
- Leak** — Inflate the air springs to 75-90 PSI (5.2-6.2BAR) and check all connections for leaks. All leaks must be eliminated before the vehicle is road tested.
- Heat** — Be sure there is sufficient clearance from heat sources, at least 6" (152mm) from 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** — Recheck all bolts for proper torque.
- Road** — Inflate the air springs to recommended driving pressures (Table 2). Drive the vehicle 10 miles (16km) 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 paperwork that came with the kit.

DAMPING ADJUSTMENT

Suspension damping is a matter of compromise. Setting it too stiff will make the ride feel jarring. In addition, if the suspension is too stiff, the tires will lose contact with the road, reducing control and power delivery. On the other hand, if the suspension is too soft, the car can experience brake dive and excessive bouncing. The sweet spot lies somewhere in the middle. Air Lift dampers have a range of adjustment, which allows the driver to tune the ride and handling to his or her preferences.

Air Lift recommends damper and air pressure settings for every vehicle kit, but it is impossible to consider every situation. For example, even though Air Lift kits replace the dampers and springs, vehicles with sport-tuned suspensions might have stiffer bushings, larger anti-roll bars, bigger wheels, wider tires, etc. These settings may need to be adjusted to different vehicles and driving characteristics.

1. The dampers in this kit have 30 settings, or "clicks," of adjustable compression and rebound damping characteristics. Damping is changed through the damper rod using the supplied adjuster (Figs. 23 & 24) or an 3mm hex key (not included).
2. Turn the adjuster clockwise (H) and the damping settings are hardened, reducing oscillations and body motion. Turn the adjuster counterclockwise (S) and the damping is softened.
3. Each damper in this kit is preset to "-17 clicks." This means that the damper is adjusted 17 clicks away from full stiff, which starts at 0. Counting up from full stiff is the preferred method of keeping track of, or setting, damping. This setting was developed on a 2013 Honda Civic Si Sedan.



fig. 23

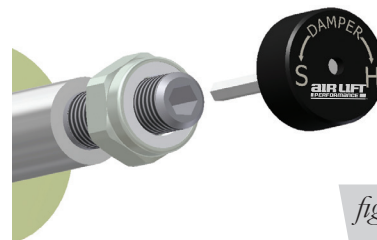


fig. 24

Notes

Limited Warranty and Return Policy

Air Lift Company provides a 1-year limited warranty to the original purchaser of Air Lift Performance damper kits from the date of original purchase, that the products will be free from defects in workmanship and materials when used on vehicles as specified by Air Lift Company and under normal operating conditions, subject to the requirements and exclusions set forth in the full Limited Warranty and Return Policy that is available online at www.airliftperformance.com/warranty.

For additional warranty information contact Air Lift Company customer service.

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NEED HELP?

Contact Air Lift Company customer service department by calling (800) 248-0892. For calls from outside the USA or Canada, dial (517) 322-2144.



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