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.

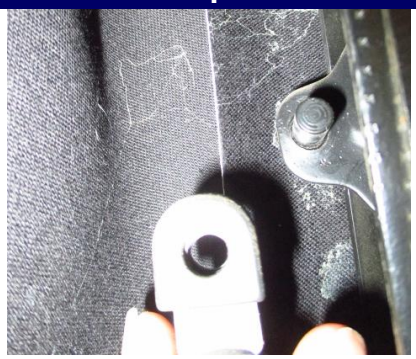
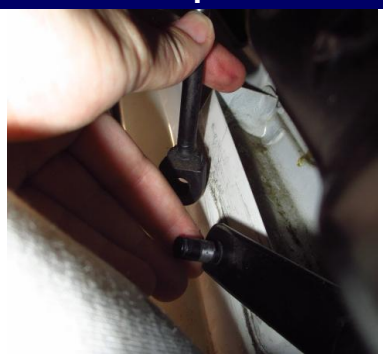
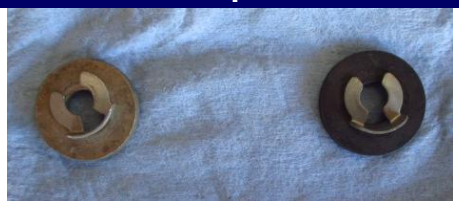
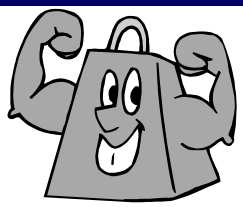
Tools Needed:

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

Struts Needed (two 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)

Location of strut (left side shown; top is raised to the halfway point):

Step 1	Warning	Step 2
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.	**Do **NOT** remove both struts; replace the struts **one** at a time!!!!**	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	**Step 4**	**Step 5**
 Pull the strut's upper-end off of its mounting post.	 Pull the strut's lower-end off of its mounting post. Note: This post is mounted on a moveable arm.	Remove the upper and lower rubber caps and place them onto each end of the new strut.
Step 6	**Step 7**	**Step 8**
 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.	Repeat steps 2-6 on the other side of the convertible top.	 Your roof should now be much easier to put down and back up.

OEM Part Numbers for the Strut Assembly (manually-operated tops only)			
Component	**Part Number(s)**	**Size**	**Notes**
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	8.4x21x4 mm	Four required per car *Despite the different finishes/colors, both washers are the same size*
Circlip	Volkswagen: N0123262 *(left image; original component; also used on Rabbit/Golf I hatchback)* N90095603 *(right image; listed in parts catalog for Cabriolets)*		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!* *