

Volkswagen Cabriolet DIY Guide

Compressing Bumper Shocks

Method 1

Tools needed (list does not include tools for removing over-riders):

- Drill with a sharp metal bit
- **Safety goggles**
- Large piece of cardboard
- Small piece of cardboard (pizza box top works well) or a throw-away plastic bowl
- Rubber mallet

1. Put on your safety goggles.
2. Remove the bumpers from the car and place them on a large piece of cardboard.
3. If your rear bumper has over-riders installed, you **must** remove them now. If you don't remove them, you will not be able to open/close the trunk lid after re-installing the compressed rear bumper!
4. Drill a hole through a small piece of cardboard or plastic bowl, bowl-side down (this will create a shield for the impending explosion of gas and/or oil).
5. Place drill (with shield in place) on top of the smaller tube of a bumper shock and drill straight down.
6. Place drill (with shield in place) on top of the larger tube of the same bumper shock and drill straight down.
7. Repeat steps 3 and 4 on the remaining 3 bumper shocks.
8. Grab your mallet and start bashing the bracket-ends of the bumper shocks.
9. When you think the shocks have been compressed enough, re-install the bumpers. (You removed the over-riders from the rear bumper, right?)
10. If the bumpers are not compressed enough to your liking, bash the bumper (at each bracket) with your mallet until the desired compression amount is achieved (if you're concerned about damaging the bumper or bumper pad, place a folded towel or carpet over the area). If compressing the bumper shocks using this method proves difficult, **carefully** follow the steps in Method 2.



Before



After

Above photos by "Gawd" of VWvortex.com

Method 2

(This compression method was originally posted on VWvortex.com by "-VRTIGO-".)

Tools needed:

- Drill with a sharp metal bit
- Safety goggles
- Cardboard
- Car keys
- A floor mat or scrap carpet
- An empty wall
- 15 spare minutes of time

Follow the steps in Method 1 for drilling the bumper shocks.

When you've drilled all four find yourself a solid object. A big tree or a solid wall is ideal; your house maybe not so much. Another car is a bad idea. The process is actually really fun so prepare to laugh at the silliness:

1. Place a good deal of cardboard on the floor next to the wall/tree.
2. Place a car mat over the front bumper but do NOT wrap it around 'cause it'll get trapped there.
3. Line the car up straight against the wall, about 6"-12" away.
4. Put your baby into first gear.
5. Rev the engine in a mean way, like you're mad with the wall for stealing your lunch money.
6. Kick that bully in the shins by driving your car into the wall. Now, you do have to be fairly deliberate. Gentle isn't going to work at first. Pretend you're at the fair playing bumper cars. If you get the speed right you won't just bump against and or deflect off the wall...
7. <POP!> The oil cylinders will now start to leak. If you didn't place cardboard under the car, better do it now.
8. Reverse 6"-12" away from the wall and drive at it again, more gently. This time you'll feel the bumpers slide a touch.
9. Repeat several times until the bumper sits at a happy place.
10. Pull a 180 and drive the bum (rear) of your car at that mean old wall (or tree).

I have never purposely driven a car into a wall before. Once I figured out how hard to drive at the wall (START GENTLE until you understand the process) I was having a blast shuffling back and forth into that wall, looking like a grinning bobble-head doll in a full-sized bumper car.

*vroom*bang*checkbumper*vroom*bang...*

I was laughing so hard! Must buy another car to do this again...

* * Remember, **you** are responsible for working on **your** car; Cabby-Info.com, "-VRTIGO-", VWvortex.com, VAG, VWoA, or anyone else are **not** responsible if **anything** goes wrong while **you** are working on, in and under **your** car!
Use this information at your own risk!* *