

HONDA

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.
1919 Torrance Boulevard • Torrance, CA 90501-2746
(310) 783-2000

June 8, 1999

Mr. Jonathan White, Chief
Recall Analysis Division
Office of Defects Investigation, Safety Assurance
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

RE: 99V-069

Dear Mr. White:

In accordance with our campaign to correct a safety defect in the front suspension lower ball joint of certain 1996-1998 Honda and Acura automobiles, we are submitting a copy of the dealer bulletin, which also includes the text of the customer letter.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.


William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

WRW:ke

Enclosure

May 13, 1998

Applies To: 1997-98 Accord
1996-98 Prelude
1997-98 Odyssey

See VEHICLES AFFECTED

Safety Recall: Lower Ball Joints

BACKGROUND

Certain vehicles were manufactured with front suspension lower ball joints that may prematurely wear out. In the worst case, the ball joints would separate without prior warning, causing the front suspension to collapse.

VEHICLES AFFECTED

1997 Accord (4-door, 4-cylinder only)	
Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1HGCD5...VA243517	1HGCD5...VA243816
1HGCD5...VA267121	1HGCD5...VA267121
1HGCD5...VA272648	1HGCD5...VA275399
1HGCD5...VA275639	1HGCD5...VA280294
JHMCD5...VC021143	JHMCD5...VC022004

Not every vehicle within the above VIN ranges is affected by this recall. Before beginning work on a vehicle, verify that it is eligible with one or more of the following.

- The customer has a recall notification.
- The vehicle is listed on your campaign responsibility report.
- The vehicle is shown as eligible when you do a VIN status inquiry on DCS.

1998 Accord		
4-cyl	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
4-door DX	1HGCF8...WA000036	1HGCF8...WA003281
4-door LX, EX	1HGCG5...WA000001	1HGCG5...WA006181
4-door ULEV	1HGCG6...WA000002	1HGCG6...WA004858
2-door V6	1HGCG3...WA000001	1HGCG3...WA000037
4-door	1HGCG1...WA000001	1HGCG1...WA001373
2-door	1HGCG2...WA000001	1HGCG2...WA000048

Prelude		
	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1996 S	JHMBAS...TC001965	JHMBAS...TC002612
1996 SI	JHMBB2...TC004208	JHMBB2...TC005917
1996 VTEC	JHMBB1...TC000817	JHMBB1...TC001163
1997	ALL	
1998	JHMBB6...WC000001	JHMBB6...WC009167

Odyssey		
	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1997	JHMRA1...VC021142	JHMRA1...VC022232
1998	JHMRA1...WC000001	JHMRA1...WC000650

CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION

All owners of affected vehicles will be mailed a notification of this recall. An example of the customer notification is at the end of this service bulletin.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Replace the front suspension lower ball joints.

PARTS INFORMATION

Ball Joint Kit, Accord and Odyssey:

P/N 04510-S64-000, H/C 6194054

Ball Joint Kit, Prelude:

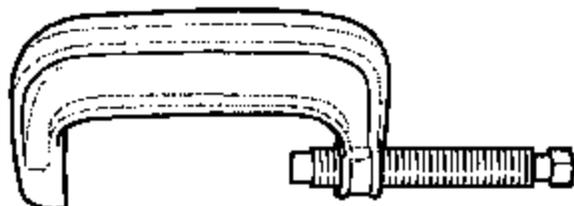
P/N 04510-SL5-000, H/C 6194039



REQUIRED SPECIAL TOOLS

C-Frame Tool: OTC P/N 7248

C-FRAME TOOL
OTC P/N 7248



Ball Joint Remover/Installer Tool Set:

Tool sets are being automatically shipped to the dealers with this service bulletin. The individual tools do not have tool numbers; each tool is stamped with a letter for reference.

REMOVER/INSTALLER
ADAPTER (A)
All models



BASE INSTALLER ADAPTER (B)
Prelude only



BASE REMOVER ADAPTER (C)
Prelude only



BASE INSTALLER ADAPTER (E)
Accord and Odyssey only



BASE REMOVER ADAPTER (F)
Accord and Odyssey only



PILOT ADAPTER (G)
All models



REMOVER/INSTALLER PILOT
ADAPTER (H)
All models



WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

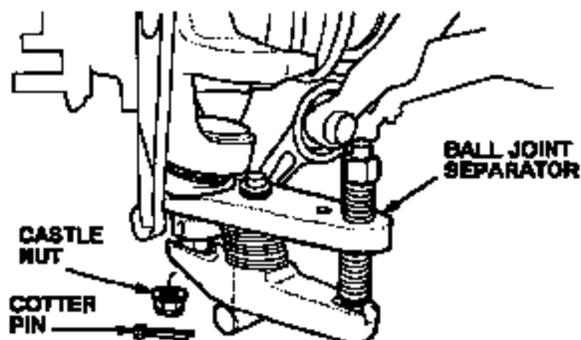
OP #	Description	FRT	Template ID
415131	Replace lower ball joints, 1997 Accord	1.4	99-039A
415131	Replace lower ball joints, 1998 Accord	1.2	99-039E
415132	Replace lower ball joints, Odyssey	1.4	99-039C
415133	Replace lower ball joints, Prelude	1.2	99-039D

Failed part: Accord, Odyssey
P/N 04510-S84-000
H/C 6194054
Prelude
P/N 04510-SL5-000
H/C 6194039

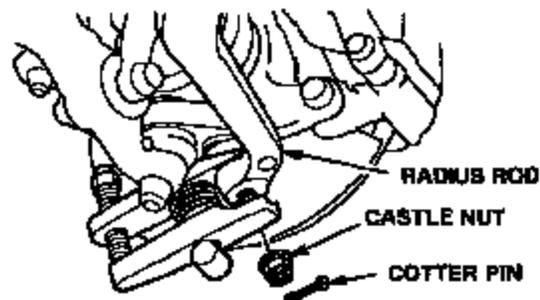
Defect code: 297
Contention code: K59
Skill level: Repair Technician

REPAIR PROCEDURE

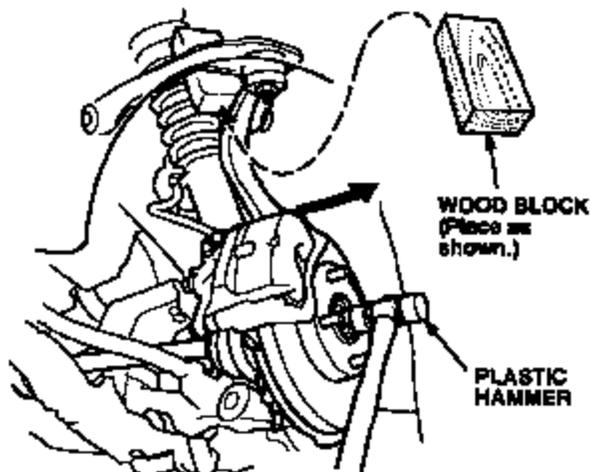
1. Raise the vehicle on a hoist. Remove the front wheels.
2. Remove and discard the spindle nut.
3. Remove the cotter pin and castle nut from the lower ball joint. Discard the cotter pin.
4. Separate the lower control arm from the ball joint with the special tool.



5. *Prelude Type SH only:* Separate the radius rod from the ball joint with the special tool.

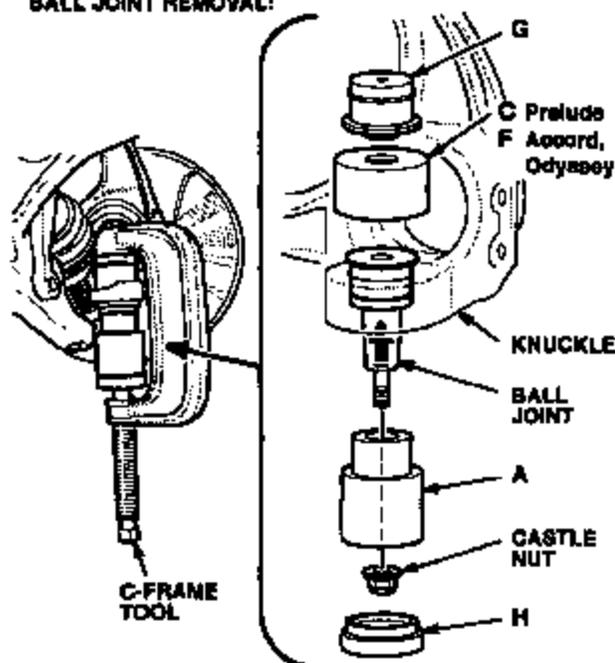


6. Remove the axle from the front wheel hub.



7. Lift the knuckle, then place a block of wood (approximately 2-3/4" x 1-1/2" x 5") between the upper control arm and the damper assembly.
8. Remove the boot from the lower ball joint.
9. *1997 Accord and all Odyssey only:* Remove the brake caliper mounting bolts and the caliper. Remove the four flange bolts, then remove the brake rotor/hub assembly.
10. Install the special tools on the lower ball joint and the knuckle.

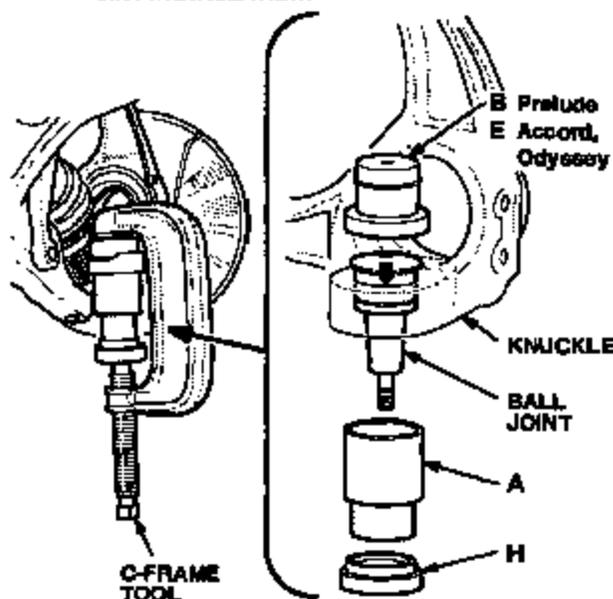
BALL JOINT REMOVAL:



11. Tighten the C-frame and press the lower ball joint out of the knuckle.
12. Position the new ball joint in the knuckle.

13. Install the special tools on the ball joint and the knuckle.

BALL JOINT INSTALLATION:



14. Tighten the C-frame and press the ball joint into the knuckle.
15. *1997 Accord and all Odyssey only:* Reinstall the brake rotor/hub assembly. Torque the flange bolts to 44 N-m (33 lb-ft). Reinstall the brake caliper. Torque the mounting bolts to 108 N-m (80 lb-ft).
16. Remove the wooden block, then install the axle into the hub.
17. Install the lower control arm onto the ball joint.
18. Install the ball joint castle nut. Torque the nut to 49-59 N-m (36-43 lb-ft). Install the new cotter pin.
19. *Prelude Type SH only:* Reinstall the radius rod to the ball joint. Torque the castle nut to 69-76 N-m (51-58 lb-ft).
20. Apply oil to the threads and flange of the new spindle nut. Install the spindle nut; torque it to 245 N-m (181 lb-ft).
21. Stake the spindle nut.
22. Repeat steps 2 through 21 on the other side.
23. Reinstall the front wheels. Tighten the wheel nuts to 108 N-m (80 lb-ft).
24. Lower the vehicle.
25. Center-punch a completion mark above the fourth character of the engine compartment VIN.

Center-punch here.

IHGXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

May 1999

Safety Recall: Lower Ball Joints

Dear Honda Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

What is the reason for this notice?

Honda Motor Co., Ltd. has determined that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Honda automobiles. Some vehicles were manufactured with front suspension lower ball joints that may prematurely wear out. In the worst case, the ball joint would separate without prior warning, causing the front suspension to collapse. This condition would result in vehicle deceleration and a sudden loss of power. Also, steering controllability would be reduced, and a vehicle crash could occur.

What should you do?

Call any authorized Honda automobile dealer and make an appointment to have your vehicle repaired. They will replace the front lower ball joints. *This repair will be done free of charge.* Parts are now available. The repair takes about two hours, but please plan to leave your vehicle at the dealer all day to allow them scheduling flexibility.

Who to contact if you experience problems.

If you are not satisfied with the service you receive from your Honda dealer, you may write to:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Honda Consumer Affairs Dept.
Mail Stop 500-2N-7D
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA, 90501-2746

If you believe that American Honda or the dealer has failed or is unable to remedy the defect in your vehicle, without charge, within a reasonable period of time (60 days from the date you first contact the dealer for a repair appointment), you may submit a complaint to:

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at (800) 424-9393. Residents of Washington D.C. should call (202) 366-0123.

What to do if you feel this notice is in error.

This notice was mailed to you according to the most current information we have available. If you no longer own this vehicle, or some information in this notice is incorrect, please fill out and return the included, postage-paid *Information Change Card*. This will help us to update our records.

If you have questions.

If you have questions about this notice, or need assistance with contacting a Honda dealer, please call the Honda Consumer Affairs Department at (800) 999-1009.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.

