



ZONC4201,ZONC4301 Installation Instructions 2014-2018 Chevy/GMC 1500 2/4wd 2" and 3" Loaded Strut Kits

Read and understand all instructions and warnings prior to installation of product and operation of vehicle.

Zone Offroad Products recommends this system be installed by a professional technician. In addition to these instructions, professional knowledge of disassembly/ reassembly procedures and post installation checks must be known. Minimum tool requirements include the following: Assorted metric and standard wrenches, hammer, hydraulic floor jack and a set of jack stands. See the "Special Tools Required" section for additional tools needed to complete this installation properly and safely.

» PRODUCT SAFETY WARNING

Certain Zone Suspension Products are intended to improve off-road performance. Modifying your vehicle for off-road use may result in the vehicle handling differently than a factory equipped vehicle. Extreme care must be used to prevent loss of control or vehicle rollover. Failure to drive your modified vehicle safely may result in serious injury or death. Zone Offroad Products does not recommend the combined use of suspension lifts, body lifts, or other lifting devices.

You should never operate your modified vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Always drive your modified vehicle at reduced speeds to ensure your ability to control your vehicle under all driving conditions. Always wear your seat belt.

» TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Live Chat provides instant communication with Zone tech support. Anyone can access live chat through a link on www.zoneoffroad.com.

www.zoneoffroad.com may have additional information about this product including the latest instructions, videos, photos, etc.

Send an e-mail to tech@zoneoffroad.com detailing your issue for a quick response.

888.998.ZONE Call to speak directly with Zone tech support.

» PRE-INSTALLATION NOTES

1. Special literature required: OE Service Manual for model/year of vehicle. Refer to manual for proper disassembly/reassembly procedures of OE and related components.
2. Adhere to recommendations when replacement fasteners, retainers and keepers are called out in the OE manual.
3. Larger rim and tire combinations may increase leverage on suspension, steering, and related components. When selecting combinations larger than OE, consider the additional stress you could be inducing on the OE and related components.
4. Post suspension system vehicles may experience drive line vibrations. Angles may require tuning, slider on shaft may require replacement, shafts may need to be lengthened or trued, and U-joints may need to be replaced.
5. Secure and properly block vehicle prior to installation of Zone Offroad Products. Always wear safety glasses when using power tools.
6. If installation is to be performed without a hoist, Zone Offroad Products recommends rear alterations first.
7. Due to payload options and initial ride height variances, the amount of lift is a base figure. Final ride height dimensions may vary in accordance to original vehicle attitude. Always measure the attitude prior to beginning installation.
8. Although not required, upper control arms are recommended to address any alignment concerns. ZONC2310 or ZONC2313 can be used depending upon control arm type.
9. ZONC5652 recommended to increase tire clearance to the fender.

Difficulty Level

easy 1 2 **3** 4 5 difficult

Estimated installation: 3-4 hours

Special Tools Required

NA

Tire/Wheel Fitment

285/70R17 w/ Factory Wheels

285/70R17 w/ 17x8.5, 4.75" BS *

285/65R18 w/ Factory Wheels

285/65R18 w/ 18x8.5, 4.75" BS *

285/55R20 w/ Factory Wheels

285/55R20 w/ 20x9, 5" BS*

* Trimming may be required

IMPORTANT

It is required that ride height measurements be taken before and after installation. Measure from the **WHEEL AXLE CENTER** up to the **FENDER LIP** of the wheel opening. Do this for all 4 wheels. Record measurements below.**

BEFORE:

LF _____ RF _____ LR _____ RR _____

AFTER:

LF _____ RF _____ LR _____ RR _____



****These ride heights will be required if you have any ride height concerns after installation. Please be prepared to provide these to Technical Support.**

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Park the vehicle on a clean, flat surface and block the rear wheels for safety.
2. Raise the front of the vehicle and support the frame rails with jack stands.
3. Remove the front wheels.
4. Disconnect the front driver's and passenger's side sway bar links from the sway bar (15 mm). Save hardware. **Figure 1**



Figure 1

Perform the following installation steps on one side at a time.

5. Remove the wire retaining clips from the strut studs and loosen but do not remove the three upper strut mount nuts at the frame (18mm). **Figure 2** Do not loosen- the center strut rod nut.



Figure 2

6. Remove the nut from the steering tie rod end. **Figure 3** Thread the nut back on a couple of turns by hand. Strike the knuckle near the tie rod end to dislodge the rod end taper from the knuckle. Remove the nut and the tie rod end from the knuckle. Save nut.



Figure 3

7. Unclip the ABS wire from the upper control arm for additional slack. Figure 4

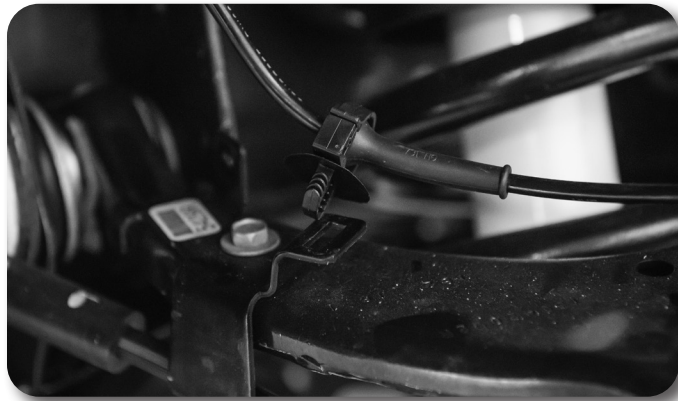


Figure 4

8. Support the lower control arm with a hydraulic jack and remove the nut from the upper ball joint. Figure 5 Thread the nut back on a couple of turns by hand. Strike the knuckle near the upper ball joint to dislodge the rod end taper from the knuckle. Remove the nut and allow the knuckle to swing rearward out of the way. Save the ball joint nut.



