

Tech Tip 16-0316-1

Units with Air Ride Rear Suspension

- Complaint -** There is a clunking noise when turning
- Cause -** The rear “track arm” which runs from the top of the rear axle housing to the right frame rail may be loose.
- Correction -** Check the unit to verify the rear track arm is securely bolted in place.
- As seen in Figure #1, there are 2 bolts mounting the track arm to a bracket welded to the top of the rear axle housing. In Figure #2, 2 bolts come through the frame rail, through another bracket and mount the other end of the track arm.

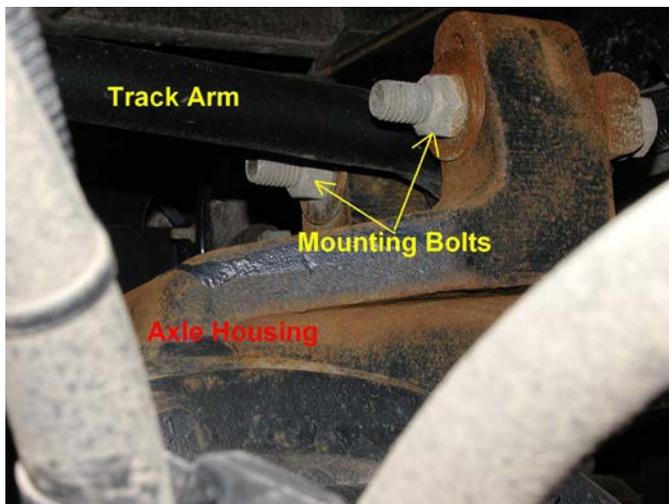


Figure 1

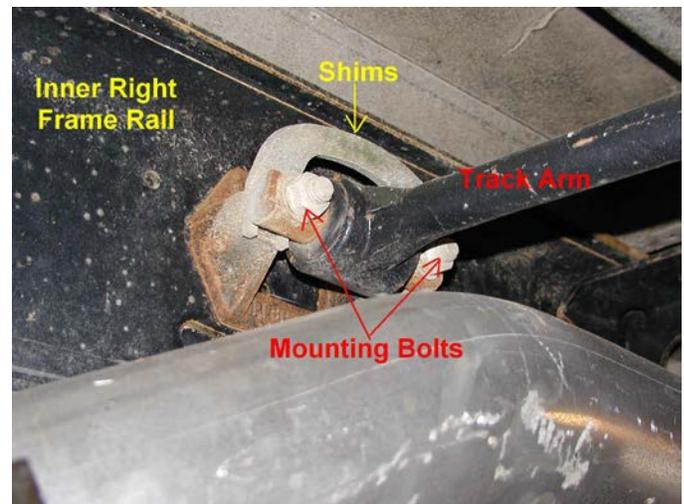


Figure 2

Figure #3 below shows the bolts as they come through the frame rail and the support bracket that mounts on the outside of the frame. The purpose of the track arm is to keep the rear axle “squared” under the chassis. You can easily add or remove shims to keep that position correct as seen in Figure #2. Both bolts must have the same “shim width” so the bushing is not at an angle causing premature tire wear.

A 4-wheel alignment should be performed on the unit if both rear frame side bolts and shims are missing. If you cannot immediately schedule a 4-wheel alignment, you can align the rear axle under the vehicle by following these steps below.

- Align the vehicle to be pulled into your lift or pit

- Move the vehicle back and forth 5 times about 10 feet in either direction. This will help align the axle squarely with the frame.
- Pull the vehicle in and lift the vehicle, properly locking or standing as your normal procedure requires
- Measure the distance from the rear wheels at the frame both forward and aft of the axle and write those figures down.
- The distances on both sides (right/left) should be equal. If not stop here and schedule the unit for a 4 wheel alignment as something else is off that requires immediate attention or tire wear may occur.
- If they are equal, front and back then check side to side. The measurements should be within 1/16" from side to side.
- If they are over that, you can use a port-a-power to move the axle to equal the distance on both sides.
- Install the proper amount of shims to maintain the track arm length.
- Torque bolts to 90-122 ft.lbs

NOTE – Should you not have shims, flat washers can be used, but you must maintain the proper “shim width” on both bolts.

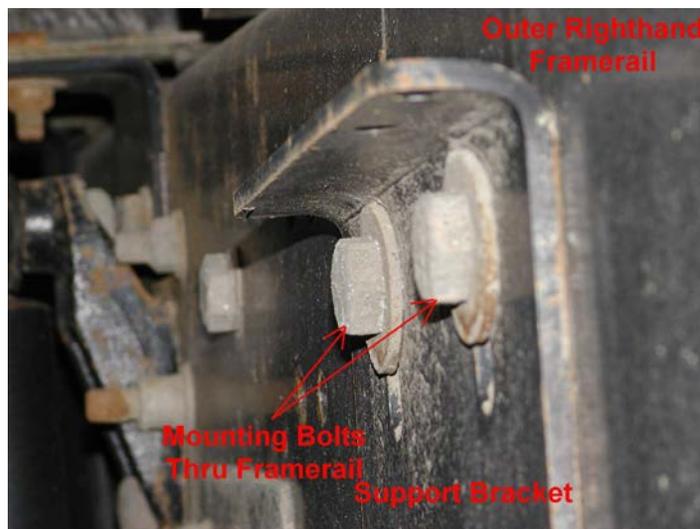


Figure 3

Thanks to Domenic Barse and crew at Malone Central School for pointing this out

For more information, contact our nearest Service Department

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