AIR LIFT PERFORMANCE®

INSTALLATION GUIDE

Kit 78679

Mercedes W205

REAR APPLICATION

For maximum effectiveness and safety, please read these instructions completely before proceeding with installation.

Failure to read these instructions can result in an incorrect installation which could result in damage to the vehicle, minor to severe personal injury or death.

MN-1107 • (022202) • ECR 9878

Protect your Air Lift Performance Purchase by Completing your Warranty Registration

Thank you for purchasing an Air Lift Performance product!

Take a photo of your sales receipt and then scan the QR code to complete your online warranty registration.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

Air Lift Performance thanks you for purchasing the most complete, fully engineered high-performance air suspension made for the Mercedes W205 Rear. Read these installation instructions to correctly and safely set up the vehicle for a #lifeonair.

Air Lift assumes that the installer has the mechanical knowledge and ability to work on vehicle suspension systems and has basic tools necessary to complete a suspension replacement project. Special tools needed to complete the installation are noted on the *System Overview* page.

Air Lift reserves the right to make changes and improvements to its products and publications at any time. For the latest version of this manual, contact Air Lift Performance at **(800) 248-0892** or visit **www.airliftperformance.com**.

An Air Lift Performance air management system is highly recommended for this product. Learn more at **air-lift.co/productlines**.

NOTATION EXPLANATION

Hazard notations appear in various locations in this publication. Information which is highlighted by one of these notations must be observed to help minimize risk of personal injury or possible improper installation which may render the vehicle unsafe. Notes are used to help emphasize areas of procedural importance and provide helpful suggestions. The following definitions explain the use of these notations as they appear throughout this guide.

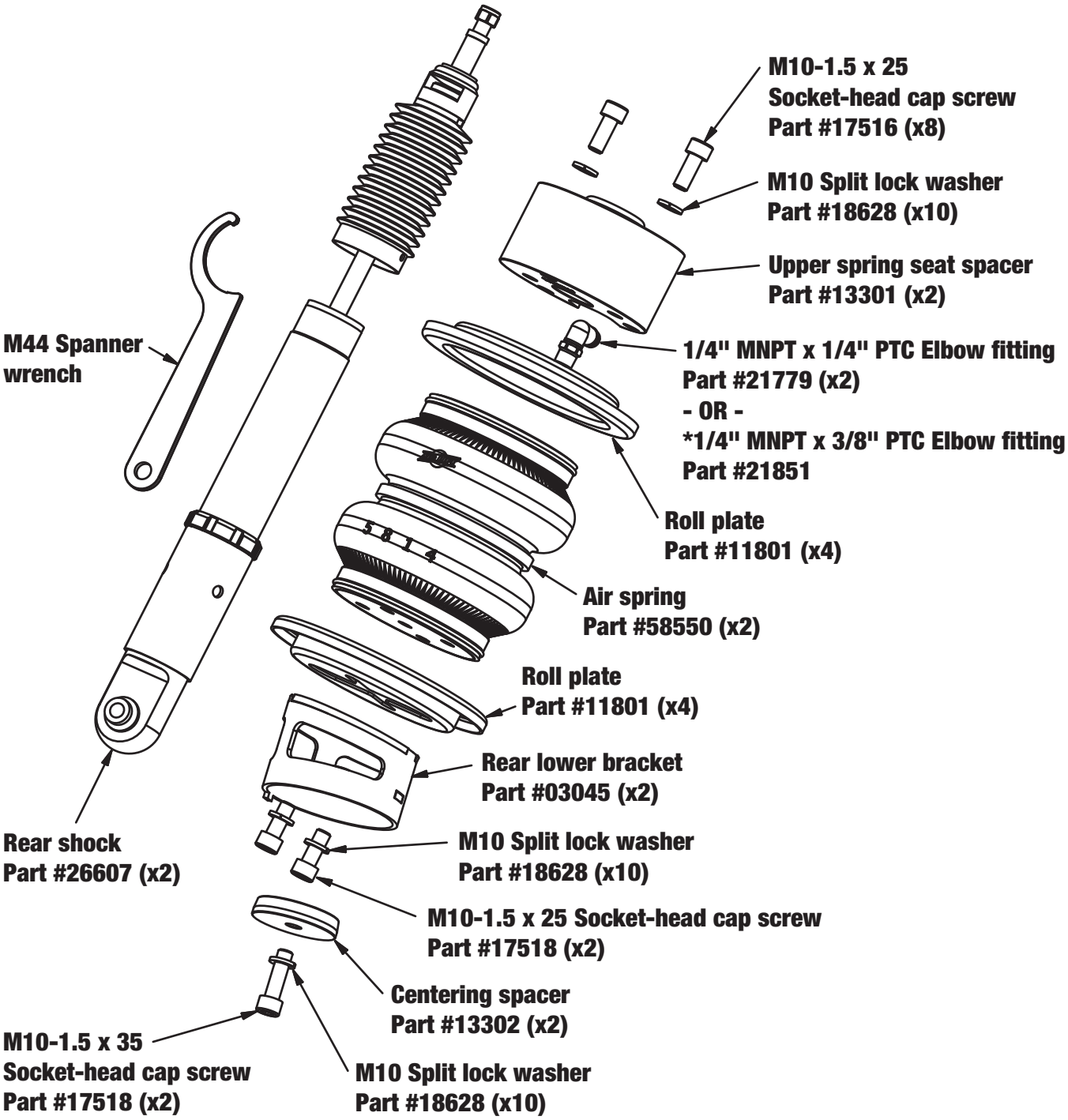
DANGER
INDICATES IMMEDIATE HAZARDS WHICH WILL RESULT IN SEVERE PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.

