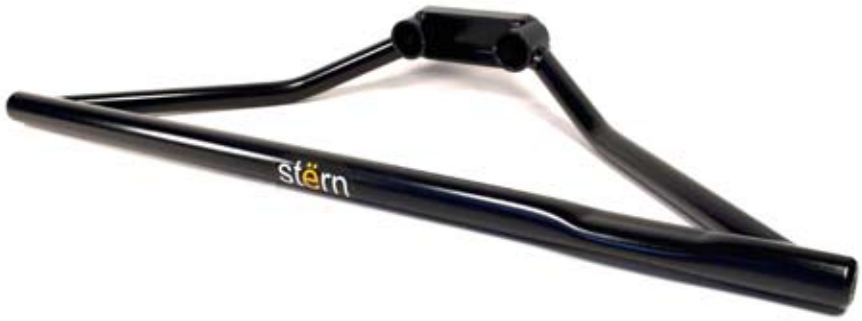
Audi/VW Mk5 Rear Lower Subframe Brace

Congratulations on the purchase of your new Stern subframe brace. This chassis stiffening component will help strengthen the rear lower subframe by triangulating the control arm mounting points within the subframe. This will allow for a more rigid substructure which in turn will allow for more consistent and predictable handling.

Estimated Time

25-35 minutes



Tools Needed

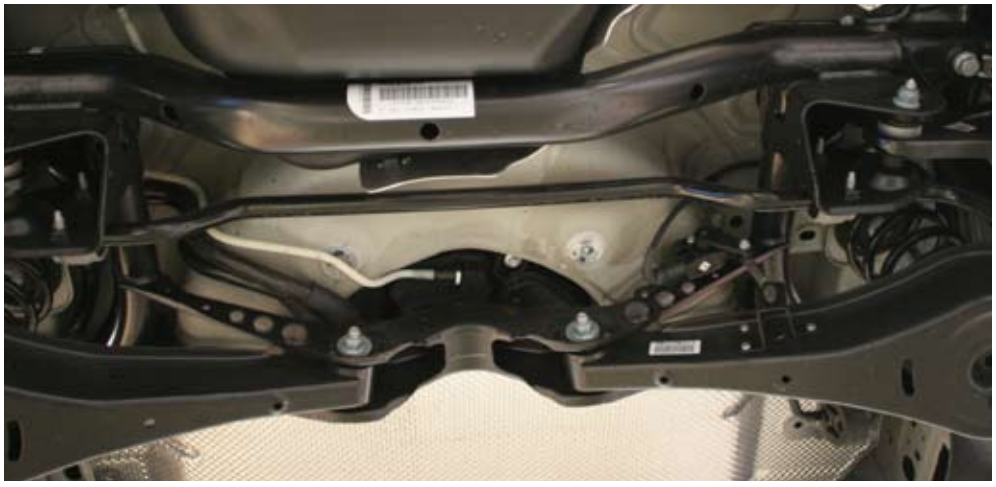
Floor Jack
Jack Stands
17mm wrench
13mm socket
13mm wrench
Ratchet
Extensions

Step 1

Raise the rear of the car and secure it with jack stands. Never work under a car supported only by a hydraulic floor jack. Check your owner's manual for proper placement of floor jacks and jack stands.

Step 2

Identify the rear subframe area. The area you will be working in is located just below the rear sway bar. Here is a closeup shot of the area with the exhaust removed for clarity. The exhaust does NOT need to be moved for this installation.