Sincerely,
AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.
Honda Automobile Division

YEAR	MODEL
1996 - 98	3.5RL
1996 - 98	2.5TL/3.2TL
1997 - 98	2.2CL/2.3CL/3.0CL

 VIN APPLICATION
See VEHICLES
AFFECTED

 BULLETIN NO.
99-023


Safety Recall: Lower Ball Joints

BACKGROUND

Certain vehicles were manufactured with front suspension lower ball joints that may prematurely wear out. In the worst case, the ball joint would separate without prior warning, causing the front suspension to collapse.

VEHICLES AFFECTED

3.5RL		
	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1996	ALL	
1997	ALL	
1998	JH4KA9...WC000001	JH4KA8...WC007053

2.5TL		
	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1996	JH4UA2...TC021065	JH4UA2...TC025076
1997	ALL	
1998	JH4UA2...WC000001	JH4UA2...WC006036

3.2TL		
	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1996	JH4UA3...TC012319	JH4UA3...TC014540
1997	ALL	
1998	JH4UA3...WC000001	JH4UA3...WC008112

2.2CL/2.3CL		
	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1997	19UYA1...VL023878	19UYA1...VL023878
	19UYA1...VL024293	19UYA1...VL024852
1998	19UYA3...WL000001	19UYA3...WL000022

3.0CL		
	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1997	19UYA2...VL018057	19UYA2...VL018057
	19UYA2...VL018439	19UYA2...VL019398
	19UYA2...VL019402	19UYA2...VL019402
1998	19UYA2...WL000001	19UYA2...WL000013

CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION

All owners of affected vehicles will be mailed a notification of this recall. An example of the customer notification is at the end of this service bulletin.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Replace the front suspension lower ball joints.

PARTS INFORMATION

Ball Joint Kit, 3.5RL: P/N 04510-SZ3-000

Ball Joint Kit, 2.5/3.2TL: P/N 04510-SL5-000

Ball Joint Kit, 2.2/2.3/3.0CL: P/N 04510-SB4-000

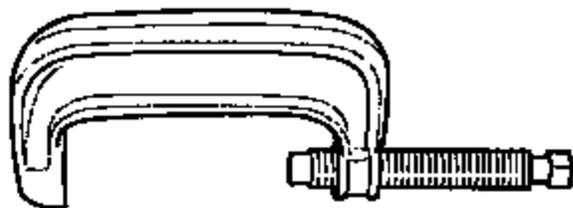
Front Knuckle Ring, 3.5RL & 3.2TL:
P/N 51212-SPO-000



REQUIRED SPECIAL TOOLS

C-Frame Tool: OTC P/N 7248

C-FRAME TOOL
OTC P/N 7248



Ball Joint Remover/Installer Tool Set:

Tool sets are being automatically shipped to the dealers with this service bulletin. The individual tools do not have tool numbers; each tool is stamped with a letter for reference.

REMOVER/INSTALLER
ADAPTER (A)
All models



BASE INSTALLER
ADAPTER (B)
2.5TL/3.2TL and 3.5RL only



BASE REMOVER ADAPTER (C)
3.2TL and 3.5RL only



BASE REMOVER ADAPTER (D)
2.5TL only



BASE INSTALLER ADAPTER (E)
2.2CL/2.3CL/3.0CL only



BASE REMOVER ADAPTER (F)
2.2CL/2.3CL/3.0CL only



PILOT ADAPTER (G)
All models



REMOVER/INSTALLER PILOT
ADAPTER (H)
All models



Driver: T/N 07749-0010000

Bearing Driver Attachment, 78 x 90 mm
T/N 07GAD-SD40101

WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

OP #	Description	FRT	Template ID
415131	Replace lower ball joints, 2.2/2.3/3.0CL	1.4	99-023A
415132	Replace lower ball joints, 2.5TL	1.4	99-023B
415133	Replace lower ball joints, 3.2TL	1.2	99-023C
415136	Replace lower ball joints, 3.5RL	1.2	99-023D

If you replace one or both knuckle rings on a 3.5RL or a 3.2TL, do not file a template claim. File a regular claim with the knuckle ring(s) included under Parts Used.

Failed P/N: 3.5RL - P/N 04510-SZ3-000
2.5/3.2TL - P/N 04510-SL5-000
2.2/2.3/3.0CL - P/N 04510-S84-000

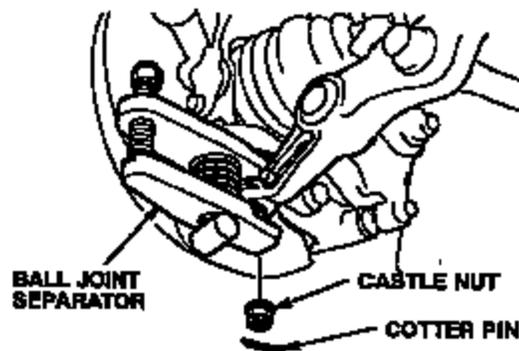
Defect code: 297

Contention code: K61

Skill Level: Repair Technician

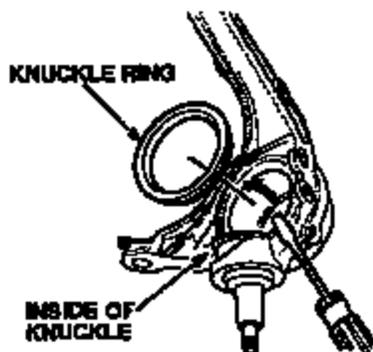
REPAIR PROCEDURE

1. Raise the vehicle on a hoist. Remove the front wheels.
2. Remove and discard the spindle nut.
3. Remove the cotter pin and castle nut from the lower ball joint. Discard the cotter pin.



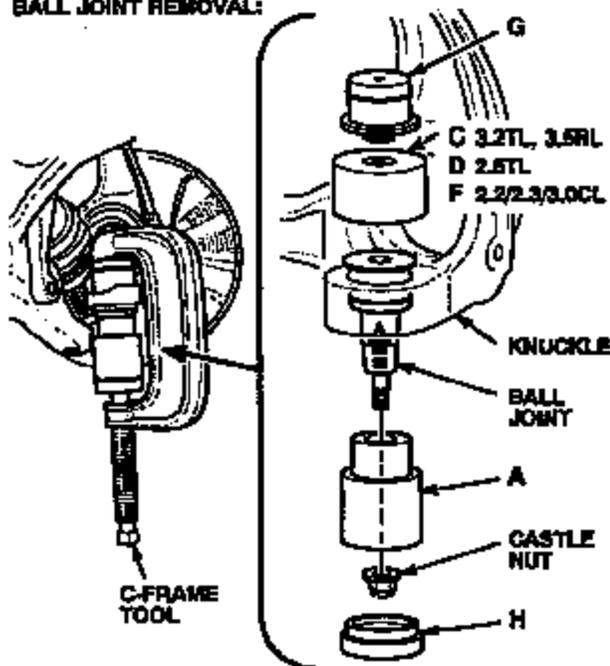
4. Separate the lower control arm from the ball joint with the special tool.

- Remove the boot from the lower ball joint.
- 3.5FL and 3.2TL only:* Carefully remove and retain the knuckle ring.



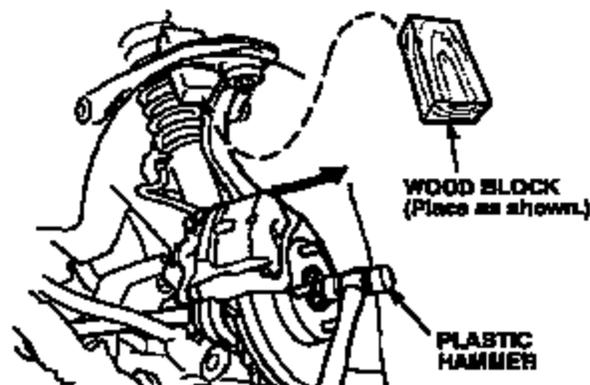
- 2.5TL and CL only:* Remove the brake caliper mounting bolts and the brake caliper. Remove the four flange bolts, then remove the brake rotor/hub assembly.
- Install the special tools on the lower ball joint and the knuckle.

BALL JOINT REMOVAL:



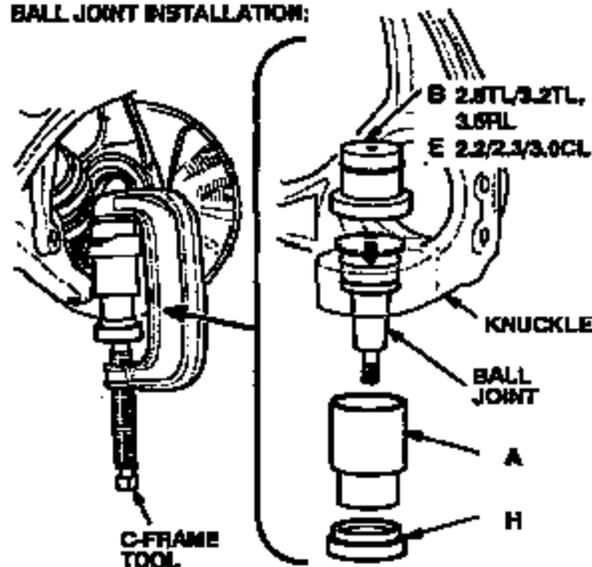
- Tighten the C-frame and press the lower ball joint out of the knuckle.
- Position the new ball joint in the knuckle.

- Remove the axle from the front wheel hub.



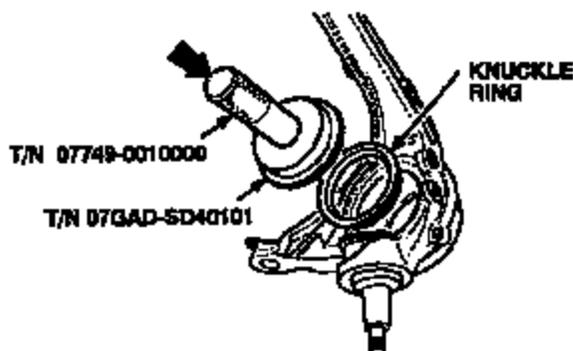
- Lift the knuckle, then place a block of wood (approximately 2-3/4" x 1-1/2" x 5") between the upper control arm and the damper assembly.
- Install the special tools on the ball joint and the knuckle.

BALL JOINT INSTALLATION:



- Tighten the C-frame and press the ball joint into the knuckle.

15. **3.5RL and 3.2TL only:** Examine the knuckle ring for damage. If it is not severely kinked, distorted, or broken, reinstall it. If the original knuckle ring is not reusable, install a new one.



16. **2.5TL and CL only:** Reinstall the brake rotor/hub assembly. Torque the flange bolts to 44 N·m (33 lb-ft). Reinstall the brake calipers. Torque the mounting bolts to 108 N·m (80 lb-ft).
17. Remove the wooden block, then install the axle into the hub.
18. Install the lower control arm onto the ball joint.
19. Install and torque the ball joint castle nut. Install the new cotter pin.

	Torque
3.5RL	69-78 N·m (51-58 lb-ft)
3.2TL	69-78 N·m (51-58 lb-ft)
2.5TL	49-59 N·m (36-43 lb-ft)
2.2/2.3/3.0CL	39-47 N·m (29-35 lb-ft)

20. Apply oil to the threads and flange of the new spindle nut. Install the spindle nut, torque it to 245 N·m (181 lb-ft).
21. Stake the spindle nut.
22. Repeat steps 2 thru 21 on the other side.
23. Reinstall the front wheels. Tighten the wheel nuts to 108 N·m (80 lb-ft).
24. Lower the vehicle.
25. Center-punch a completion mark above the third character of the engine compartment VIN.

Center-punch here.

JH4XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

May 1999

Safety Recall: Lower Ball Joints

Dear Acura Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

What is the reason for this notice?

Honda Motor Co., Ltd. has determined that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Acura automobiles. Some vehicles were manufactured with front suspension lower ball joints that may prematurely wear out. In the worst case, the ball joint would separate without prior warning, causing the front suspension to collapse. This condition would result in vehicle deceleration and a sudden loss of power. Also, steering controllability would be reduced, and a vehicle crash could occur.

What should you do?

Call any authorized Acura automobile dealer and make an appointment to have your vehicle repaired. They will replace the front lower ball joints. *This repair will be done free of charge.* Parts are now available. The repair takes about two hours, but please plan to leave your vehicle at the dealer all day to allow them scheduling flexibility.

Who to contact if you experience problems.

If you are not satisfied with the service you receive from your Acura dealer, you may write to:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Acura Client Services Dept.
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA, 90501-2746

If you believe that American Honda or the dealer has failed or is unable to remedy the defect in your vehicle, without charge, within a reasonable period of time (60 days from the date you first contact the dealer for a repair appointment), you may submit a complaint to:

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at (800) 424-8363. Residents of Washington D.C. should call (202) 368-0123.

What to do if you feel this notice is in error.

This notice was mailed to you according to the most current information we have available. If you no longer own this vehicle, or some information in this notice is incorrect, please fill out and return the included, postage-paid *Information Change Card*. This will help us to update our records.

If you have questions.

If you have questions about this notice, or need assistance with contacting an Acura dealer, please call the Acura Client Services Department at (800) 382-2238.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.