WARNING
INDICATES HAZARDS OR UNSAFE PRACTICES WHICH COULD RESULT IN SEVERE PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.

CAUTION
INDICATES HAZARDS OR UNSAFE PRACTICES WHICH COULD RESULT IN DAMAGE TO THE VEHICLE OR MINOR PERSONAL INJURY.

NOTE *Used to help emphasize areas of procedural importance and provide helpful suggestions.*

System Overview



*1/4" MNPT x 3/8" PTC Elbow fittings (21851) are NOT included in this kit, but are available as a special order.

STOP! Missing or damaged parts? Call Air Lift customer service at (800) 248-0892 for a replacement part.

Installing the System

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICES

DO NOT INFLATE AIR SPRINGS WHILE OFF OF THE VEHICLE. DAMAGE TO ASSEMBLY MAY RESULT AND VOID WARRANTY.

DO NOT WELD TO OR MODIFY PERFORMANCE STRUTS/SHOCKS IN ANY WAY. DAMAGE TO UNIT MAY OCCUR AND WILL VOID WARRANTY.

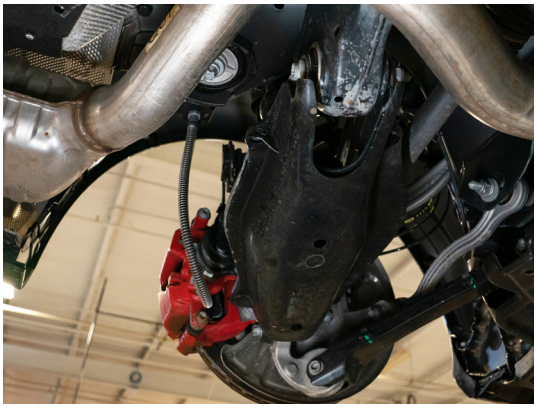
AFTER INSTALLATION, ENSURE ALL ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT VEHICLE SAFETY FEATURES ARE PROPERLY CALIBRATED BY A QUALIFIED TECHNICIAN. CHANGING VEHICLE HEIGHT MAY AFFECT FUNCTIONING OF SAFETY SENSORS AND CAMERAS.

SECTION 1. REMOVE THE REAR SUSPENSION

RAISE THE REAR OF THE VEHICLE WITH A HOIST OR JACK AT THE APPROVED LIFTING POINTS AND USE SAFETY STANDS TO SUPPORT THE VEHICLE.

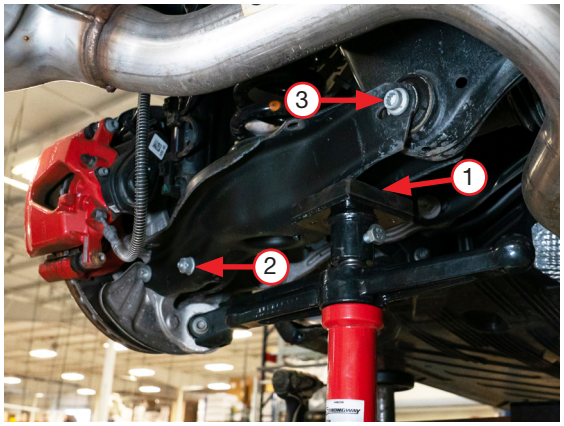
1. Remove the rear wheels from the vehicle.

