SECTION: 2C

FRONT SUSPENSION

CAUTION : Disconnect the negative battery cable before removing or installing any electrical unit or when a tool or equipment could easily come in contact with exposed electrical terminals. Disconnecting this cable will help prevent personal injury and damage to the vehicle. The ignition must also be in LOCK unless otherwise noted.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS 2C- FASTENER TIGHTENING	-2
SPECIFICATIONS 2C-	-2
SPECIAL TOOLS 2C-	-2
SPECIAL TOOLS TABLE 2C-	-2
DIAGNOSIS 2C-	-3
STRUT DAMPENER 2C-	-3
BALL JOINT AND KNUCKLE 2C-	-4
EXCESSIVE FRICTION CHECK 2C-	-4
COMPONENT LOCATOR 2C-	-5
FRONT SUSPENSION 2C-	-5
MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR 2C-	-7
ON-VEHICLE SERVICE 2C-	-7
STABILIZER SHAFT AND INSULATORS 2C-	-7
STABILIZER LINK 2C-	-9

	KNUCKLE ASSEMBLY	2C-11
	HUB AND BEARING	2C-15
	CONTROL ARM	2C-17
	STRUT ASSEMBLY	2C-20
	CROSSMEMBER ASSEMBLY	2C-24
U	INIT REPAIR	2C–26
	BALL JOINT	2C-26
	CONTROL ARM BUSHINGS	2C-26
	FRONT STRUT ASSEMBLY	2C-28
	KNUCKLE	2C-32
	CROSSMEMBER	2C-32
G	ENERAL DESCRIPTION AND SYSTEM	
	OPERATION	2C-35
	FRONT SUSPENSION	
	(FOR ENGINE FAMILY I)	2C–35
	FRONT SUSPENSION	<u> </u>
	(FOR ENGINE FAMILY II)	2C-35

SPECIFICATIONS

GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

Application	Trim Height
Rocker Panel, Front to Ground	195 mm (7.7 in.)
Rocker Panel, Rear to Ground	191 mm (7.5 in.)

FASTENER TIGHTENING SPECIFICATIONS

Application	N•m	Lb–Ft	Lb–In
Ball Joint Pinch Bolt Nuts	60	44	_
Ball Joint-to-Control Arm Nuts	100	74	_
Control Arm-to-Crossmember Nuts/Bolts	110	81	_
Crossmember Link-to-Crossmember Bolt	125	92	_
Crossmember Link-to-Transaxle Bracket Nut	67	49	_
Crossmember Support Plate-to-Body Bolts			_
Drive Axle-to-Hub Caulking Nut (First Torque)	150	111	_
Drive Axle-to-Hub Caulking Nut (Last Torque)	50+60°	37+60°	_
Front Crossmember-to-Body Bolts	47	35	_
Piston Rod Nuts	75	55	_
Rear Crossmember-to-Body Bolts	196	145	_
Stabilizer Link-to-Strut Assembly Nut	47	35	_
Stabilizer Shaft-to-Crossmember Clamp Bolts	22	18	—
Stabilizer Shaft-to-Stabilizer Link Nut	47	35	_
Steering Knuckle-to-Strut Assembly Nuts/Bolts	100	74	-
Strut Assembly-to-Body Nuts	30	22	—

SPECIAL TOOLS

500-20 J-36661-2 Hex Nut Forcing Screw A106C056 A106C053

SPECIAL TOOLS TABLE



DIAGNOSIS

STRUT DAMPENER

A strut dampener is basically a shock absorber. However, strut dampeners are easier to extend and retract by hand than are shock absorbers.

Struts Seem Weak

Checks	Action
Check the tire pressures.	Adjust the tire pressures to the specifications on the tire placard.
Check the load conditions under which the vehicle is nor- mally driven.	Consult with the owner to confirm the owner's understand- ing of normal load conditions.
Check the compression and rebound effectiveness of the strut dampener.	Quickly push down and then lift up on the corner of the bumper nearest the strut dampener being tested. Compare the compression and rebound with those of a similar vehicle that has an acceptable ride quality. Replace the strut dampener, if needed.

Struts Are Noisy

2C – 4 FRONT SUSPENSION

Checks	Action
Check the mountings for looseness or damage.	Tighten the strut dampener mounting nuts. Replace the strut dampener, if needed.
Check the compression and rebound effectiveness of the strut dampener.	Quickly push down and then lift up on the corner of the bumper nearest the strut dampener being tested. Compare the compression and rebound with those of a similar vehicle that has an acceptable ride quality. Replace the strut dampener, if needed.