Sincerely,
AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.
Acura Automobile Division

YEAR	MODEL	VIN APPLICATION	BULLETIN NO.
1996 - 98	3.5RL	See VEHICLES AFFECTED	99-023
1996 - 98	2.5TL/3.2TL		
1997 - 98	2.2CL/2.3CL/3.0CL		



Safety Recall: Lower Ball Joints

(Supersedes 99-023, dated May 13, 1999)

BACKGROUND

Certain vehicles were manufactured with front suspension lower ball joints that may prematurely wear out. In the worst case, the ball joint would separate, causing the front suspension to collapse.

VEHICLES AFFECTED

3.5RL		
MY	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1996	ALL	
1997	ALL	
1998	JH4KA9...WC000001	JH4KA9...WC007053

2.5TL		
MY	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1996	JH4UA2...TC021065	JH4UA2...TC025075
1997	ALL	
1998	JH4UA2...WC000001	JH4UA2...WC006036

3.2TL		
MY	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1996	JH4UA3...TC012319	JH4UA3...TC014540
1997	ALL	
1998	JH4UA3...WC000001	JH4UA3...WC008112

2.2CL/2.3CL		
MY	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1997	19UYA1...VL023878	19UYA1...VL023878
	19UYA1...VL024293	19UYA1...VL024652
1998	19UYA3...WL000001	19UYA3...WL000022

3.0CL		
MY	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1997	19UYA2...VL018057	19UYA2...VL018057
	19UYA2...VL018439	19UYA2...VL018398
	19UYA2...VL018402	19UYA2...VL018402
1998	19UYA2...WL000001	19UYA2...WL000013

CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION

All owners of affected vehicles will be mailed a notification of this recall. An example of the customer notification is at the end of this service bulletin.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Replace the front suspension lower ball joints.

PARTS INFORMATION

Ball Joint Kit, 3.5RL: P/N 04510-SZ3-000

Ball Joint Kit, 2.5/3.2TL: P/N 04510-SL5-000

Ball Joint Kit, 2.2/2.3/3.0CL: P/N 04510-S84-000

Front Knuckle Ring, 3.5RL & 3.2TL:

P/N 51212-SP0-000

WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

OP #	Description	FRT	Template ID
415131	Replace lower ball joints, 2.2/2.3/3.0CL	1.4	99-023A
415132	Replace lower ball joints, 2.5TL	1.4	99-023B
415133	Replace lower ball joints, 3.2TL	1.2	99-023C
415136	Replace lower ball joints, 3.5RL	1.2	99-023D

Failed P/N: 3.5RL - P/N 04510-SZ3-000

2.5/3.2TL - P/N 04510-SL5-000

2.2/2.3/3.0CL - P/N 04510-S84-000

Defect code: 297

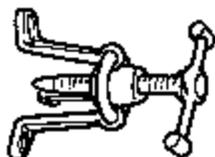
Contention code: K61

Skill Level: Repair Technician

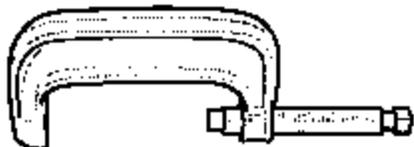
REQUIRED SPECIAL TOOLS

Heavy-Duty Hub Puller. Snap-on P/N CJ-129
Old Forge P/N 2518

NOTE: Heavy duty hub pullers can be purchased through the Acura Tool and Equipment Program at (888) 424-6857.



C-Frame Tool: OTC P/N 7248



Ball Joint Remove/Installer Tool Set:

The individual tools do not have tool numbers; each tool is stamped with a letter for reference.

REMOVER/INSTALLER
ADAPTER (A)
All models



BASE INSTALLER
ADAPTER (B)
2.5TL/3.2TL and 3.5FL only
(Apply grease to O-ring
before each use.)



BASE REMOVER ADAPTER (C)
(or equivalent,
T/N 07GAF-SD40310)
3.2TL and 3.5FL only



BASE REMOVER ADAPTER (D)
2.5TL only



BASE INSTALLER ADAPTER (E)
2.2CL/2.3CL/3.0CL only
(Apply grease to O-ring
before each use.)



BASE REMOVER ADAPTER (F)
(or equivalent,
T/N 07HAF-SF10130)
2.2CL/2.3CL/3.0CL only



PILOT ADAPTER (G)
All models
(Apply grease to O-ring
before each use.)



REMOVER/INSTALLER PILOT
ADAPTER (H)
All models



Driver: T/N 07749-0010000

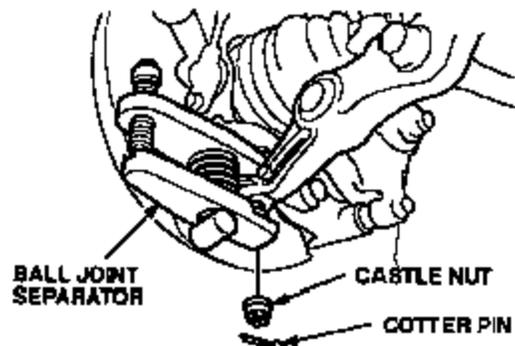
Bearing Driver Attachment, 78 x 90 mm:
T/N 07GAD-SD40101

REPAIR PROCEDURE

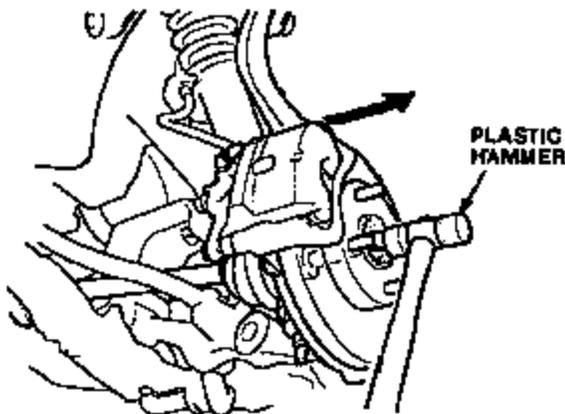
NOTE: Wear eye protection during the entire procedure.

Ball Joint Removal

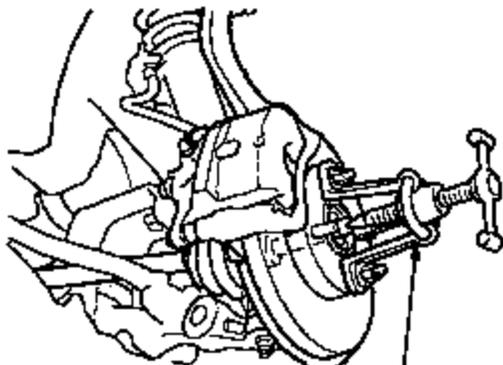
1. Raise the vehicle on a hoist. Remove the front wheels.
2. Remove and discard the spindle nut.
3. Remove the cotter pin and castle nut from the lower ball joint. Discard the cotter pin.



4. Separate the lower control arm from the ball joint with the special tool. To avoid damaging the ABS sensor harness, do not let the knuckle hang by its weight.
5. Remove the axle from the front wheel hub. If the axle is stuck to the hub, go to step 6. If the axle comes out easily, go to step 9.

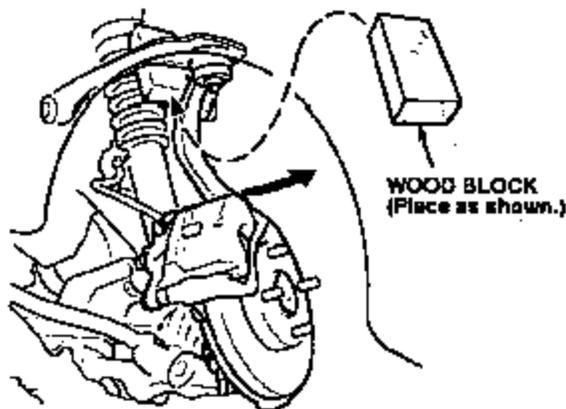


6. Reinstall the knuckle on to the lower control arm, and loosely install the castle nut.



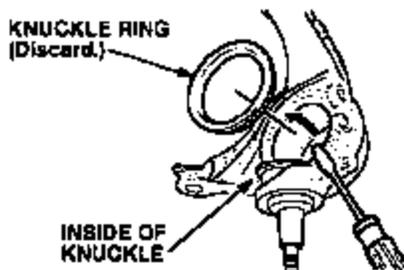
Use Snap-on P/N CJ-129,
Old Forge P/N 2518, or equivalent.

7. Using a heavy-duty hub puller, free the axle from the hub. Do not press it all the way out.
8. Remove the castle nut, lift and support the knuckle (to prevent damaging the ABS sensor wire harness), and press the axle out of the hub.
9. Lift the knuckle, then place a block of wood (approximately 2-3/4" x 1-1/2" x 5") between the upper control arm and the damper assembly.



WOOD BLOCK
(Place as shown.)

10. Remove the boot from the lower ball joint.
11. 3.5RL and 3.2TL only: Remove and discard the knuckle ring.

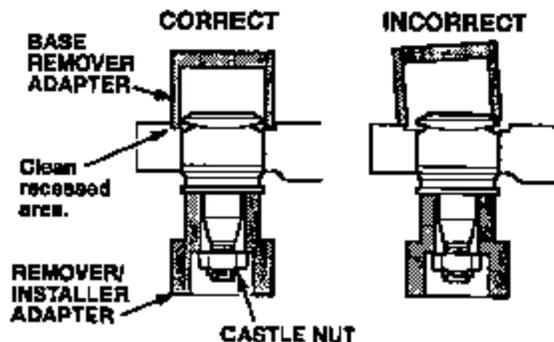


KNUCKLE RING
(Discard.)

INSIDE OF
KNUCKLE

12. 2.5TL and CL only: Remove the brake caliper mounting bolts and the brake caliper. Remove the four flange bolts, then remove the brake rotor/hub assembly.

13. Clean the recessed area around the ball joint with solvent and compressed air, then install the seat base remover adapter (Tool C, D, or F).



CORRECT

INCORRECT

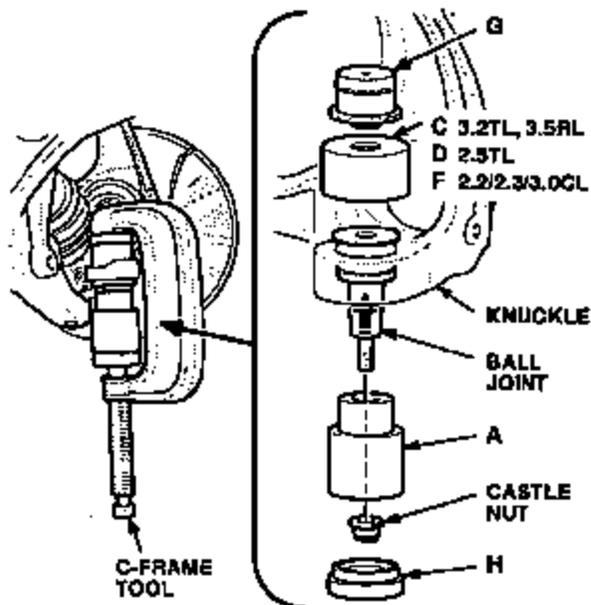
BASE
REMOVER
ADAPTER

Clean
recessed
area.

REMOVER/
INSTALLER
ADAPTER

CASTLE NUT

14. Hold the remover/installer adapter (Tool A) up to the ball joint, then install the castle nut to hold it in place. Install the remaining special tools on the lower ball joint and the knuckle. To avoid damaging the special tools, verify that they are correct for the vehicle you are working on and are aligned properly.



C-FRAME
TOOL

KNUCKLE

BALL
JOINT

A

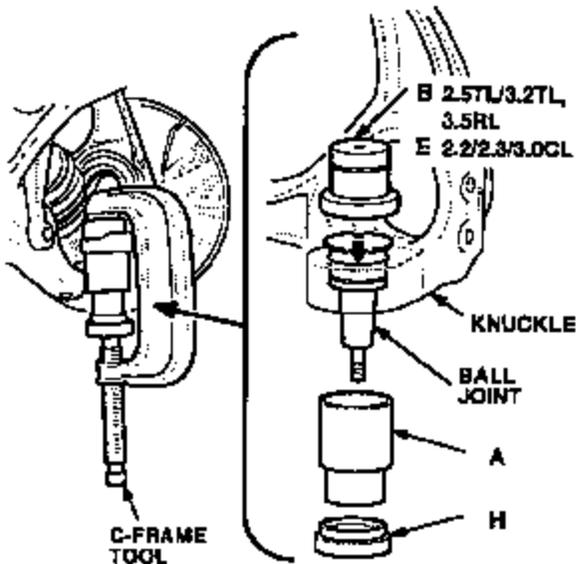
CASTLE
NUT

H

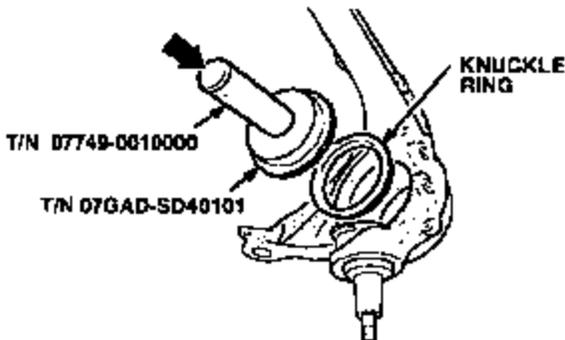
15. Tighten the C-frame and press the lower ball joint out of the knuckle.