2. Remove the spring control arm cover.



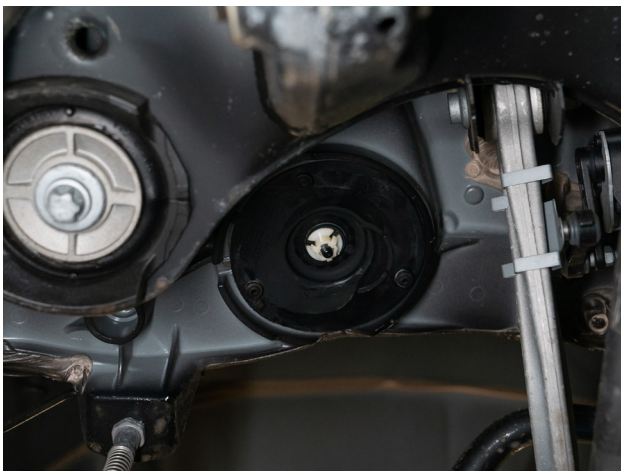
3. Unplug the wires connected to the module at the side of the damper body. Secure wires away from heat, sharp edges, rotating components, and direct exposure to debris.

4. Support the spring control arm inner pivot (1), remove the shock bolt (2) and the attaching spring control arm bolt (3) from the crossmember.



5. Lower the spring control arm and remove the coil spring.

6. Remove the plastic upper spring seat without damaging the retainer clip. The retaining clip and rubber isolator shall remain attached to the chassis.

7. Remove the fender liner and unbolt the damper mount from the chassis.

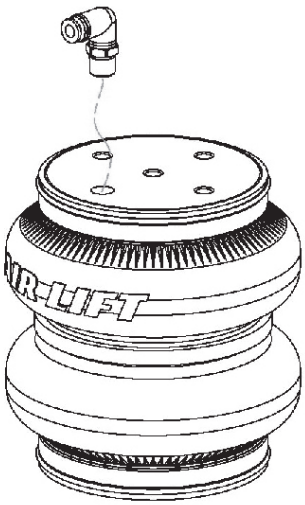

8. Disassemble the upper mount from the damper assembly.


SECTION 2. INSTALL THE KIT COMPONENTS

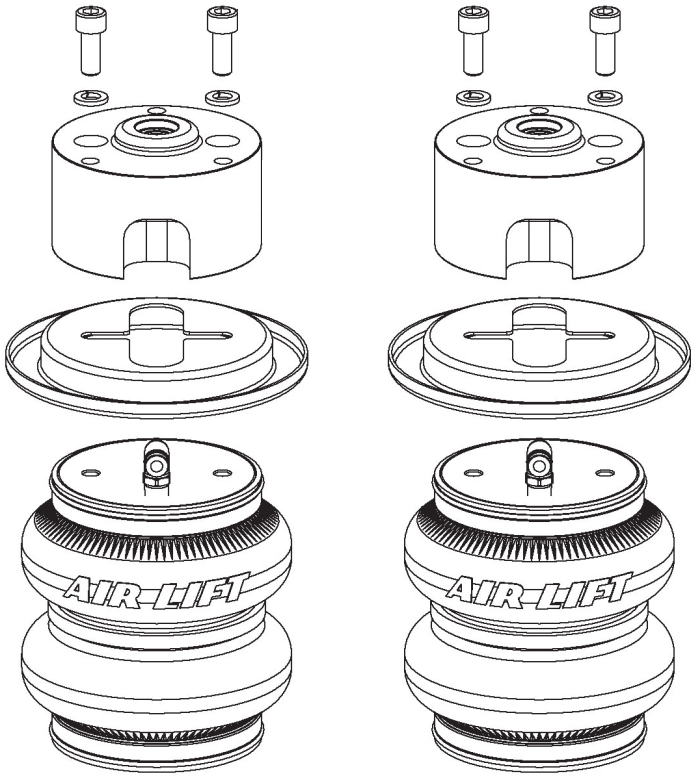
1. With the spacer on the damper rod, assemble to the upper mount. Torque the rod nut to 29Nm (21 lb.-ft.).

