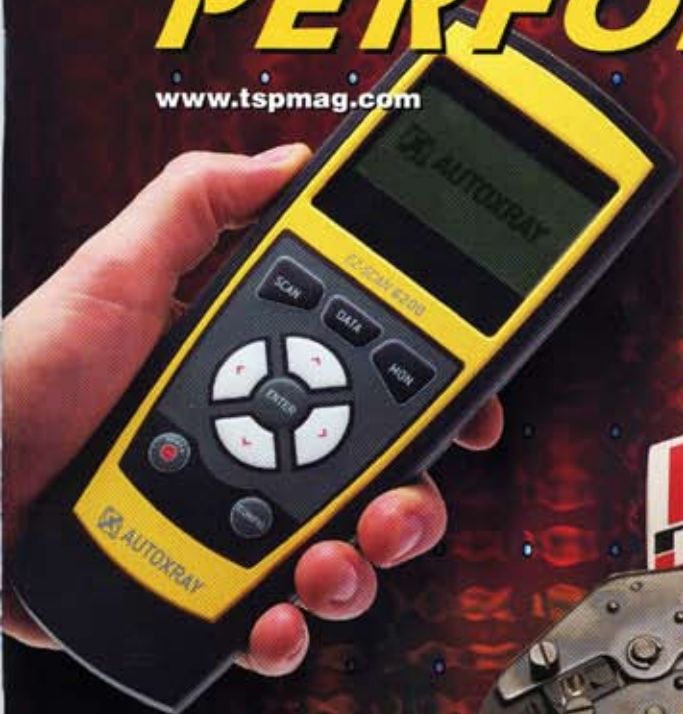


TRUCK & SUV PERFORMANCE

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2005 INSTALLATION GUIDE



OFF-ROAD BONANZA

Whether Sold Separately or as Part of a Package, Sales of Suspension Lift Kits are Hitting New Heights

By Jonathan P. Lamas

In this issue, *Truck & SUV Performance* offers you a step-by-step installation of Fabtech Motorsports' popular Performance 3.5-inch lift kit.

Fabtech's 100,000-sq.-ft. facility is located in Chino, Calif. It began as a small custom fabrication shop in 1989, but since then it's grown into a world-class manufacturer of suspension systems and off-road accessories. This install was performed on

a 2003 Toyota Tacoma and took about two hours to complete, with Fabtech's R&D Manager **Steve Erdelyi** explaining the process while R&D Technician **Jeff Wise** performed the install. [View Photos](#)

SOURCE

Fabtech Motorsports
Rapid Response #208



1. With the truck sitting on a flat and level surface, measure the distance from the center of the front spindle to the top of the fender opening. Write this measurement down. Then place the truck on a lift and elevate.



2. Remove three nuts securing the upper spring seat to the mount frame. Leave upper spring seat/strut assembly nut attached. Remove nut and bolt, securing bottom of spring seat/strut assembly to lower control arm and remove assembly from truck.



3. Using supplied 3/8-inch bolts, with one 3/8-inch lock washer followed by a 3/8-inch flat washer, secure new spring seat to upper spring mount. Secure lower coilover mount to lower control arm with original nut/bolt. Tighten till bushings slightly compress.



4. Torque the three top bolts on the upper spring seat to 28 lbs./ft., and torque the lower coilover mount to 65 lbs./ft.



5. Tighten the lower coil spring collar on the coil-over until you start to compress the coil spring. Continue to tighten by hand until you can go no further.



6. Use supplied spanner wrench to tighten spring collar until one-inch of thread is exposed. Tighten locking collar under lower spring collar using a hammer and a drift punch to tap the collar around until tight.



7. Now we focus on the rear Add-a-Leaf Kit. Clamp the leaf spring in the middle and remove the center bolt.



8. Separate the springs and install the provided add-a-leaf with the new center bolt in a pyramid pattern, smallest on the bottom graduating to the longest on top.



9. Clamp the spring and tighten the center bolt so as not to leave a gap between the springs.



10. Adjust the brake lines if necessary to ensure that there is adequate length for the lines to perform properly.



11. Align the shocks and torque them to manufacturer's specifications.



12. Reinstall the tires and torque the lug nuts to factory specs. Set the truck back on the ground and bounce up and down on the front end of the truck to settle the front coil springs.



13. Front ride height can be set from one to three inches over original ride height. Measure distance from center of front spindle to top of fender opening. Compare with your original measurement. To make adjustments, put the truck on the lift again, loosen locking nut on lower spring collar and either tighten or loosen the collar with the spanner wrench. Make adjustments two turns per measurement. Be sure to tighten locking nut on lower spring collar prior to setting truck back on ground.



14. After you have set the proper ride height, reinstall the front sway bar links and check the toe-in of the front tires. Adjust the toe-in if necessary and test-drive the truck. It is recommended that the truck's tires be balanced after the install to ensure proper alignment. After 50 miles, measure the height again and adjust if necessary.