Ball Joint Installation

16. Position the new ball joint in the knuckle. Do not remove the boot from the ball joint.
17. Install the special tools on the ball joint and the knuckle.



18. Tighten the C-frame and press the ball joint into the knuckle.
19. *3.5RL and 3.2TL only:* Install a new knuckle ring.



20. *2.5TL and CL only:* Reinstall the brake rotor/hub assembly. Torque the flange bolts to 44 N·m (33 lb-ft). Reinstall the brake calipers. Torque the mounting bolts to 108 N·m (80 lb-ft).
21. Remove the wooden block, then install the axle into the hub. To avoid damaging the ABS sensor harness, do not let the knuckle hang by its weight.
22. Install the lower control arm onto the ball joint.

23. Install and torque the ball joint castle nut. Install the new cotter pin.

	Torque
3.5RL	69-78 N·m (51-58 lb-ft)
3.2TL	69-78 N·m (51-58 lb-ft)
2.5TL	49-59 N·m (36-43 lb-ft)
2.2/2.3/3.0CL	39-47 N·m (29-35 lb-ft)

24. Apply oil to the threads and flange of the new spindle nut. Install the spindle nut, and torque it to 245 N·m (181 lb-ft).
25. Stake the spindle nut.
26. Repeat steps 2 thru 25 on the other side.
27. Reinstall the front wheels. Tighten the wheel nuts to 108 N·m (80 lb-ft).
28. Lower the vehicle.
29. Center-punch a completion mark above the third character of the engine compartment VIN.

Center-punch here.

JH4XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

May 1999

Safety Recall: Lower Ball Joints

Dear Acura Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

What is the reason for this notice?

Honda Motor Co., Ltd., has determined that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Acura automobiles. Some vehicles were manufactured with front suspension lower ball joints that may prematurely wear out. In the worst case, the ball joint would separate without prior warning, causing the front suspension to collapse. This condition would result in vehicle deceleration and a sudden loss of power. Also, steering control would be reduced, and a vehicle crash could occur.

What should you do?

Call any authorized Acura automobile dealer and make an appointment to have your vehicle repaired. They will replace the front lower ball joints. *This repair will be done free of charge.* Parts are now available. The repair takes about two hours, but please plan to leave your vehicle at the dealer all day to allow them scheduling flexibility.

Who to contact if you experience problems.

If you are not satisfied with the service you receive from your Acura dealer, you may write to:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Acura Client Services Dept.
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA, 90501-2746

If you believe that American Honda or the dealer has failed or is unable to remedy the defect in your vehicle, without charge, within a reasonable period of time (60 days from the date you first contact the dealer for a repair appointment), you may submit a complaint to:

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at (800) 424-9393. Residents of Washington D.C. should call (202) 356-0123.

What to do if you feel this notice is in error.

This notice was mailed to you according to the most current information we have available. If you no longer own this vehicle, or some information in this notice is incorrect, please fill out and return the included, postage-paid *Information Change Card*. This will help us to update our records.

If you have questions.

If you have questions about this notice, or need assistance with contacting an Acura dealer, please call the Acura Client Services Department at (800) 382-2238.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.
Acura Automobile Division



Applies To: 1997-98 Accord
 1996-98 Prelude
 1997-98 Odyssey } See VEHICLES AFFECTED

June 29, 1999

99V069

Safety Recall: Lower Ball Joints (Supersedes 99-039, dated May 13, 1999)

BACKGROUND

Certain vehicles were manufactured with front suspension lower ball joints that may prematurely wear out. In the worst case, the ball joints would separate without prior warning, causing the front suspension to collapse.

VEHICLES AFFECTED

1997 Accord (4-door, 4-cylinder only)	
Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1HGCD5...VA243517	1HGCD5...VA243816
1HGCD5...VA267121	1HGCD5...VA287121
1HGCD5...VA272648	1HGCD5...VA275399
1HGCD5...VA276839	1HGCD5...VA280294
JHMCD5...VC021143	JHMCD5...VC022004

Not every vehicle within the above VIN ranges is affected by this recall. Before beginning work on a vehicle, verify that it is eligible with one or more of the following.

- The customer has a recall notification.
- The vehicle is listed on your campaign responsibility report.
- The vehicle is shown as eligible when you do a VIN status inquiry on DCS.

1996 Accord		
4-cyl	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
4-door DX	1HGCF8...WA000036	1HGCF8...WA003281
4-door LX, EX	1HGCG5...WA000001	1HGCG5...WA006181
4-door ULEV	1HGCG6...WA000002	1HGCG6...WA004858
2-door	1HGCG3...WA000001	1HGCG3...WA000037
V6		
4-door	1HGCG1...WA000001	1HGCG1...WA001373
2-door	1HGCG2...WA000001	1HGCG2...WA000048

Prelude		
	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1996 S	JHMBA8...TC001965	JHMBA8...TC002612
1996 Si	JHMBS2...TC004209	JHMBS2...TC005917
1996 VTEC	JHMBB1...TC000817	JHMBB1...TC001163
1997	ALL	
1998	JHMBB6...WC000001	JHMBB6...WC009167

Odyssey		
	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1997	JHMRA1...VC021142	JHMRA1...VC022232
1998	JHMRA3...WC000001	JHMRA3...WC000850

CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION

All owners of affected vehicles will be mailed a notification of this recall. An example of the customer notification is at the end of this service bulletin.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Replace the front suspension lower ball joints.

PARTS INFORMATION

Ball Joint Kit, Accord and Odyssey:
 P/N 04510-S84-000, H/C 6194054

Ball Joint Kit, Prelude:
 P/N 04510-SL5-000, H/C 6194039

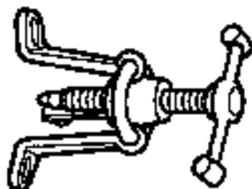


CUSTOMER INFORMATION: The information in this bulletin is intended for use *only* by skilled technicians who have the proper tools, equipment, and training to correctly and safely maintain your vehicle. These procedures should not be attempted by "do-it-yourselfers," and you should not assume this bulletin applies to your vehicle, or that your vehicle has the condition described. To determine whether this information applies, contact an authorized Honda automobile dealer.

REQUIRED SPECIAL TOOLS

Heavy-Duty Hub Puller: Snap-on P/N CJ-129
Old Forge P/N 2518

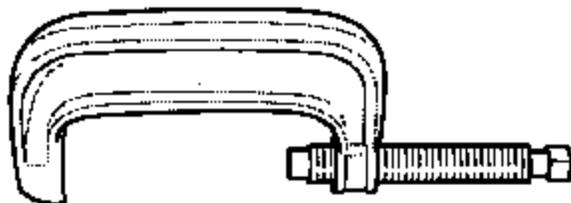
NOTE: Heavy-duty hub pullers can be purchased through the Honda Tool and Equipment Program at (888) 424-6857.



Apply high-pressure grease to the threads before use.

C-Frame Tool: OTC P/N 7248

Apply high-pressure grease to the threads before use.



Ball Joint Remover/Installer Tool Set:

The individual tools do not have tool numbers; each tool is stamped with a letter for reference.

REMOVER/INSTALLER ADAPTER (A)
All models



BASE INSTALLER ADAPTER (B)
Prelude only (Apply grease to O-ring before each use.)



BASE REMOVER ADAPTER (C)
Prelude only (T/N 67GAF-SD40310 can also be used)



BASE INSTALLER ADAPTER (E)
Accord and Odyssey only (Apply grease to O-ring before each use.)



BASE REMOVER ADAPTER (F)
Accord and Odyssey only
(T/N 07MAF-SF10130 can also be used)



PILOT ADAPTER (G)
All models (Apply grease to O-ring before each use.)



REMOVER/INSTALLER PILOT ADAPTER (H)
All models



WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

OP #	Description	FRT	Template ID
415131	Replace lower ball joints, 1997 Accord	1.4	99-039A
415131	Replace lower ball joints, 1998 Accord	1.2	99-039B
415132	Replace lower ball joints, Odyssey	1.4	99-039C
415133	Replace lower ball joints, Prelude	1.2	99-039D

Failed part: Accord, Odyssey
P/N 04510-S84-000
H/C 8194054

Prelude
P/N 04510-SL5-000
H/C 8194039

Defect code: 297

Contention code: K59

Skill level: Repair Technician

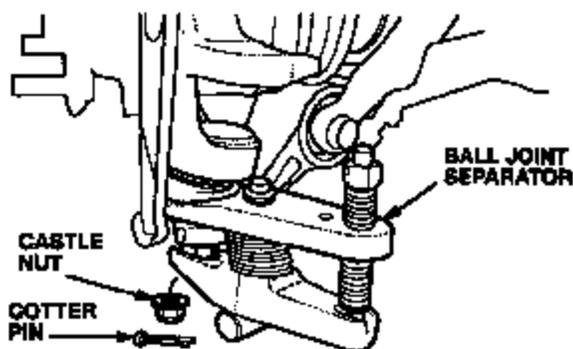
REPAIR PROCEDURE

NOTE: Wear eye protection during the entire procedure.

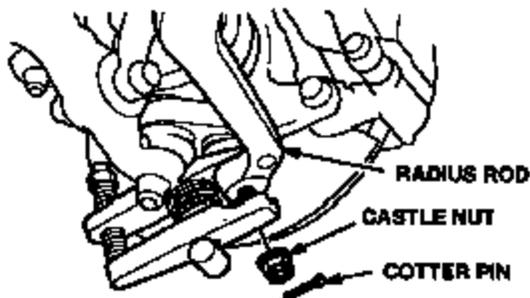
Ball Joint Removal

1. Raise the vehicle on a hoist. Remove the front wheels.
2. Remove and discard the spindle nut.
3. Remove the cotter pin and castle nut from the lower ball joint. Discard the cotter pin.

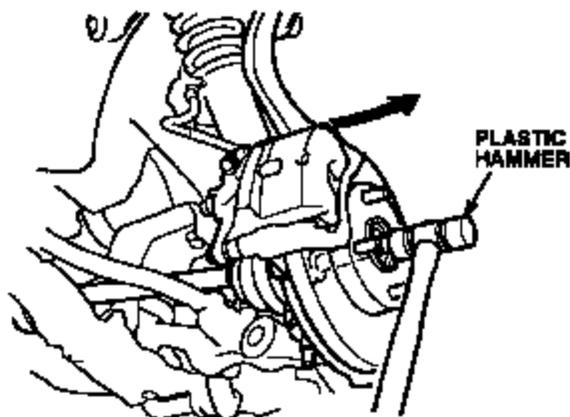
4. Separate the lower control arm from the ball joint with the special tool. To avoid damaging the ABS sensor harness, do not let the knuckle hang by its weight.



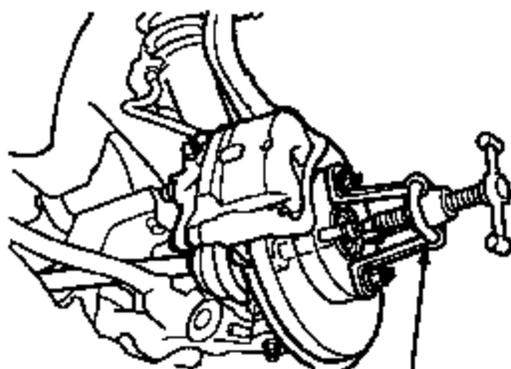
5. *Prelude Type SH only:* Separate the radius rod from the ball joint with the special tool. Take care not to damage the boot. Replace the boot if it is damaged during separation.



6. Remove the axle from the front wheel hub. If the axle is stuck to the hub, go to step 7. If the axle comes out easily, go to step 10.

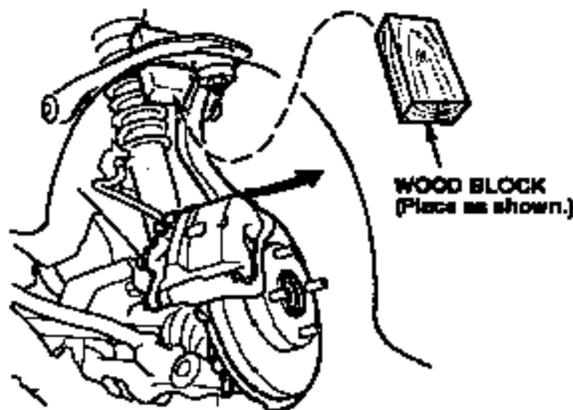


7. Reinstall the knuckle on the lower control arm and loosely install the castle nut.
8. Using a heavy-duty hub puller, free the axle from the hub. Do not press it all the way out.



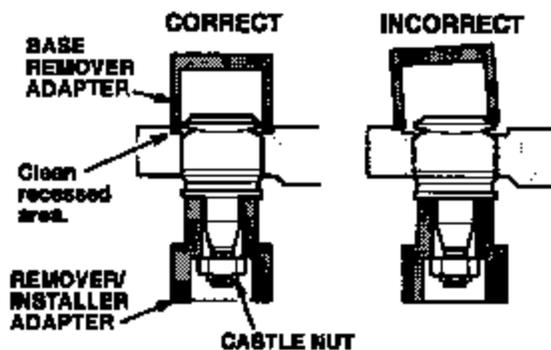
Use Snap-on P/N CJ-126,
Old Forge P/N 2618, or equivalent.

9. Remove the castle nut, lift and support the knuckle (to prevent damaging the ABS sensor wire harness), and press the axle out of the hub.