Leaks

Checks	Action
Check for a slight trace of fluid.	The strut dampener is OK.
Check the seal cover on the fully extended strut.	Replace the strut dampener.
Check for an excessive amount of fluid on the strut dampener.	Replace the strut dampener.

BALL JOINT AND KNUCKLE

Ball Joint Inspection

- 1. Raise the front of the vehicle to allow the front suspension to hang free.
- 2. Grasp the tire at the top and the bottom.
- 3. Move the top of the tire in an in–and–out motion.
- 4. Look for any horizontal movement of the knuckle relative to the control arm.
- 5. Ball joints must be replaced under the following conditions:
 - The joint is loose.
 - The ball seal is cut.
 - The ball stud is disconnected from the knuckle.
 - The ball stud is loose at the knuckle.
 - The ball stud can be twisted in its socket with finger pressure.

Ball Stud Inspection

Make sure to check the tightness of the ball stud in the knuckle boss during each inspection of the ball joint. One way to inspect the ball stud for wear is to shake the wheel and feel for movement of the stud end at the knuckle boss. Another way to inspect the ball stud for wear is to check the fastener torque at the pinch nut. A loose nut can indicate a stressed stud or a hole in the knuckle boss.

Worn or damaged ball joints and knuckles must be replaced.

EXCESSIVE FRICTION CHECK

Use the following procedure to check for excessive friction in the front suspension:

- 1. Enlist the help of another technician to lift up on the front bumper, raising the vehicle as high as possible.
- 2. Slowly release the bumper, allowing the vehicle to assume its normal trim height. See "General Specifications" in this section.
- 3. Measure the distance from the street level to the center of the bumper.
- 4. Push down on the bumper, release slowly, and allow the vehicle to assume its normal trim height.
- 5. Measure the distance from the street level to the center of the bumper.
- 6. The difference between the two measurements should be less than 12.7 mm (0.5 inch). If the difference exceeds this limit, inspect the control arms, the struts, and the ball joints fordamage or wear.

COMPONENT LOCATOR

FRONT SUSPENSION



2C - 6 FRONT SUSPENSION

- 1. Strut Mount Cap
- 2. Piston Rod Nut
- 3. Strut Assembly-to-Body Nut
- 4. Strut Mount
- 5. Strut Mount Bearing
- 6. Upper Spring Seat
- 7. Front Spring Locator
- 8. Upper Spring Ring Insulator
- 9. Hollow Bumper
- 10. Front Spring
- 11. Lower Spring Ring Insulator
- 12. Strut Dampener
- 13. Steering Knuckle-to-Strut Assembly Bolt
- 14. Steering Knuckle
- 15. Brake Shield
- 16. Inner Snap Ring
- 17. Front Hub Bearing
- 18. Outer Snap Ring

- 19. Front Hub
- 20. Control Arm
- 21. Control Arm Front Mounting Bolt
- 22. Control Arm Front Damping Bushing
- 23. Rear Crossmember-to-Body Bolt
- 24. Split Sleeve
- 25. Control Arm Rear Damping Bushing
- 26. Front Suspension Crossmember
- 27. Stabilizer Shaft Insulator
- 28. Stabilizer Shaft
- 29. Stabilizer Shaft Insulator Clamp
- 30. Stabilizer Shaft-to-Crossmember Clamp Bolt
- 31. Stabilizer Shaft-to-Stabilizer Link Nut
- 32. Stabilizer Link
- 33. Stabilizer Link-to-Strut Assembly Nut
- 34. Control Arm-to-Crossmember Nut
- 35. Steering Knuckle-to-Strut Assembly Nut







MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

ON-VEHICLE SERVICE

STABILIZER SHAFT AND INSULATORS

Removal Procedure

- 1. Raise and suitably support the vehicle, allowing the control arms to hang free.
- 2. Remove the front wheels. Refer to Section 2E, Tires and Wheels.
- 3. Remove the stabilizer shaft-to-crossmember clamp bolt.
- 4. Remove the stabilizer shaft-to-stabilizer link nut.

5. Remove the stabilizer shaft, the stabilizer shaft insulator clamp, and the insulators from the vehicle.







Installation Procedure

- 1. Install the stabilizer shaft.
- 2. Install the stabilizer shaft insulator clamps, the stabilizer shaft clamp bolt, and the insulators. Do not tighten the bolt.