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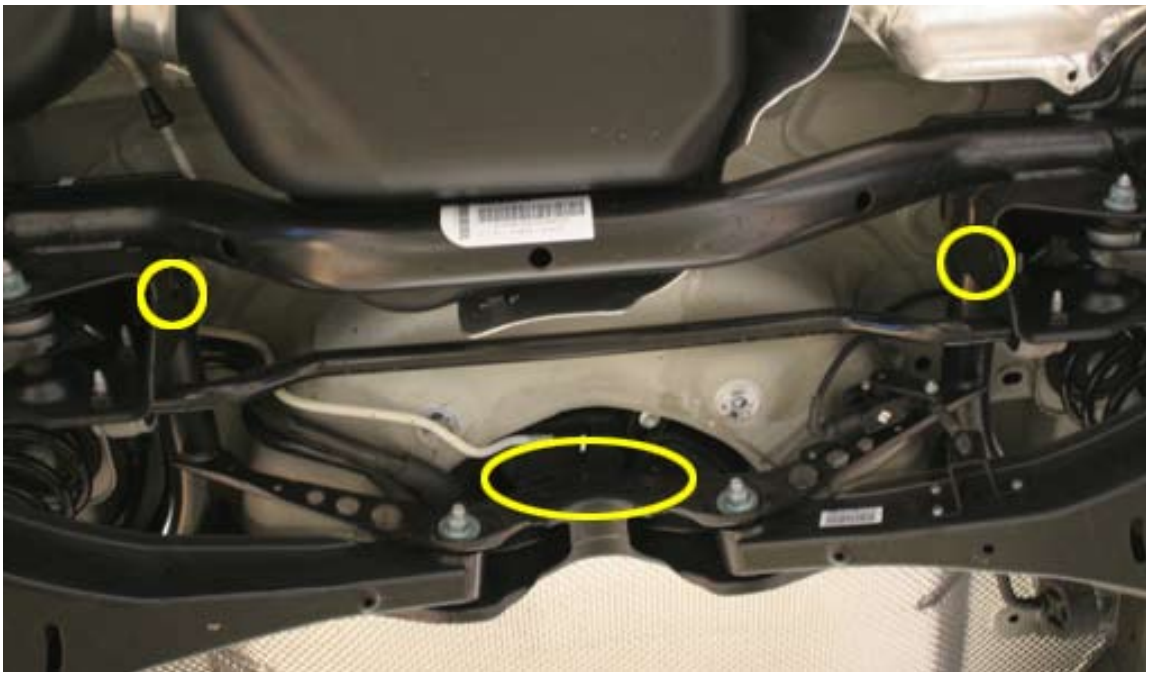
Step 3

Carefully manuever the Stern subframe brace into position. This takes a little patience as the fitment is tight. Be sure to orient the brace with the Stern logo facing the front of the car and in an upright position so it can be read. In the photograph below, we've highlighted the 3 areas where the mounting locations will be. Again, the exhaust was removed for clarification only. The two open ends will mount just adjacent to the sway bar brackets, while the rear mount will attach just above and between the rear control arm pickup points. All holes used are existing and already located on the subframe. **There's no need to drill any holes.**

The heat shield attached to the gas tank may need to be bent just slightly back to allow clearance for the brace. It is ok if this heatshield rests on the brace.

Getting the brace into position does take some patience, so take your time.



Step 4

Once the brace is loosely positioned into place, hand tighten the fastening hardware. Insert first the split lock washer onto the bolt, then a flat washer. Hand tighten this bolt onto each end of the brace. A 13mm hex bolt and washer will attach through the brace into the subframe from the front of the vehicle. Fasten the 13mm hex bolt with a washer and locknut on the backside. Below are three photographs showing the bar installed.