10. Lift the knuckle, then place a block of wood (approximately 2-3/4" x 1-1/2" x 5") between the upper control arm and the damper assembly.
11. Remove the boot from the lower ball joint.
12. *1997 Accord and all Odyssey only:* Remove the brake caliper mounting bolts and the caliper. Remove the four flange bolts, then remove the brake rotor/hub assembly.

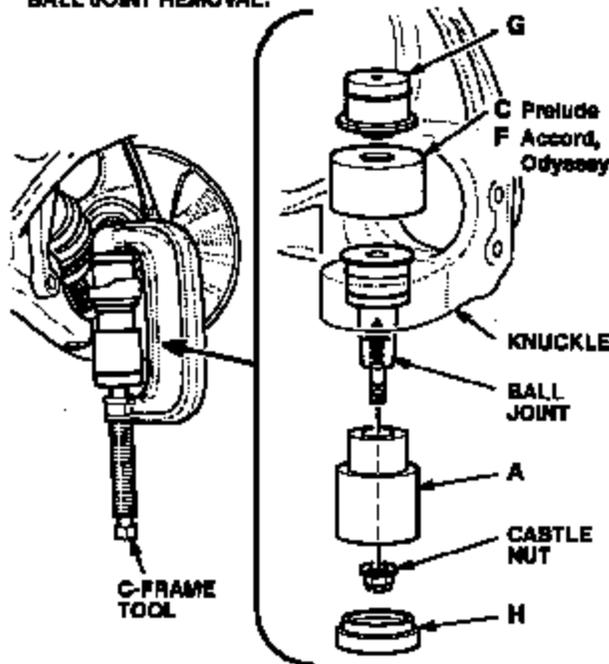
13. Clean the recessed area around the ball joint with solvent and compressed air, then install the base remover adapter (Tool C or F).



14. Hold the remover/installer adapter (Tool A) up to the ball joint, then install the castle nut to hold it in place. Install the remaining special tools on the lower ball joint and the knuckle. To avoid damaging the special tools, verify that they are correct for the vehicle you are working on and are aligned properly.

NOTE: On the Prelude Type SH, make sure you are removing the ball joint that connects to the lower control arm. Do not remove the ball joint that connects to the radius rod.

BALL JOINT REMOVAL:



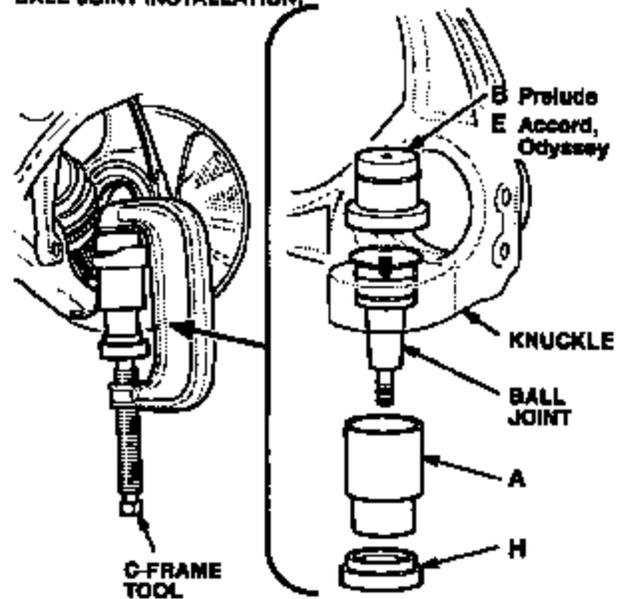
15. Tighten the C-frame and press the lower ball joint out of the knuckle.

Ball Joint Installation

16. Position the new ball joint in the knuckle. Do not remove the boot from the ball joint.

17. Install the special tools on the ball joint and the knuckle.

BALL JOINT INSTALLATION:



18. Tighten the C-frame and press the ball joint into the knuckle.
19. 1997 Accord and all Odyssey only: Reinstall the brake rotor/hub assembly. Torque the flange bolts to 44 N·m (33 lb-ft). Reinstall the brake caliper. Torque the mounting bolts to 108 N·m (80 lb-ft).
20. Apply wheel bearing grease to the axle splines.
21. Remove the wooden block, then install the axle into the hub. To avoid damaging the ABS sensor harness, do not let the knuckle hang by its weight.
22. Install the lower control arm onto the ball joint.
23. Install the ball joint castle nut. Torque the nut to 49-59 N·m (36-43 lb-ft). Install the new cotter pin.
24. Prelude Type SH only: Reinstall the radius rod to the ball joint. Torque the castle nut to 69-78 N·m (51-58 lb-ft).
25. Apply oil to the threads and flange of the new spindle nut. Install the spindle nut; torque it to 245 N·m (181 lb-ft).
26. Stake the spindle nut.
27. Repeat steps 2 through 26 on the other side.
28. Reinstall the front wheels. Tighten the wheel nuts to 108 N·m (80 lb-ft).
29. Lower the vehicle.
30. Center-punch a completion mark above the fourth character of the engine compartment VIN.

Center-punch here.

I H G C X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X

May 1999

Safety Recall: Lower Ball Joints

Dear Honda Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

What is the reason for this notice?

Honda Motor Co., Ltd. has determined that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Honda automobiles. Some vehicles were manufactured with front suspension lower ball joints that may prematurely wear out. In the worst case, the ball joint would separate without prior warning, causing the front suspension to collapse. This condition would result in vehicle deceleration and a sudden loss of power. Also, steering controllability would be reduced, and a vehicle crash could occur.

What should you do?

Call any authorized Honda automobile dealer and make an appointment to have your vehicle repaired. They will replace the front lower ball joints. *This repair will be done free of charge.* Parts are now available. The repair takes about two hours, but please plan to leave your vehicle at the dealer all day to allow them scheduling flexibility.

Who to contact if you experience problems.

If you are not satisfied with the service you receive from your Honda dealer, you may write to:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Honda Consumer Affairs Dept.
Mail Stop 500-2N-7D
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA, 90501-2746

If you believe that American Honda or the dealer has failed or is unable to remedy the defect in your vehicle, without charge, within a reasonable period of time (60 days from the date you first contact the dealer for a repair appointment), you may submit a complaint to:

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at (800) 424-9393. Residents of Washington D.C. should call (202) 366-0123.

What to do if you feel this notice is in error.

This notice was mailed to you according to the most current information we have available. If you no longer own this vehicle, or some information in this notice is incorrect, please fill out and return the included, postage-paid *Information Change Card*. This will help us to update our records.

If you have questions.

If you have questions about this notice, or need assistance with contacting a Honda dealer, please call the Honda Consumer Affairs Department at (800) 999-1009.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.

Sincerely,
AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.
Honda Automobile Division

May 13, 1999

Applies To: 1997-98 Accord
1998-99 Prelude
1997-98 Odyssey } See VEHICLES AFFECTED

R

Safety Recall: Lower Ball Joints

BACKGROUND

Certain vehicles were manufactured with front suspension lower ball joints that may prematurely wear out. In the worst case, the ball joints would separate without prior warning, causing the front suspension to collapse.

VEHICLES AFFECTED

1997 Accord (4-door, 4-cylinder only)	
Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1HGCD5...VA243517	1HGCD5...VA243816
1HGCD5...VA267121	1HGCD5...VA267121
1HGCD5...VA272648	1HGCD5...VA275398
1HGCD5...VA275639	1HGCD5...VA280284
JHMCD5...VC021143	JHMCD5...VC022004

Not every vehicle within the above VIN ranges is affected by this recall. Before beginning work on a vehicle, verify that it is eligible with one or more of the following.

- The customer has a recall notification.
- The vehicle is listed on your campaign responsibility report.
- The vehicle is shown as eligible when you do a VIN status inquiry on DCS.

1998 Accord		
4-cyl	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
4-door DX	1HGCF8...WA000036	1HGCF8...WA003281
4-door LX, EX	1HGCG5...WA000001	1HGCG5...WA006161
4-door ULEV	1HGCG6...WA000002	1HGCG6...WA004858
2-door V6	1HGCG3...WA000001	1HGCG3...WA000037
4-door	1HGCG1...WA000001	1HGCG1...WA001373
2-door	1HGCG2...WA000001	1HGCG2...WA000046

Prelude		
	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1998 S	JHMBA8...TC001985	JHMBA8...TC002612
1998 SI	JHMBS2...TC004209	JHMBS2...TC005917
1998 VTEC	JHMBS1...TC000817	JHMBS1...TC001163
1997	ALL	
1998	JHMBS6...WC000001	JHMBS6...WC009167

Odyssey		
	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1997	JHMRA1...VC021142	JHMRA1...VC022232
1998	JHMRA1...WC000001	JHMRA1...WC000650

CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION

All owners of affected vehicles will be mailed a notification of this recall. An example of the customer notification is at the end of this service bulletin.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Replace the front suspension lower ball joints.

PARTS INFORMATION

Ball Joint Kit, Accord and Odyssey:
P/N 04510-S84-000, H/C 6194054

Ball Joint Kit, Prelude:
P/N 04510-SL5-000, H/C 6194039

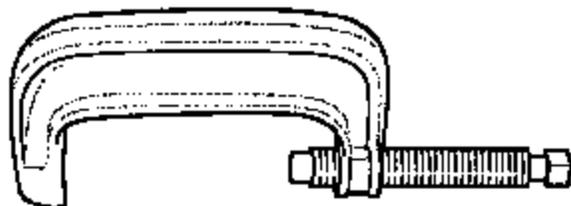


CUSTOMER INFORMATION: The information in this bulletin is intended for use only by skilled technicians who have the proper tools, equipment and training to correctly and safely maintain your vehicle. These procedures should not be attempted by "do-it-yourselfers," and you should not assume this bulletin applies to your vehicle, or that your vehicle has the condition described. To determine whether this information applies, contact an authorized Honda automobile dealer.

REQUIRED SPECIAL TOOLS

C-Frame Tool: OTC P/N 7248

C-FRAME TOOL
OTC P/N 7248



Ball Joint Remover/Installer Tool Set:

Tool sets are being automatically shipped to the dealers with this service bulletin. The individual tools do not have tool numbers; each tool is stamped with a letter for reference.

REMOVER/INSTALLER
ADAPTER (A)
All models



BASE INSTALLER ADAPTER (B)
Prelude only



BASE REMOVER ADAPTER (C)
Prelude only



BASE INSTALLER ADAPTER (E)
Accord and Odyssey only



BASE REMOVER ADAPTER (F)
Accord and Odyssey only



PILOT ADAPTER (G)
All models



REMOVER/INSTALLER PILOT
ADAPTER (H)
All models



WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

OP #	Description	FRT	Template ID
415131	Replace lower ball joints, 1997 Accord	1.4	99-039A
415131	Replace lower ball joints, 1998 Accord	1.2	99-039B
415132	Replace lower ball joints, Odyssey	1.4	99-039C
415133	Replace lower ball joints, Prelude	1.2	99-039D

Failed part: Accord, Odyssey
P/N 04510-SB4-000
H/C 6194054
Prelude
P/N 04510-SL5-000
H/C 6194039

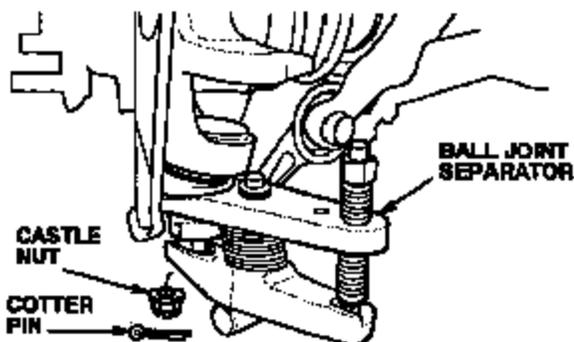
Defect code: 297

Contention code: K59

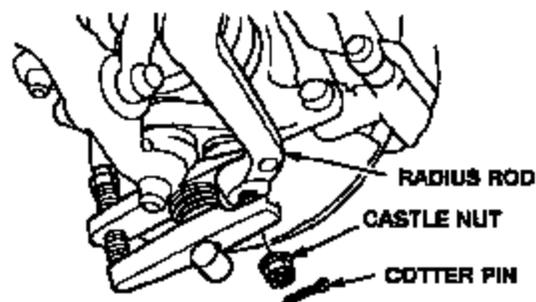
Skill level: Repair Technician

REPAIR PROCEDURE

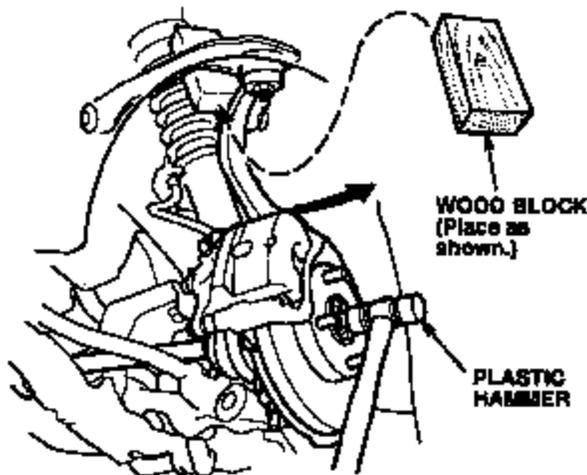
1. Raise the vehicle on a hoist. Remove the front wheels.
2. Remove and discard the spindle nut.
3. Remove the cotter pin and castle nut from the lower ball joint. Discard the cotter pin.
4. Separate the lower control arm from the ball joint with the special tool.