3. Install the stabilizer link onto the stabilizer shaft and connect them with the stabilizer shaft–to–stabilizer link nut.

Tighten

Tighten the stabilizer shaft-to-stabilizer link nut to 47 N•m (35 lb-ft).

Tighten

Tighten the stabilizer shaft-to-crossmember clamp bolt to 25 N•m (18 lb-ft).

4. Install the front wheels. Refer to Section 2E, Tires and Wheels.







STABILIZER LINK

Removal Procedure

1. Remove the stabilizer shaft-to-stabilizer link nut.

2. Remove the stabilizer link-to-strut assembly nut.

3. Remove the stabilizer link.







Installation Procedure

1. Install the stabilizer link.

2. Install the stabilizer link-to-strut assembly nut.

Tighten

Tighten the stabilizer link–to–strut assembly nut to 47 N•m (35 lb-ft).

3. Install the stabilizer shaft-to-stabilizer link nut. **Tighten**

Tighten the stabilizer shaft-to-stabilizer link nut to 47 N•m (35 lb-ft).







KNUCKLE ASSEMBLY

Tools Required

KM-507-B Ball Joint Remover

Removal Procedure

- 1. Raise and suitably support the vehicle.
- 2. Remove the wheel. Refer to Section 2E, Tires and Wheels.
- 3. Remove the caulking nut from the axle shaft.

- 4. Remove the brake caliper from the rotor. Support the caliper so it does not hang from the hydraulic brake hose. Refer to *Section 4D, Front Disc Brakes.*
- 5. Remove the brake line from the knuckle.
- 6. Remove the outer tie rod from the knuckle assembly. Refer to Section 6C, Power Steering Gear.
- 7. On vehicles equipped with the antilock braking system (ABS), disconnect the ABS speed sensor electrical connection from the knuckle.

8. Remove the ball joint pinch bolt and the nut.





9. Separate the knuckle from the ball joint using the ball joint remover KM–507–B.

10. Remove the nuts from the bolts that connect the knuckle assembly to the strut assembly.

Notice : Do not over extend the axle joints. When either end of the shaft is disconnected, overextension of the joint can result in separation of internal components and possible joint failure. Use drive axle joint seal protectors whenever performing service on or near the drive axles. Failure to do so can cause internal joint or seal damage and result in possible joint failure.

11. Separate the drive axle shaft from the wheel hub.







- 12. Support the drive axle.
- 13. Remove the bolts that connect the knuckle assembly to the strut assembly.
- 14. Remove the knuckle assembly from the vehicle.

Installation Procedure

1. Install the knuckle assembly onto the vehicle.

2. Install the steering knuckle-to-strut assembly nuts. **Tighten**

Tighten the steering knuckle–to–strut assembly nuts to 100 N•m (74 lb–ft).

2C - 14 FRONT SUSPENSION







3. Connect the drive axle to the front wheel hub.

- Connect the ball joint to the knuckle assembly.
 Install the ball joint pinch bolt and the nut.
- 5. Install the ball joint pinch bolt and the nut. **Tighten**

Tighten the ball joint pinch bolt nut to 60 N•m (44 lb– ft).

6. Connect the ABS speed sensor electrical connection. Refer to







- 7. Connect the outer tie rod to the knuckle assembly. Refer to Section 6C, Power Steering Gear.
- 8. Install the brake caliper onto the rotor. Refer to Section 4D, Front Disc Brakes.
- 9. Install the caulking nut onto the axle shaft. **Tighten**

Tighten the drive axle-to-hub caulking nut to 150 N•m (111 lb-ft). Loosen the nut, then retighten it to $275 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}$ (126 lb-ft).

- 10. Install the wheel. Refer to Section 2E, Tires and Wheels.
- 11. Lower the vehicle.

HUB AND BEARING

Tools Required

500–20 Hex Nut J–36661–2 Forcing Screw J–37105–B–1 Support Bridge J–37105–B–2 Bearing Adapter J–37105–B–3 Hub Adapter

Removal Procedure

- 1. Remove the drive axle from the front wheel hub. Refer to "Knuckle Assembly" in this section.
- 2. Remove the inner snap ring.
- 3. Remove the wheel hub with the support bridge J–37105–B–1, the hub adapter J–377105–B–3, the hex nut 500–20, and the forcing screw J–36661–2.