2. Attach the upper mount to the chassis. Torque to Stage 1: 15Nm (11 lb.-ft.), then Stage 2: 36Nm (27 lb.-ft.).

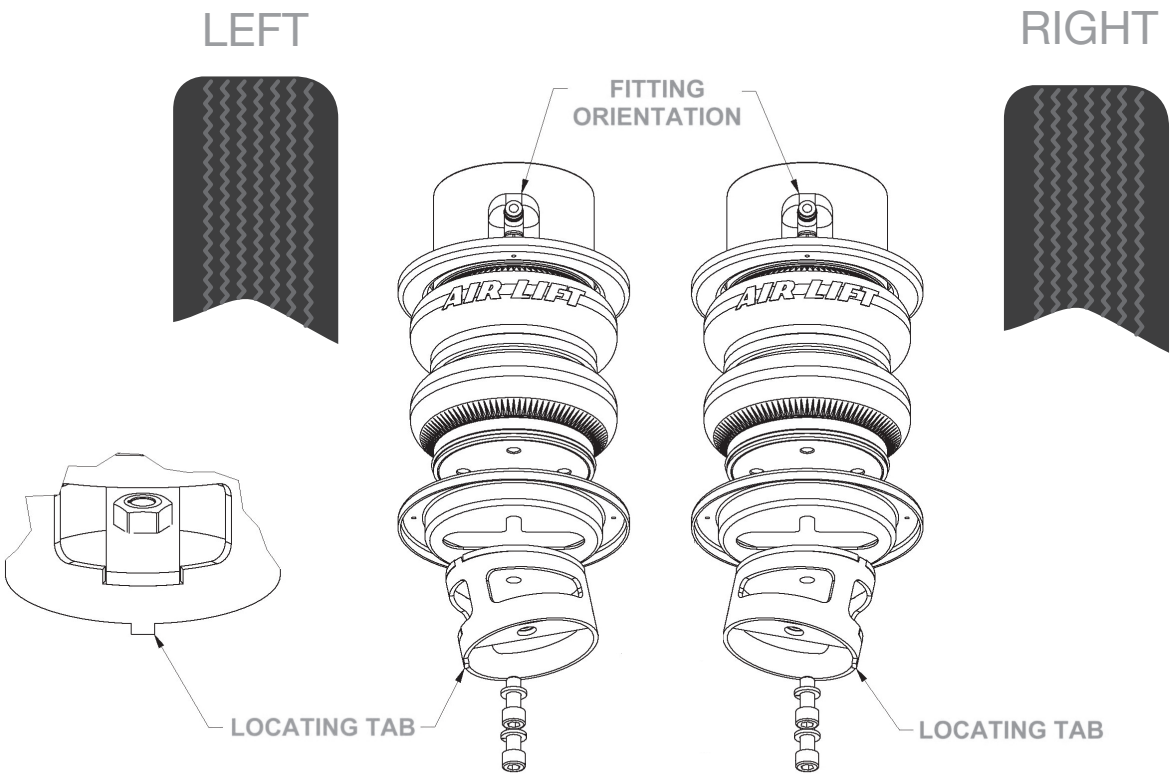
3. Apply thread sealant to the threads of the fitting and tighten into the air spring 1 3/4 turns beyond hand-tight.



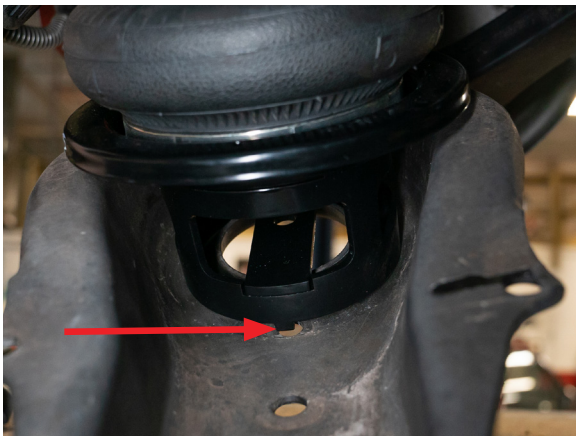
4. Assemble the roll plate and upper spring seat spacer to the air spring with the bolts and washers supplied. Torque bolts to 27Nm (20 lb.-ft.).



5. Assemble the bottom roll plate and orient the rear lower bracket with the locating tab 90 degrees from the air fitting. Assemble one opposite the other to allow the air fitting to face the rear of the vehicle when installed. Torque the bolts to 27Nm (20 lb.-ft.).