5. *Prelude Type SH only:* Separate the radius rod from the ball joint with the special tool.

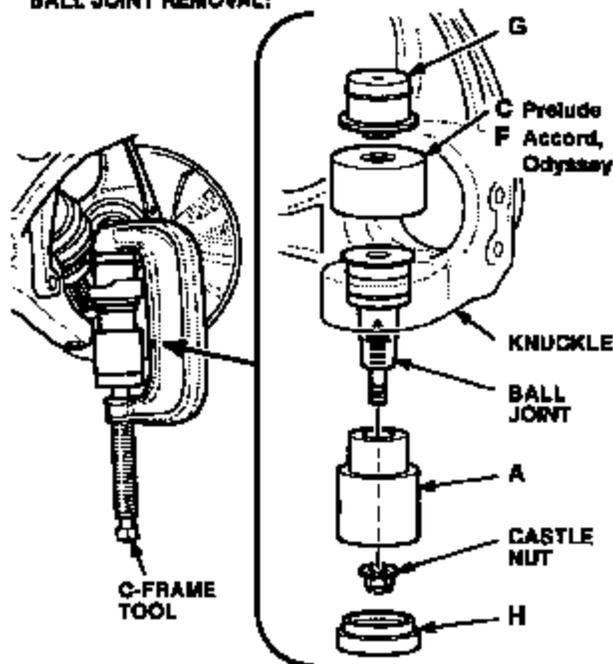


6. Remove the axle from the front wheel hub.



7. Lift the knuckle, then place a block of wood (approximately 2-3/4" x 1-1/2" x 5") between the upper control arm and the damper assembly.
8. Remove the boot from the lower ball joint.
9. *1997 Accord and all Odyssey only:* Remove the brake caliper mounting bolts and the caliper. Remove the four flange bolts, then remove the brake rotor/hub assembly.
10. Install the special tools on the lower ball joint and the knuckle.

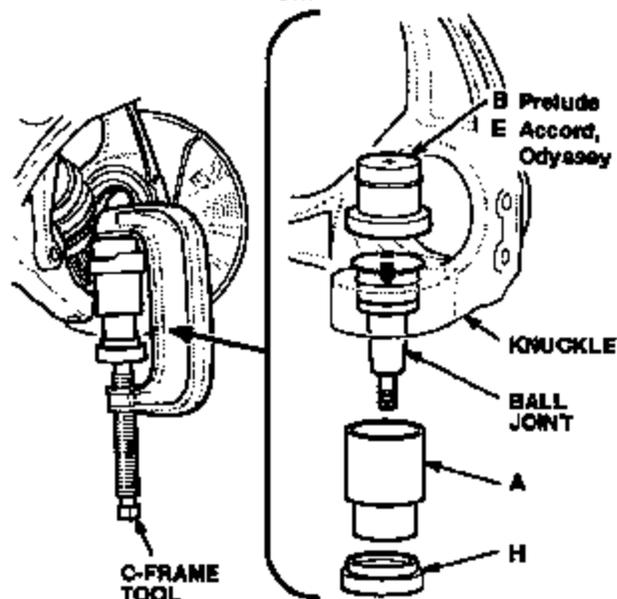
BALL JOINT REMOVAL:



11. Tighten the C-frame and press the lower ball joint out of the knuckle.
12. Position the new ball joint in the knuckle.

13. Install the special tools on the ball joint and the knuckle.

BALL JOINT INSTALLATION:



14. Tighten the C-frame and press the ball joint into the knuckle.
15. *1997 Accord and all Odyssey only:* Reinstall the brake rotor/hub assembly. Torque the flange bolts to 44 N-m (33 lb-ft). Reinstall the brake caliper. Torque the mounting bolts to 108 N-m (80 lb-ft).
16. Remove the wooden block, then install the axle into the hub.
17. Install the lower control arm onto the ball joint.
18. Install the ball joint castle nut. Torque the nut to 49-59 N-m (36-43 lb-ft). Install the new cotter pin.
19. *Prelude Type SH only:* Reinstall the radius rod to the ball joint. Torque the castle nut to 69-78 N-m (51-58 lb-ft).
20. Apply oil to the threads and flange of the new spindle nut. Install the spindle nut; torque it to 245 N-m (181 lb-ft).
21. Stake the spindle nut.
22. Repeat steps 2 through 21 on the other side.
23. Reinstall the front wheels. Tighten the wheel nuts to 108 N-m (80 lb-ft).
24. Lower the vehicle.
25. Center-punch a completion mark above the fourth character of the engine compartment VIN.

Center-punch here.

IHGXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

May 1999

Safety Recall: Lower Ball Joints

Dear Honda Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

What is the reason for this notice?

Honda Motor Co., Ltd. has determined that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Honda automobiles. Some vehicles were manufactured with front suspension lower ball joints that may prematurely wear out. In the worst case, the ball joint would separate without prior warning, causing the front suspension to collapse. This condition would result in vehicle deceleration and a sudden loss of power. Also, steering controllability would be reduced, and a vehicle crash could occur.

What should you do?

Call any authorized Honda automobile dealer and make an appointment to have your vehicle repaired. They will replace the front lower ball joints. *This repair will be done free of charge.* Parts are now available. The repair takes about two hours, but please plan to leave your vehicle at the dealer all day to allow them scheduling flexibility.

Who to contact if you experience problems.

If you are not satisfied with the service you receive from your Honda dealer, you may write to:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Honda Consumer Affairs Dept.
Mail Stop 500-2N-7D
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA, 90501-2748

If you believe that American Honda or the dealer has failed or is unable to remedy the defect in your vehicle, without charge, within a reasonable period of time (60 days from the date you first contact the dealer for a repair appointment), you may submit a complaint to:

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at (800) 424-9393. Residents of Washington D.C. should call (202) 366-0123.

What to do if you feel this notice is in error.

This notice was mailed to you according to the most current information we have available. If you no longer own this vehicle, or some information in this notice is incorrect, please fill out and return the included, postage-paid *Information Change Card*. This will help us to update our records.

If you have questions.

If you have questions about this notice, or need assistance with contacting a Honda dealer, please call the Honda Consumer Affairs Department at (800) 999-1009.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.

Sincerely,
AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.
Honda Automobile Division

Applies To: 1996-98 3.5RL - See VEHICLES AFFECTED
 1996-98 2.5TL/3.2TL - See VEHICLES AFFECTED
 1997-98 2.2CL/2.3CL/3.0CL - See VEHICLES AFFECTED

99V-069

Safety Recall: Lower Ball Joints

(Supersedes 99-023, dated June 15, 1999)

BACKGROUND

Certain vehicles were manufactured with front suspension lower ball joints that may prematurely wear out. In the worst case, the ball joints would separate without prior warning, causing the front suspension to collapse.

VEHICLES AFFECTED

3.5RL		
MY	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1996	ALL	
1997	ALL	
1998	JH4KA9...WC000001	JH4KA9...WC007053

2.5TL		
MY	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1996	JH4UA2...TC021065	JH4UA2...TC025075
1997	ALL	
1998	JH4UA2...WC000001	JH4UA2...WC006038

3.2TL		
MY	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1996	JH4UA3...TC012319	JH4UA3...TC014540
1997	ALL	
1998	JH4UA3...WC000001	JH4UA3...WC008112

2.2CL/2.3CL		
MY	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1997	19UYA1...VL023878	19UYA1...VL023878
	19UYA1...VL024293	19UYA1...VL024852
1998	19UYA3...WL000001	19UYA3...WL000022

3.0CL		
MY	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1997	19UYA2...VL018067	19UYA2...VL018057
	19UYA2...VL018439	19UYA2...VL019398
	19UYA2...VL019402	19UYA2...VL019402
1998	19UYA2...WL000001	19UYA2...WL000013

CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION

All owners of affected vehicles will be mailed a notification of this recall. An example of the customer notification is at the end of this service bulletin.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Replace the front suspension lower ball joints.

PARTS INFORMATION

Ball Joint Kit, 3.5RL: P/N 04510-SZ3-000

Ball Joint Kit, 2.5/3.2TL: P/N 04510-SL5-000

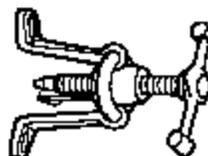
Ball Joint Kit, 2.2/2.3/3.0CL: P/N 04510-S84-000

Front Knuckle Ring, 3.5RL & 3.2TL:
 P/N 51212-SPO-000

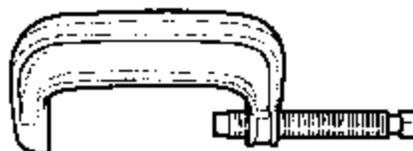
REQUIRED SPECIAL TOOLS

Heavy-Duty Hub Puller: Snap-on P/N CJ-129
 Old Forge P/N 2518

NOTE: Heavy-duty hub pullers can be purchased through the Honda Tool and Equipment Program at (888) 424-6857.



C-Frame Tool: OTC P/N 7248



Ball Joint Remover/Installer Tool Set:

The individual tools do not have tool numbers; each tool is stamped with a letter for reference.

REMOVER/INSTALLER ADAPTER (A)
All models



BASE INSTALLER ADAPTER (B)
2.5TL/3.2TL and 3.5RL only
(Apply grease to O-ring before each use.)



BASE REMOVER ADAPTER (C)
(or equivalent, T/N 07GAF-SD40210)
3.2TL and 3.5RL only



BASE REMOVER ADAPTER (D)
2.5TL only



BASE INSTALLER ADAPTER (E)
2.2CL/2.3CL/3.0CL only
(Apply grease to O-ring before each use.)



BASE REMOVER ADAPTER (F)
(or equivalent, T/N 07HAF-8F10130)
2.2CL/2.3CL/3.0CL only



PILOT ADAPTER (G)
All models
(Apply grease to O-ring before each use.)



REMOVER/INSTALLER PILOT ADAPTER (H)
All models



Driver: T/N 07749-0010000

Bearing Driver Attachment, 78 x 90 mm:
T/N 07GAD-SD40101

WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

OP#	Description	FRT	Template ID
415131	Replace lower ball joints, 2.2/2.3/3.0CL	1.4	99-023A
415132	Replace lower ball joints, 2.5TL	1.4	99-023B
415133	Replace lower ball joints, 3.2TL	1.2	99-023C
415136	Replace lower ball joints, 3.5RL	1.2	99-023D

Failed Part: 3.5RL - P/N 04510-SZ3-000
2.5/3.2TL - P/N 04510-SL5-000
2.2/2.3/3.0CL - P/N 04510-S84-000

Defect Code: 297

Contention Code: K61

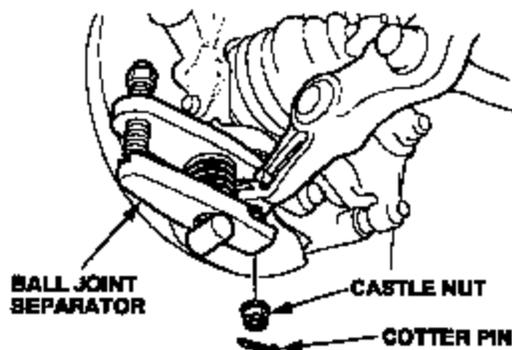
Skill Level: Repair Technician

REPAIR PROCEDURE

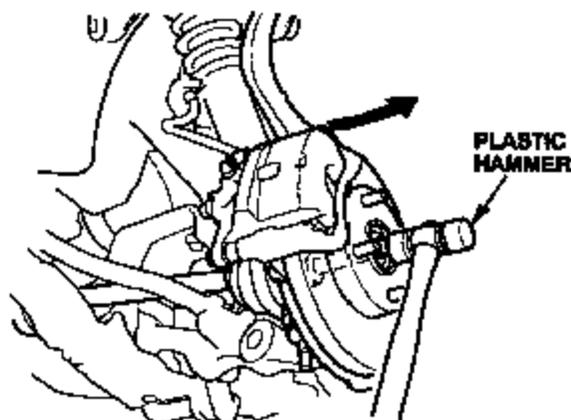
NOTE: Wear eye protection during the entire procedure.

Ball Joint Removal

1. Raise the vehicle on a hoist. Remove the front wheels.
2. Remove and discard the spindle nut.
3. Remove the cotter pin and castle nut from the lower ball joint. Discard the cotter pin.

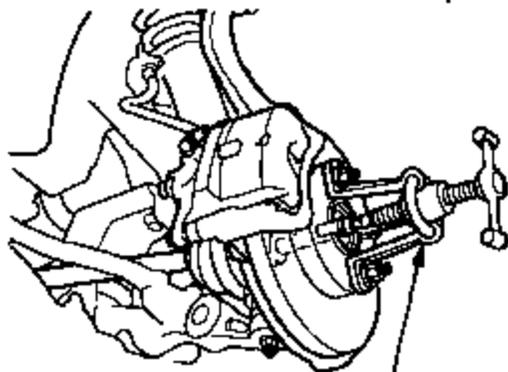


4. Separate the lower control arm from the ball joint with the special tool. To avoid damaging the ABS sensor harness, do not let the knuckle hang by its weight.
5. Remove the axle from the front wheel hub. If the axle is stuck to the hub, go to step 6. If the axle comes out easily, go to step 9.