2C - 16 FRONT SUSPENSION







- 4. Remove the brake shield. Refer to Section 4D, Front Disc Brakes.
- 5. Remove the outer snap ring.

- Remove the wheel bearing with the support bridge J-37105-B-1, the bearing adapter J-37105-B-2, the hex nut 500-20, and the forcing screw J-36661-2.
- 7. Clean the bore of the knuckle.

Installation Procedure

 Install the outer snap ring and push the wheel bearing into place with the support bridge J-37105-B-1, the bearing adapter J-37105-B-2, the hex nut 500-20, and the forcing screw J-36661-2.







- 2. Install the brake shield. Refer to Section 4D, Front Disc Brakes.
- 3. Install the inner snap ring.
- Push the wheel hub into place with the hub adapter J-37105-B-3, the bearing adapter J-37105-B-2, the hex nut 500-20, and the forcing screw J-36661-2.
- 5. Install the drive axle into the front wheel hub. Refer to "Knuckle Assembly" in this section.

CONTROL ARM

Tools Required

KM-507-B Ball Joint Remover

Removal Procedure

- 1. Raise and suitably support the vehicle. Let the control arms hang free.
- 2. Remove the wheel. Refer to Section 2E, Tires and Wheels.
- 3. Remove the pinch bolt and the nut from the ball joint.
- 4. Disconnect the ball joint from the knuckle assembly using the ball joint remover KM–507–B.







5. Remove the control arm-to-crossmember nut and the bolt.

- 6. Remove the rear crossmember-to-body bolt.
- 7. Remove the control arm from the vehicle.

Installation Procedure

- 1. Install the control arm.
- 2. Install the rear crossmember-to-body bolt. Do not tighten the bolt.



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3. Install the control arm–to–crossmember bolt and the nut.

Tighten

Tighten the control arm–to–crossmember nut to 110 N•m (81 lb–ft).

- 4. Connect the ball joint to the steering knuckle.
- 5. Install the ball joint pinch bolt and the nut. **Tighten**

Tighten the ball joint pinch bolt nut to 60 N•m (44 lbft).

Tighten

Tighten the rear crossmember–to–body bolt to 196 N•m (145 lb–ft).

- 6. Install the wheel. Refer to Section 2E, Tires and Wheels..
- 7. Lower the vehicle.







STRUT ASSEMBLY

Removal Procedure

1. Remove the nuts that secure the strut assembly to the body of the vehicle.

- 2.
- Raise and suitably support the vehicle. Remove the wheel. Refer to Section 2E, Tires and 3. Wheels.
- 4. On vehicles equipped with an antilock braking system (ABS), disconnect the ABS sensor line from the strut assembly.

Remove the brake line from the securing bracket 5. on the strut assembly.







6. Disconnect the stabilizer shaft link by removing the stabilizer link–to–strut assembly nut.

7. Disconnect the steering knuckle by removing the steering knuckle–to–strut assembly nuts and the bolts.

8. Remove the strut assembly.







Installation Procedure

1. Install the strut assembly.

2. Connect the strut assembly to the steering knuckle by installing the steering knuckle-to-strut assembly nuts and the bolts.

Tighten

Tighten the steering knuckle–to–strut assembly nuts and the bolts to $100 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}$ (74 lb–ft).

3. Connect the stabilizer shaft link to the strut assembly by attaching the stabilizer link-to-strut assembly nut.

Tighten

Tighten the stabilizer link–to–strut assembly nut to 47 N•m (35 lb-ft).







4. On vehicles equipped with the ABS, connect the ABS sensor line to the strut assembly.

5. On vehicles equipped with the ABS, connect the ABS sensor line to the strut assembly.

- 6. Install the wheel. Refer to Section 2E, Tires and Wheels.
- 7. Lower the vehicle.
- 8. Install the nuts securing the strut assembly to the body of the vehicle.

Tighten

Tighten the strut assembly–to–body nuts to 30 N•m (22 lb–ft).







CROSSMEMBER ASSEMBLY

Removal Procedure

- 1. Raise and suitably support the vehicle.
- 2. Remove the wheels. Refer to Section 2E, Tires and Wheels.
- 3. Remove the exhaust pipe forward of the catalytic converter. Refer to Section 1G, Engine Exhaust.
- 4. Disconnect the tie rod from the knuckle assembly. Refer to Section 6C, Power Steering Gear.
- 5. Disconnect the ball joint from the knuckle assembly. Refer to "Knuckle Assembly" in this section.
- 6. Disconnect the stabilizer link from the strut assembly. Refer to "Stabilizer Link" in this section.
- 7. Remove the crossmember link-to-transaxle bracket nut.
- 8. Remove the rear crossmember-to-body bolts.
- 9. Remove the crossmember support plate-to-body bolts.
- 10. Remove the crossmember support plates.