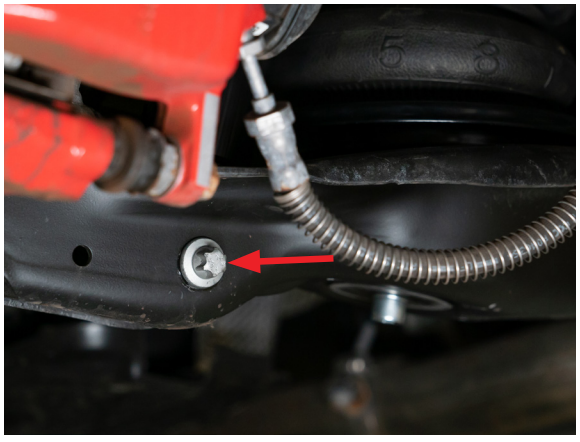


6. Insert the spring assembly and orient the lower bracket locating tab with the hole in the lower spring seat. Reattach the spring control arm to the rear axle carrier. Torque at desired ride height with load to 80Nm + 90 degrees (59 lb.-ft. + 90 degrees).



7. Apply the centering spacer to the spring control arm along with a washer and bolt. Secure the assembly in place by torquing the bolt to 27Nm (20 lb.-ft.).

8. Attach the shock to the spring control arm. Torque at desired ride height with load to 90Nm + 45 degrees (66 lb.-ft. + 45 degrees).



9. Reattach the plastic cover to the spring control arm and fender liner.
10. Reinstall wheels and torque to 150Nm (111 lb.-ft.).

SECTION 3. ROUTE THE AIR LINES

AFTER INSTALLATION, ENSURE ALL ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT VEHICLE SAFETY FEATURES ARE PROPERLY CALIBRATED BY A QUALIFIED TECHNICIAN. CHANGING VEHICLE HEIGHT MAY AFFECT FUNCTIONING OF SAFETY SENSORS AND CAMERAS.

1. Fully compress the suspension using a jack. With the suspension compressed, review the best routing for the air line that is clear of all suspension components and axle.
2. Routing should allow for the suspension to extend and steer without kinking, pulling the line tight or rubbing on other components. Following the brake line routing is often a good place to start. Check clearances to all other components.

Finished Installation

Congratulations!

You are now the proud owner of an industry leading Air Lift Performance air suspension system. Enjoy!

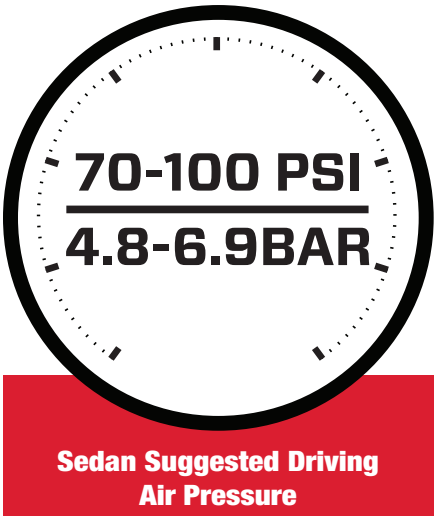
Before Operating

SET THE RIDE HEIGHT

1. Refer to the User Guide supplied with this kit to set up the suspension.

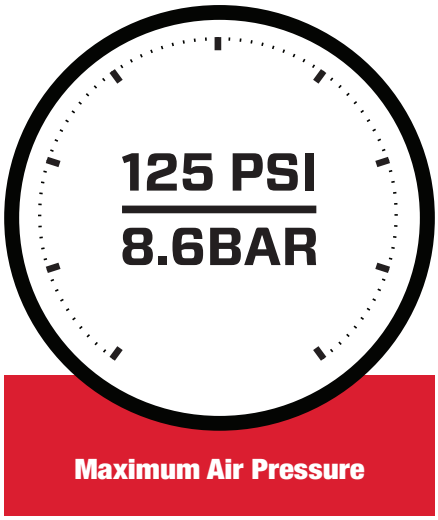
Torque Specifications		
Location	Nm	Lb.-ft.
Air spring fasteners	27	20
Centering spacer bolt	27	20
Damper to spring control arm	90 + 45 degrees	66 + 45 degrees
Spring control arm to rear axle carrier	80 + 90 degrees	59 + 90 degrees
Upper mount to chassis	Stage 1: 15 Stage 2: 36	Stage 1: 11 Stage 2: 27
Wheel bolts	150	111
Damper locking collar	45 degrees beyond hand-tight	
Air fitting	1 3/4 turns beyond hand-tight with thread sealant	