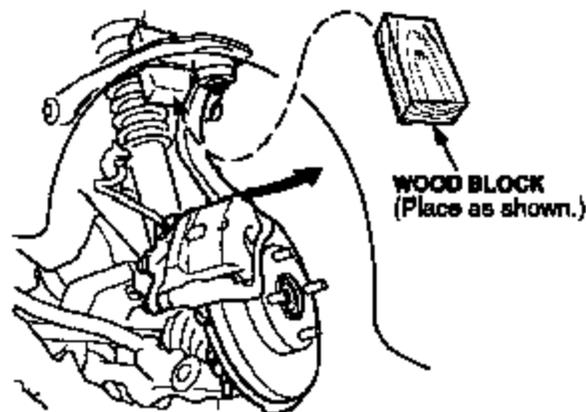
6. Reinstall the knuckle on the lower control arm and loosely install the castle nut.

7. Using a heavy-duty hub puller, free the axle from the hub. Do not press it all the way out.

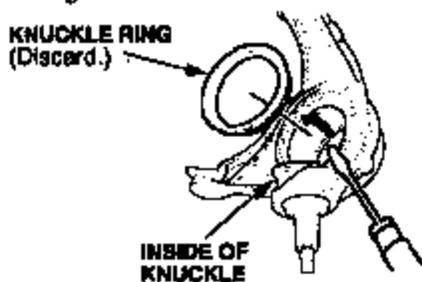


Use Snap-on P/N CJ-129,
Old Forge P/N 2518, or equivalent.

8. Remove the castle nut, lift and support the knuckle (to prevent damaging the ABS sensor wire harness), and press the axle out of the hub.
9. Lift the knuckle, then place a block of wood (about 2-3/4" x 1-1/2" x 5") between the upper control arm and the damper assembly.

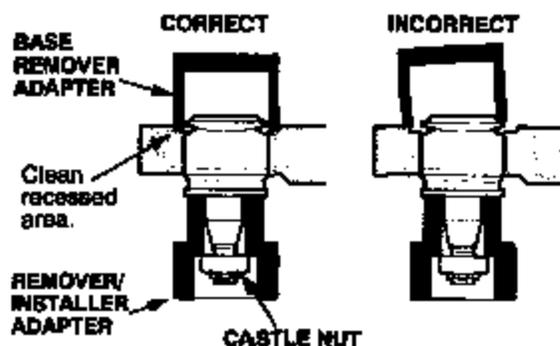


10. Remove the boot from the lower ball joint.
11. 3.5RL and 3.2TL only: Remove and discard the knuckle ring.

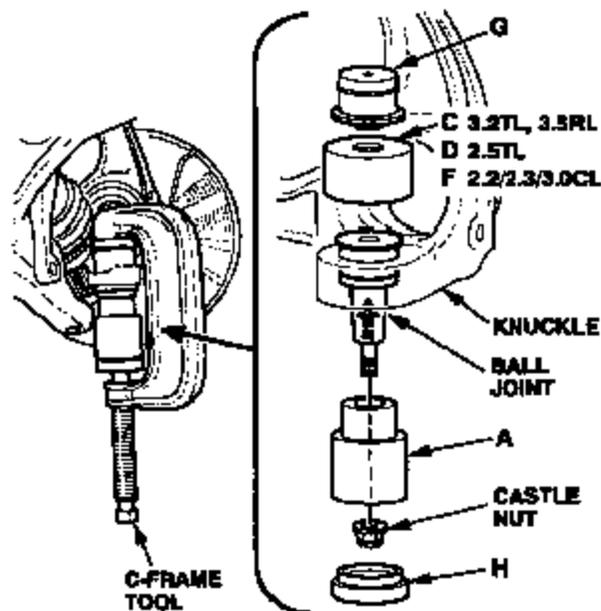


12. 2.5TL and CL only: Remove the brake caliper mounting bolts and the caliper. Remove the four flange bolts, then remove the brake rotor/hub assembly.

13. Clean the recessed area around the ball joint with solvent and compressed air, then install the base remover adapter (Tool C, D, or F).



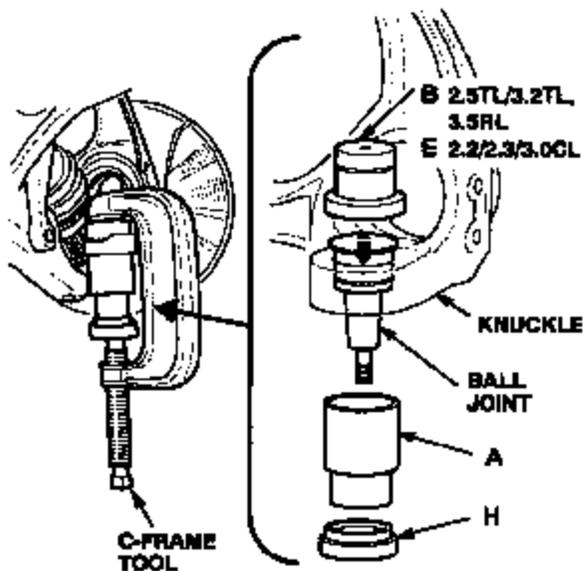
14. Hold the remover installer adapter (Tool A) up to the ball joint, then install the castle nut to hold it in place. Install the remaining special tools on the lower ball joint and the knuckle. To avoid damaging the special tools, verify that they are correct for the vehicle you are working on and are aligned properly.



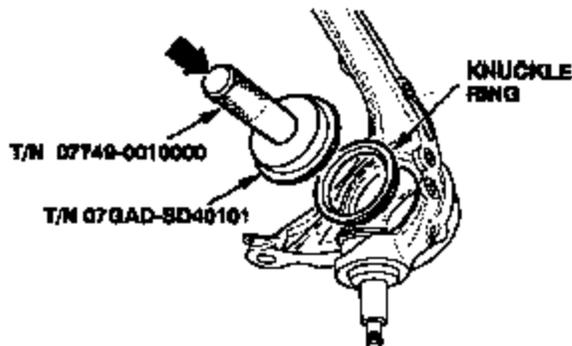
15. Tighten the C-frame and press the lower ball joint out of the knuckle.

Ball Joint Installation

- Position the new ball joint in the knuckle. Do not remove the boot from the ball joint.
- Install the special tools on the ball joint and the knuckle.



- Tighten the C-frame and press the ball joint into the knuckle.
- 3.5RL and 3.2TL only:* Install a new knuckle ring.



- 2.5TL and CL only:* Reinstall the brake rotor/hub assembly. Torque the flange bolts to 44 N-m (33 lb-ft). Reinstall the brake caliper. Torque the mounting bolts to 108 N-m (80 lb-ft).
- Apply wheel bearing grease to the axle splines.
- Remove the wooden block, then install the axle into the hub. To avoid damaging the ABS sensor harness, do not let the knuckle hang by its weight.
- Distribute the grease inside the ball joint by moving the ball joint stud left-and-right and back-and-forth about ten times. Then rotate the stud in a circle several times.
- Install the lower control arm onto the ball joint.

- Install and torque the ball joint castle nut. Install the new cotter pin.

	Torque
3.5RL	69-76 N-m (51-58 lb-ft)
3.2TL	68-76 N-m (51-58 lb-ft)
2.5TL	49-59 N-m (36-43 lb-ft)
2.2/2.3/3.0CL	39-47 N-m (29-35 lb-ft)

- Apply oil to the threads and flange of the new spindle nut. Install the new spindle nut; torque it to 245 N-m (181 lb-ft).
- Stake the spindle nut.
- Repeat steps 2 through 27 on the other side.
- Reinstall the front wheels. Tighten the wheel nuts to 108 N-m (80 lb-ft).
- Lower the vehicle.
- Center-punch a completion mark above the third character of the engine compartment VIN.

Center-punch here.

JH4XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

May 1999

Safety Recall: Lower Ball Joints

Dear Acura Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

What is the reason for this notice?

Honda Motor Co., Ltd. has determined that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Acura automobiles. Some vehicles were manufactured with front suspension lower ball joints that may prematurely wear out. In the worst case, the ball joint would separate without prior warning, causing the front suspension to collapse. This condition would result in vehicle deceleration and a sudden loss of power. Also, steering controllability would be reduced, and a vehicle crash could occur.

What should you do?

Call any authorized Acura automobile dealer and make an appointment to have your vehicle repaired. They will replace the front lower ball joints. *This repair will be done free of charge.* Parts are now available. The repair takes about two hours, but please plan to leave your vehicle at the dealer all day to allow them scheduling flexibility.

Who to contact if you experience problems.

If you are not satisfied with the service you receive from your Acura dealer, you may write to:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Acura Client Services Dept.
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501-2748

If you believe that American Honda or the dealer has failed or is unable to remedy the defect in your vehicle, without charge, within a reasonable period of time (60 days from the date you first contact the dealer for a repair appointment), you may submit a complaint to:

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at (800) 424-9393. Residents of Washington D.C. should call (202) 366-0123.

What to do if you feel this notice is in error.

This notice was mailed to you according to the most current information we have available. If you no longer own this vehicle, or some information in this notice is incorrect, please fill out and return the included, postage-paid *Information Change Card*. This will help us to update our records.

If you have questions.

If you have questions about this notice, or need assistance with contacting a Acura dealer, please call the Acura Client Services Department at (800) 382-2238.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.
Acura Automobile Division

Applies To: 1997-98 Accord - See VEHICLES AFFECTED
 1996-98 Prelude - See VEHICLES AFFECTED
 1997-98 Odyssey - See VEHICLES AFFECTED

March 27, 2001

99V-069

Safety Recall: Lower Ball Joints (Supersedes 99-039, dated June 29, 1999)

BACKGROUND

Certain vehicles were manufactured with front suspension lower ball joints that may prematurely wear out. In the worst case, the ball joints would separate without prior warning, causing the front suspension to collapse.

VEHICLES AFFECTED

1997 Accord (4-door, 4-cylinder only)	
Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1HGCD5...VA243517	1HGCD5...VA243816
1HGCD5...VA267121	1HGCD5...VA267121
1HGCD5...VA272645	1HGCD5...VA275399
1HGCD5...VA275699	1HGCD5...VA280294
JHMCD5...VC021143	JHMCD5...VC022004

Not every vehicle in the above VIN ranges is affected by this recall. Before beginning work on a vehicle, verify that it is eligible with one or more of the following.

- The customer has a recall notification.
- The vehicle is listed on your campaign responsibility report.
- The vehicle is shown as eligible when you do a VIN status inquiry on DCS.

1998 Accord		
4-cyl	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
4-door DX	1HGCF8...WA000036	1HGCF8...WA003281
4-door LX, EX	1HGCG5...WA000001	1HGCG5...WA006161
4-door ULEV	1HGCG6...WA000002	1HGCG6...WA004858
2-door V6	1HGCG3...WA000001	1HGCG3...WA000037
4-door	1HGCG1...WA000001	1HGCG1...WA001373
2-door	1HGCG2...WA000001	1HGCG2...WA000048

Prelude		
	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1996 S	JHMBAB...TC001965	JHMBAB...TC002612
1996 Si	JHMBB2...TC004209	JHMBB2...TC005817
1996 VTEC	JHMBB1...TC000817	JHMBB1...TC001163
1997	ALL	
1998	JHMBB6...WC000001	JHMBB6...WC009167

Odyssey		
	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
1997	JHMRA1...VC021142	JHMRA1...VC022292
1998	JHMRA3...WC000001	JHMRA3...WC000850

CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION

All owners of affected vehicles will be mailed a notification of this recall. An example of the customer notification is at the end of this service bulletin.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Replace the front suspension lower ball joints.

PARTS INFORMATION

Ball Joint Kit, Accord and Odyssey:
 P/N 04510-S84-000, H/C 8194054

Ball Joint Kit, Prelude:
 P/N 04510-SL5-000, H/C 8194039



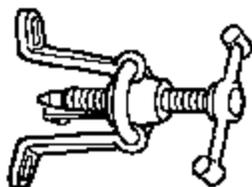
CUSTOMER INFORMATION: The information in this bulletin is intended for use only by skilled technicians who have the proper tools, equipment, and training to correctly and safely maintain your vehicle. These procedures should not be attempted by "do-it-yourselfers," and you should not assume this bulletin applies to your vehicle, or that your vehicle has the condition described. To determine whether this information applies, contact an authorized Honda automobile dealer.

REACT

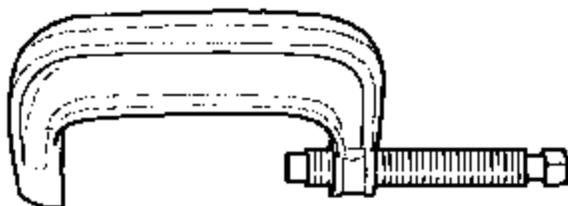
REQUIRED SPECIAL TOOLS

Heavy-Duty Hub Puller: Snap-on P/N CJ-129
Old Forge P/N 2518

NOTE: Heavy-duty hub pullers can be purchased through the Honda Tool and Equipment Program at (888) 424-6857.



C-Frame Tool: OTC P/N 7248



Ball Joint Remover/Installer Tool Set:

The individual tools do not have tool numbers; each tool is stamped with a letter for reference.