CAUTION : Two technicians must hold the front crossmember assembly during removal of the front attachment bolts. Failure to support the front crossmember properly can result in personal injury.

- 11. Remove the front crossmember-to-body bolts.
- 12. Remove the crossmember assembly from the vehicle.







Installation Procedure

- 1. Install the crossmember assembly.
- 2. Install the crossmember support plates.
- 3. Install the rear crossmember-to-body bolts.

Tighten

Tighten the rear crossmember–to–body bolts to 196 N•m (145 lb–ft).

Tighten

Tighten the crossmember support plate-to-body bolts to 47 N•m (35 lb-ft).

4. Install the front crossmember–to–body bolts. **Tighten**

Tighten the front crossmember-to-body bolts to 47 N•m (35 lb-ft).

5. Install the crossmember link-to-transaxle bracket nut.

Tighten

Tighten the crossmember link-to-transaxle bracket nut to 67 N•m (49 lb-ft).

- 6. Connect the stabilizer link to the strut assembly. Refer to "Stabilizer Link" in this section.
- 7. Connect the ball joint to the knuckle assembly. Refer to "Knuckle Assembly" in this section.
- 8. Connect the tie rod from the knuckle assembly. Refer to Section 6C, Power Steering Gear.
- 9. Install the exhaust pipe into the vehicle. Refer to Section 1G, Engine Exhaust.
- 10. Install the wheels. Refer to Section 2E, Tires and Wheels.
- 11. Lower the vehicle.







UNIT REPAIR

BALL JOINT

Disassembly Procedure

- 1. Remove the control arm. Refer to "Control Arm" in this section.
- Drill off the heads of the two rivets with a 12 mm 0.47 inch) drill bit.
- 3. Punch out the rivets with a drift.

Assembly Procedure

1. Connect the ball joint to the control arm by inserting two ball joint bolts from below the control arm.

Tighten

Tighten the ball joint-to-control arm nuts to 100 N•m (74 lb-ft).

2. Install the control arm. Refer to ."Control Arm" in this section.

CONTROL ARM BUSHINGS

Tools Required

KM-158 Remover/Installer

Disassembly Procedure

- 1. Remove the control arm. Refer to"Control Arm" in this section.
- 2. Remove the split sleeves from the rear control arm bushing.



3. Press off the control arm rear damping bushing using a press and the remover/installer KM–158.

4. Press out the control arm front damping bushing using a press and the remover/installer KM–158.

Assembly Procedure

1. Press the control arm rear damping bushing into the control arm using a press and the remover/in-staller KM–158.







 Press the control arm front damping bushing into the control arm using a press and the remover/installer KM–158.

- 3. Install the split sleeves into the rear control arm bushing.
- 4. Install the control arm. Refer to "Control Arm" in this section.

FRONT STRUT ASSEMBLY

Tools Required

KM-329-A Spring Compressor

Disassembly Procedure

- 1. Remove the strut assembly. Refer to "Strut Assembly" in this section.
- 2. Fasten the strut assembly to the spring compressor KM–329–A. Make sure the hooks are seated on the strut spring properly.



- 3. Compress the front spring with the spring compressor KM–329–A.
- 4. Remove the dust cover from the bearing assembly.

5. Use an open end wrench to hold the threaded piston rod while removing the piston rod nut and the washer with a commercially available double ring spanner, sharply offset.

Important : Record the position of the front spring locator relative to the strut assembly–to–knuckle bracket. Place the front spring locator back in the same position during assembly.

6. Remove the upper strut mount, the mount bearing, the upper spring seat, the front spring locator, the upper ring insulator, and the hollow bumper.



- 7. Release the spring.
- 8. Remove the spring and the lower ring insulator.

Assembly Procedure

- 1. Install the lower ring insulator and the spring.
- 2. Compress the spring using the spring compressor KM–329–A.

3. Install the hollow bumper, the upper ring insulator, the front spring locator, the upper spring seat, the upper strut mount, and the mount bearing. Be sure the upper spring seat is clipped to the front spring locator. B106C033



Install the piston rod nut.
Tighten
Tighten the piston rod nut to 75 N•m (55 lb-ft).