Figure 5

9. Remove the two lower strut bar pin bolts. Figure 6. Lower the control arm with the jack and remove the OE strut from the vehicle..



Figure 6

» LOADED STRUT INSTALLATION

10. Install the strut into the vehicle in the same orientation as it was removed. Loosely attach to the frame mount using the OE hardware.
11. Locate the two captive nuts on the factory strut bar pin. Carefully remove these nuts and transfer them to the new loaded struts. Use the OE hardware to install the lower control arm to the loaded strut. Note the rearward bolt may need to be trimmed for CV clearance. Torque the lower hardware to 37 ft-lbs.
12. With the lower hardware tight. Torque the upper strut mount nuts to 40 ft-lbs.
13. 2016+ Models: Remove the bumper on the frame below the upper control arm. This system will not max out the balljoint at full droop, but removing the bumper eliminates unnecessary stress on the balljoint through droop travel. The strut will still limit down travel just like the OE configuration. [Figure 7](#)

Step 11 Note:

The bolts must run from the top down. All hardware is located in pack #646.

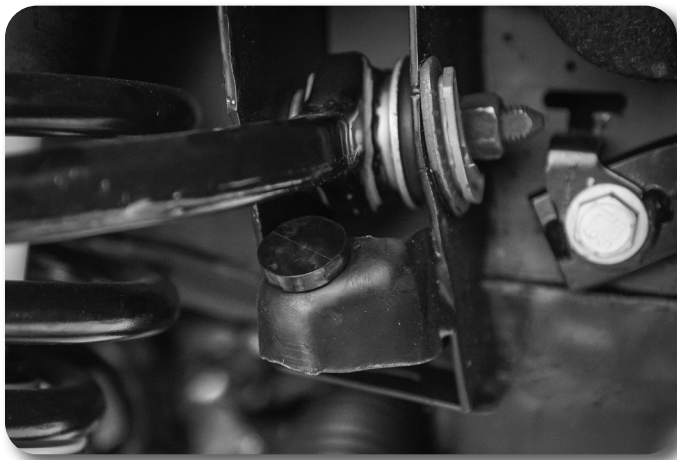


Figure 7

14. Reattach the upper ball joint to the knuckle. Use the jack to support the lower control arm and torque the upper ball joint nut to 40 ft-lbs.
15. Reattach the tie rod to the knuckle and torque the factory nut to 44 ft-lbs.
16. Repeat installation on the opposite side of the vehicle. When both sides are complete, reattach the sway bar links and tighten hardware until the bushings begin to swell.
17. Reinstall the wheels and lower the vehicle to the ground. Torque lug nuts to 140 ft-lbs in a crossing pattern.

18. Check all hardware for proper torque.
19. Check hardware after 500 miles.
20. Adjust headlights.
21. The vehicle will need a complete front end alignment.

Step 3 Note:

To avoid axle shift, only remove/replace the u-bolts from one side at a time.

Step 4 Note:

It may be necessary to adjust the brake line in order to gain additional length. Do not kink the brake line in any way.

Step 6 Note:

Do not bring this assembly under pressure until the u-bolts have been installed.

Step 7 Note:

Be sure to install the u-bolts under the brake line.

» REAR INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS (ZONC4301 & ZONC1209 KITS)

NOTE: Complete the following instructions one side at a time. Do not attempt to drop the entire axle at one time.

1. Raise rear of vehicle and support with jack stands under frame. Remove wheels.
2. With axle firmly supported by jack stands remove the OEM shock. Place a hydraulic jack under the rear differential.
3. Loosen the OEM u-bolts that retain the spring to the axle.
4. With the hydraulic jack supporting the axle, slowly allow the axle to drop away from the leaf spring. Replace the jack stands for additional support.
5. Place the new block between the stock block and the leaf pack.
6. Slowly raise the axle with the hydraulic jack in order to assemble the blocks and leaf springs. Make sure that all of the locating pins are inside their female counterparts.
7. Install u-bolts with the supplied fasteners. Be sure the u-bolts are perpendicular to the axle before tightening.
8. Tighten the u-bolts to 100-120 ft-lbs.
9. Locate the new rear shocks. Install the provided bushings and steel sleeves into the eyes of the shocks. Lubricating the bushings and sleeves with some grease will make installation easier.
10. Install the new shocks with stock hardware and torque upper and lower bolts to 65 ft-lbs. The axle mounting tabs may need to be bent open slightly to allow for clearance of the larger diameter shocks. Also, check the clearance between the shock body and the brake line bolt (drv's side), this bolt may need to be trimmed.
11. Replace the wheels and tires.
12. Complete the above instructions for the other side of the vehicle.

Recommend Alignment Specifications

CASTER

$3.30^{\circ} \pm 1.00^{\circ}$

CAMBER

$-0.10^{\circ} \pm 0.60^{\circ}$

TOE

$+0.10^{\circ} \pm 0.20^{\circ}$

Post-Installation Warnings

1. Check all fasteners for proper torque. Check to ensure for adequate clearance between all rotating, mobile, fixed, and heated members. Verify clearance between exhaust and brake lines, fuel lines, fuel tank, floor boards and wiring harness. Check steering gear for clearance. Test and inspect brake system.
2. Perform steering sweep to ensure front brake hoses have adequate slack and do not contact any rotating, mobile or heated members. Inspect rear brake hoses at full extension for adequate slack. Failure to perform hose check/ replacement may result in component failure.
3. Perform head light check and adjustment.
4. Re-torque all fasteners after 500 miles. Always inspect fasteners and components during routine servicing.