2. Upon successful completion of the installation, follow these pressure requirements for the air springs.



Sedan Suggested Driving Air Pressure

Wagon Suggested Driving Air Pressure



Maximum Air Pressure

FAILURE TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE MINIMUM PRESSURE (OR PRESSURE PROPORTIONAL TO LOAD) MAY RESULT IN EXCESSIVE BOTTOMING OUT AND **WILL VOID THE WARRANTY**.

CHECK FOR BINDING

MAKE SURE THE FRONT WHEELS ARE STRAIGHT WHEN DEFLATING AND REINFLATING AIR SPRINGS.

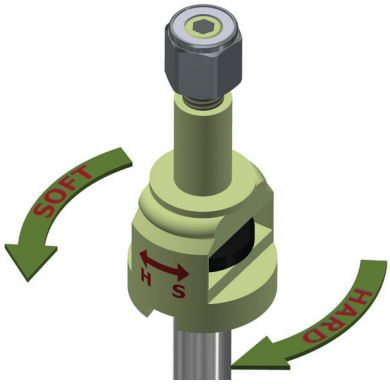
1. Inflate and deflate the system (do not exceed 8.6BAR [125 PSI]) to check for clearance or binding issues. With the air springs deflated, check clearances on everything so as not to pinch brake lines, vent tubes, etc. Clear lines if necessary.
2. Inflate the air springs to 5.2-6.2BAR (75-90 PSI) and check all connections for leaks.

INSTALLATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Clearance** — Inflate the air springs to 5.2-6.2BAR (75-90 PSI) and make sure there is at least 13mm (1/2") clearance from anything that might rub against the air spring. This should be checked with the air spring fully inflated and fully deflated.
- ☐ **Leak** — Inflate the air springs to 5.2-6.2BAR (75-90 PSI) and check all connections for leaks. All leaks must be eliminated before the vehicle is road tested.
- ☐ **Heat** — Be sure there is sufficient clearance from heat sources, at least 152mm (6") from air springs and air lines. If a heat shield was included in the kit, install it. If there is no heat shield, but one is required, call Air Lift customer service at **(800) 248-0892**.
- ☐ **Fastener** — Recheck all bolts for proper torque.
- ☐ **Road** — Inflate the air springs to recommended driving pressures (see previous page). Drive the vehicle 16km (10 miles) and recheck for clearance, loose fasteners and air leaks.
- ☐ **Operating instructions** — If professionally installed, the installer should review the operating instructions with the owner. Be sure to provide the owner with all paperwork that came with the kit.

DAMPING ADJUSTMENT

1. The dampers in this kit have 30 settings, or “clicks,” of adjustable compression and rebound damping characteristics. Damping is changed through the damper rod using the supplied adjuster (example shown here) or a 3mm hex key (not included).
2. Turn the adjuster clockwise (H) and the damping settings are hardened, reducing oscillations and body motion. Turn the adjuster counterclockwise (S) and the damping is softened.
3. Each damper in this kit is preset to “-13 clicks.” This means that the damper is adjusted 13 clicks away from full stiff, which starts at 0. Counting up from full stiff is the preferred method of keeping track of, or setting, damping. This setting was developed on a 2018 Mercedes C63S.



For more information, refer to the User Guide.

Limited Warranty and Return Policy

Air Lift Company provides a 1-year limited warranty to the original purchaser of Air Lift Performance damper kits from the date of original purchase, that the products will be free from defects in workmanship and materials when used on vehicles as specified by Air Lift Company and under normal operating conditions, subject to the requirements and exclusions set forth in the full Limited Warranty and Return Policy that is available online at **www.airliftperformance.com/warranty**.

For additional warranty information contact Air Lift Company customer service.

Thank you for purchasing Air Lift Performance products!

Need Help?

The Air Lift Company customer service department is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET Monday through Friday. Call (800) 248-0892 or (517) 322-2144 for calls from outside the U.S. and Canada.

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2727 Snow Road Lansing, MI 48917 or P.O. Box 80167 Lansing, MI 48908-0167
Toll Free (800) 248-0892 • Local (517) 322-2144 • Fax (517) 322-0240
www.airliftperformance.com

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