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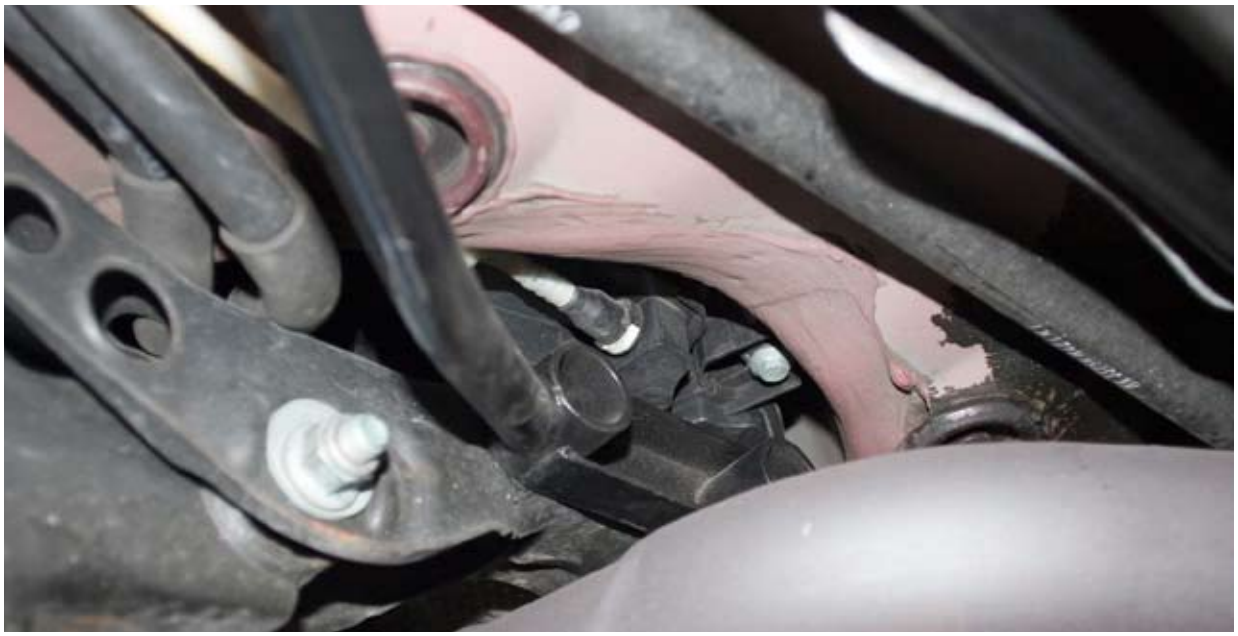

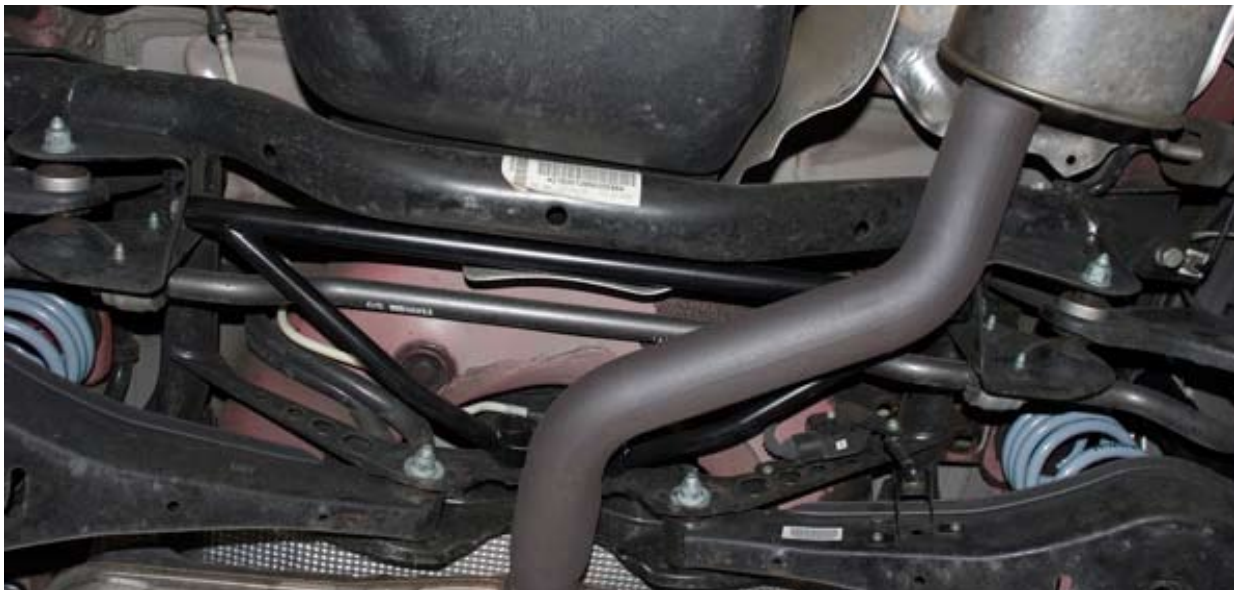

Step 5

Once you have the 4 bolts loosely positioned into place, begin tightening all 4 bolts. Tighten these evenly so to keep the brace as evenly centered as possible. The 17mm bolts should be torqued to 55-65ft-lbs, while the 13mm bolts should be torqued to 35-45 ft-lbs.

With the bolts all tightened, carefully lower the vehicle off the jack stands back onto the ground.

Congratulations on completing the installation!

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