

Volkswagen Cabriolet DIY Guide

Replacing Manual Convertible Top/Roof Struts

Is your Cabriolet's roof difficult to put down and/or up? Chances are, the struts have gone bad and need replacing (best to do it before they seize completely, resulting in a bent roof frame). Replacement is actually quite easy.

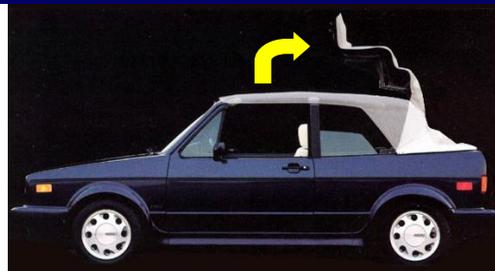
Tools needed:

- Small needle-nosed pliers, or just your fingers, whichever is easier for the circlips

Parts needed (a pair of the following):

- Stabilus/Lift-O-Mat replacement part number: SG401018 (available at most local auto parts stores), **or**
- At mcmastercarr.com, replacement part number: 9416K337 (you will also need four eyelets, P/N 9416K84)

Step 1



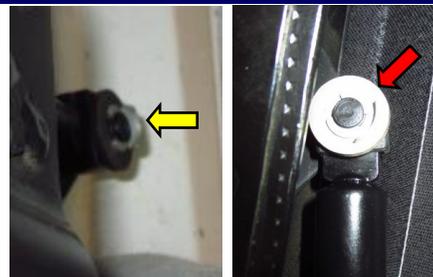
Unlatch the roof and raise it to the half-way point (if the struts have seized, leave the roof closed; do not force your roof open!). See page 2 for installed strut assembly photo.

Warning



****Do NOT remove both struts; replace the struts one at a time!!!!****

Step 2



Reach in behind the headliner of **one side**: A) Pull out the lower circlip (yellow arrow) and pull off the lower washer; set them aside in a safe place nearby. B) Pull out the upper circlip and pull off the upper washer (red arrow); set them aside in a safe place nearby.

Step 3



Pull the strut's upper-end off of its mounting post.

Step 4



Pull the strut's lower-end off of its mounting post. Note: This post is mounted on a moveable arm.

Step 5



Remove the upper and lower rubber caps and place them onto each end of the new strut.

Step 6



Install new strut (installation is reverse of removal), piston-end attaching to the bottom post (the one on the moveable arm). You may need push in on the washers in order to reinstall the circlips.

Step 7



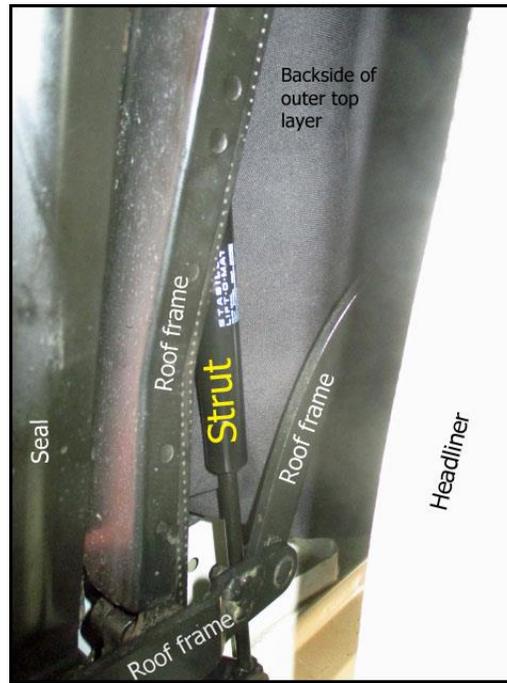
Repeat steps 2-6 on the other side of the convertible top.

Step 8



Your roof should now be much easier to put down and back up.

Installed Strut Assembly (manually-operated tops only)



(passenger side shown)

OEM Part Numbers for the Strut Assembly (manually-operated tops only)

Gas-filled Strut



Volkswagen: 155871997A
Stabilus Lift-O-Mat: SG401018

(Two required per car)

Stabilus is the manufacturer of the OEM Lift-O-Mat struts.

Rubber Cap

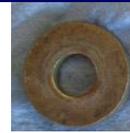


Volkswagen: 171827625

(Four required per car)

Also called a "compensating piece".

Washer



Volkswagen: N0154013
Size: 8.4x21x4mm

(Four required per car)
Despite the different finishes, both washers are the same size.

Circlip



Volkswagen: N90095603

(Four required per car)

Also called a "lock washer".

**** Remember, you are responsible for working on your car. Cabby-Info.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!****