REMOVER/INSTALLER ADAPTER (A)
All models



BASE INSTALLER ADAPTER (B)
2.5TL/3.2TL and 3.5RL only
(Apply grease to O-ring before each use.)



BASE REMOVER ADAPTER (C)
(or equivalent, T/N 67GAF-SD40310)
3.2TL and 3.5RL only



BASE REMOVER ADAPTER (D)
2.5TL only



BASE INSTALLER ADAPTER (E)
2.2CL/2.3CL/3.0CL only
(Apply grease to O-ring before each use.)



BASE REMOVER ADAPTER (F)
(or equivalent, T/N 07HAF-6F10130)
2.2CL/2.3CL/3.0CL only



PILOT ADAPTER (G)
All models
(Apply grease to O-ring before each use.)



REMOVER/INSTALLER PILOT ADAPTER (H)
All models



WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

OP#	Description	FRT	Template ID
415131	Replace lower ball joints, 1997 Accord	1.4	99-039A
415131	Replace lower ball joints, 1998 Accord	1.2	99-039B
415132	Replace lower ball joints, Odyssey	1.4	99-039C
415133	Replace lower ball joints, Prelude	1.2	99-039D

Failed Part: Accord, Odyssey
P/N 04510-S84-000
H/C 6194054
Prelude
P/N 04510-SL5-000
H/C 6194039

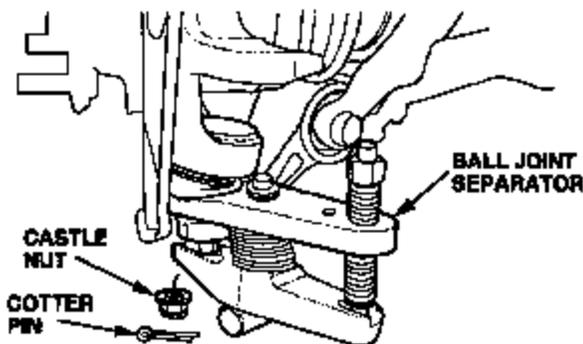
Defect Code: 297
Contention Code: K59
Skill Level: Repair Technician

REPAIR PROCEDURE

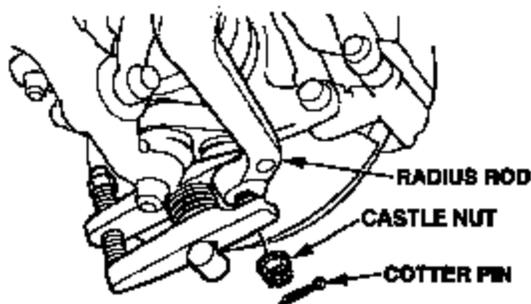
NOTE: Wear eye protection during the entire procedure.

Ball Joint Removal

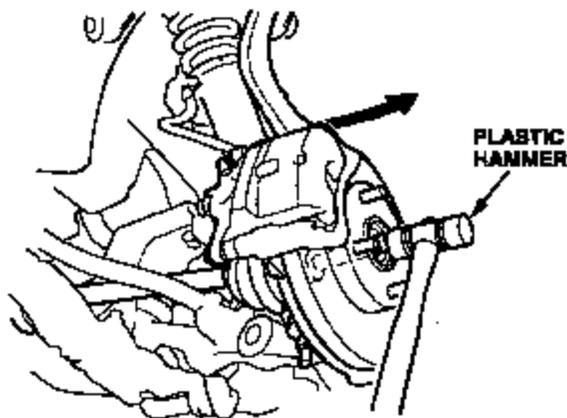
1. Raise the vehicle on a hoist. Remove the front wheels.
2. Remove and discard the spindle nut.
3. Remove the cotter pin and castle nut from the lower ball joint. Discard the cotter pin.



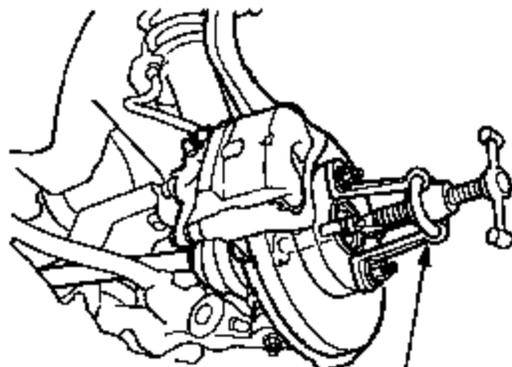
4. Separate the lower control arm from the ball joint with the special tool. To avoid damaging the ABS sensor harness, do not let the knuckle hang by its weight.
5. *Prelude Type SH only:* Separate the radius rod from the ball joint with the special tool. Take care not to damage the boot. Replace the boot if it is damaged during separation.



6. Remove the axle from the front wheel hub. If the axle is stuck to the hub, go to step 7. If the axle comes out easily, go to step 10.

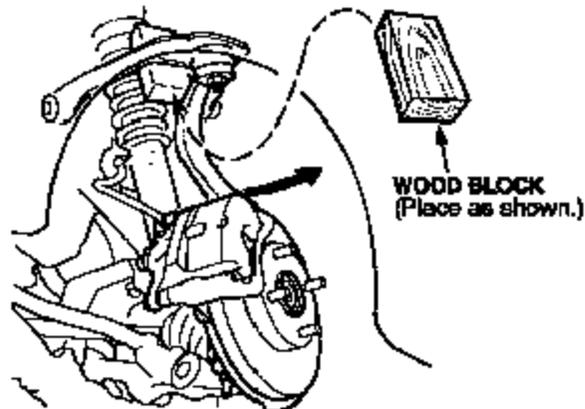


7. Reinstall the knuckle on the lower control arm and loosely install the castle nut.
8. Using a heavy-duty hub puller, free the axle from the hub. Do not press it all the way out.



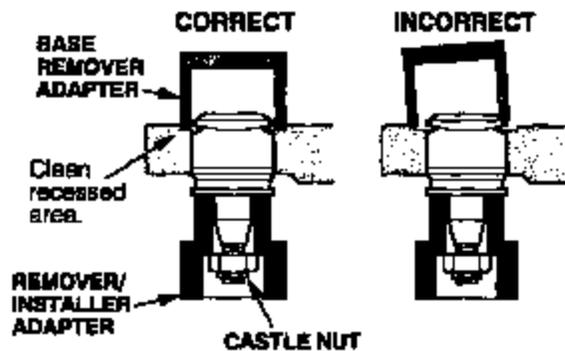
Use Snap-on P/N CJ-128, Old Forge P/N 2518, or equivalent.

9. Remove the castle nut, lift and support the knuckle (to prevent damaging the ABS sensor wire harness), and press the axle out of the hub.
10. Lift the knuckle, then place a block of wood (about 2-3/4" x 1-1/2" by 5") between the upper control arm and the damper assembly.



11. Remove the boot from the lower ball joint.
12. *1997 Accord and all Odyssey only:* Remove the brake caliper mounting bolts and the caliper. Remove the four flange bolts, then remove the brake rotor/hub assembly.

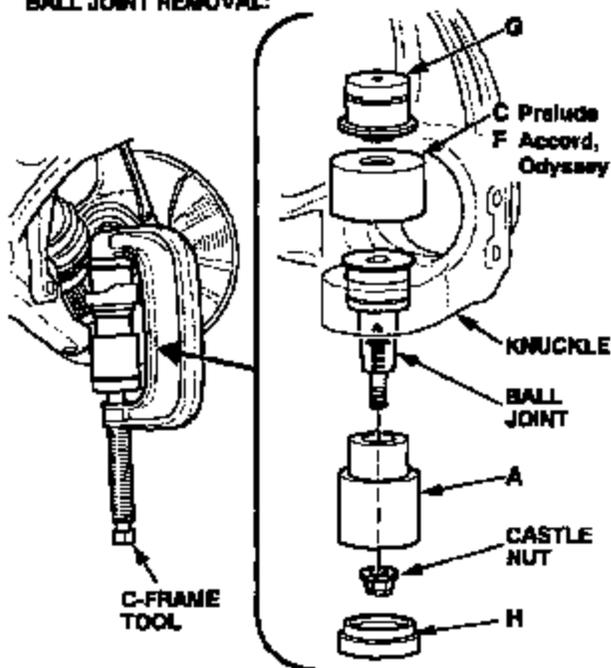
13. Clean the recessed area around the ball joint with solvent and compressed air, then install the base remover adapter (Tool C or F).



14. Hold the remover installer adapter (Tool A) up to the ball joint, then install the castle nut to hold it in place. Install the remaining special tools on the lower ball joint and the knuckle. To avoid damaging the special tools, verify that they are correct for the vehicle you are working on and are aligned properly.

NOTE: On the Prelude Type SH, make sure you are removing the ball joint that connects to the lower control arm. Do not remove the ball joint that connects to the radius rod.

BALL JOINT REMOVAL:

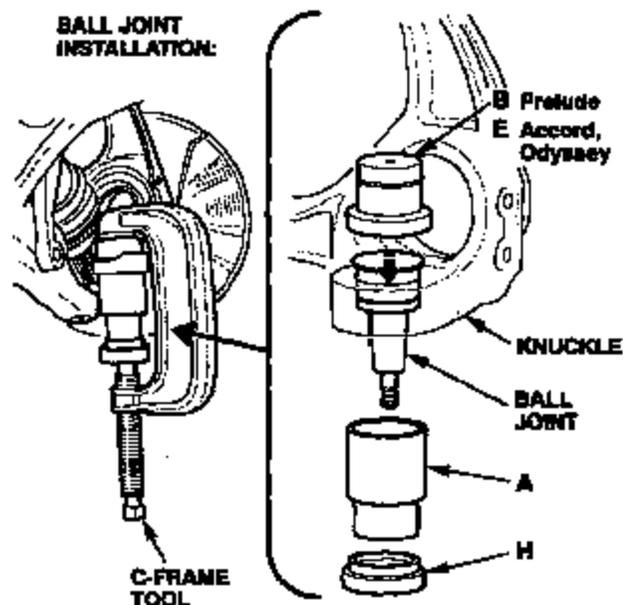


15. Tighten the C-frame and press the lower ball joint out of the knuckle.

Ball Joint Installation

16. Position the new ball joint in the knuckle. Do not remove the boot from the ball joint.
17. Install the special tools on the ball joint and the knuckle.

BALL JOINT INSTALLATION:



18. Tighten the C-frame and press the ball joint into the knuckle.
19. *1997 Accord and all Odyssey only:* Reinstall the brake rotor/hub assembly. Torque the flange bolts to 44 N-m (33 lb-ft). Reinstall the brake caliper. Torque the mounting bolts to 108 N-m (80 lb-ft).
20. Apply wheel bearing grease to the axle splines.
21. Remove the wooden block, then install the axle into the hub. To avoid damaging the ABS sensor harness, do not let the knuckle hang by its weight.
22. Distribute the grease inside the ball joint by moving the ball joint stud left-and-right and back-and-forth about ten times. Then rotate the stud in a circle several times.
23. Install the lower control arm onto the ball joint.
24. Install the ball joint castle nut. Torque the nut to 49-59 N-m (36-43 lb-ft). Install the new cotter pin.
25. *Prelude Type SH only:* Reinstall the radius rod to the ball joint. Torque the castle nut to 69-78 N-m (51-58 lb-ft).
26. Apply oil to the threads and flange of the new spindle nut. Install the new spindle nut; torque it to 245 N-m (181 lb-ft).
27. Stake the spindle nut.
28. Repeat steps 2 through 27 on the other side.
29. Reinstall the front wheels. Tighten the wheel nuts to 108 N-m (80 lb-ft).
30. Lower the vehicle.

31. Center-punch a completion mark above the fourth character of the engine compartment VIN.

Center-punch here.

1HGCXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

May 1999

Safety Recall: Lower Ball Joints

Dear Honda Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

What is the reason for this notice?

Honda Motor Co., Ltd. has determined that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Honda automobiles. Some vehicles were manufactured with front suspension lower ball joints that may prematurely wear out. In the worst case, the ball joint would separate without prior warning, causing the front suspension to collapse. This condition would result in vehicle deceleration and a sudden loss of power. Also, steering controllability would be reduced, and a vehicle crash could occur.

What should you do?

Call any authorized Honda automobile dealer and make an appointment to have your vehicle repaired. They will replace the front lower ball joints. *This repair will be done free of charge.* Parts are now available. The repair takes about two hours, but please plan to leave your vehicle at the dealer all day to allow them scheduling flexibility.

Who to contact if you experience problems.

If you are not satisfied with the service you receive from your Honda dealer, you may write to:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Honda Consumer Affairs Dept.
Mail Stop 500-2N-7D
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501-2748

If you believe that American Honda or the dealer has failed or is unable to remedy the defect in your vehicle, without charge, within a reasonable period of time (60 days from the date you first contact the dealer for a repair appointment), you may submit a complaint to:

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at (800) 424-9393. Residents of Washington D.C. should call (202) 366-0123.

What to do if you feel this notice is in error.

This notice was mailed to you according to the most current information we have available. If you no longer own this vehicle, or some information in this notice is incorrect, please fill out and return the included, postage-paid *Information Change Card*. This will help us to update our records.

If you have questions.

If you have questions about this notice, or need assistance with contacting a Honda dealer, please call the Honda Consumer Affairs Department at (800) 999-1009.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.
Honda Automobile Division