- 5. Remove the dust cover from the bearing assembly.
- 6. Release the spring compressor KM–329–A.
- 7. Remove the strut assembly from the spring compressor KM–329–A.
- 8. Install the strut assembly onto the vehicle. Refer to "Strut Assembly" in this section.





KNUCKLE

Disassembly Procedure

- 1. Remove the knuckle assembly from the vehicle. Refer to"Knuckle Assembly" in this section.
- 2. Remove the rotor. Refer to Section 4D, Front Disc Brakes.
- 3. Remove the hub and bearing assembly. Refer to "Hub and Bearing" in this section.
- 4. Remove the brake splash shield. Refer to Section 4D, Front Disc Brakes.

Assembly Procedure

- 1. Install the brake splash shield. Refer to Section 4D, Front Disc Brakes.
- 2. Install the hub and bearing assembly. Refer to "Hub and Bearing" in this section.
- 3. Install the rotor. Refer to Section 4D, Front Disc Brakes.
- 4. Install the knuckle assembly onto the vehicle. Refer to "Knuckle Assembly" in this section.

CROSSMEMBER

Disassembly Procedure

- 1. Remove the crossmember assembly from the vehicle. Refer to "Crossmember Assembly" in this section.
- 2. Remove the stabilizer clamp bolts. Remove the stabilizer clamps, the stabilizer bar, and the insulators.

3. Remove the control arm front nuts and the bolts.







- 4. Remove the split sleeves from the control arm rear connections.
- 5. Remove the control arms.

- 6. Remove the crossmember link-to-crossmember bolt.
- 7. Remove the crossmember link.

Assembly Procedure

- 1. Install the crossmember link.
- 2. Install the crossmember link-to-crossmember bolt. **Tighten**

Tighten the crossmember link-to-crossmember bolt to 125 N•m (92 lb-ft).





- 3. Install the control arms.
- 4. Install the split sleeves into the control arm rear connections.
- 5. Install the control arm–to–crossmember nuts and the bolts.

Tighten

Tighten the control arm-to-crossmember nuts and the bolts to $110 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}$ (81 lb-ft).

- 6. Install the stabilizer clamps, the stabilizer bar, and the insulators.
- 7. Install the stabilizer shaft-to-crossmember clamp bolts.

Tighten

Tighten the stabilizer shaft-to-crossmember clamp bolts to 22 N•m (16 lb-ft).

8. Install the crossmember assembly from the vehicle. Refer to "Crossmember Assembly" in this section.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND SYSTEM OPERATION

FRONT SUSPENSION (FOR ENGINE FAMILY I)

The front suspension for this vehicle is a combination of a strut assembly and a knuckle assembly. The strut assembly combines a strut dampener and spring mounted to the body of the vehicle. The upper end of the strut is isolated by a rubber mount and contains a bearing to allow the strut to turn. The knuckle is attached to the strut assembly and pivots on a ball joint bolted to the control arm. The control arms pivot from the body using rubber bushings.

The ball joint is fastened to the steering knuckle with a pinch bolt and nut, and to the lower control arm with rivets. The stabilizer bar interconnects both strut assemblies of the vehicle through the stabilizer link and is attached to the front suspension crossmember. Jounce and reboundmovements affecting one wheel are partially transmitted to the opposite wheel of the vehicle to stabilize body roll.

When servicing the control arm-to-body attachment and the stabilizer shaft-to-body insulators, make sure the attaching bolts are loose until the control arms are moved to the trim height, which is curb height. Trim height is the normal position to which the control arms move when the vehicle is sitting on the ground. Refer to "General Specifications" in this section.

FRONT SUSPENSION (FOR ENGINE FAMILY II)

The front suspension for this vehicle is a combination of a strut assembly and a knuckle assembly. The strut assembly combines a strut dampener and spring mounted to the body of the vehicle. The upper end of the strut is isolated by a rubber mount and contains a bearing to allow the strut to turn. The knuckle is attached to the strut assembly and pivots on a ball joint bolted to the control arm. The control arms pivot from the body using rubber bushings.

The ball joint is fastened to the steering knuckle with a pinch bolt and nut, and to the lower control arm with rivets. The stabilizer bar interconnects both strut assemblies of the vehicle through the stabilizer link and is attached to the front suspension crossmember. Jounce and reboundmovements affecting one wheel are partially transmitted to the opposite wheel of the vehicle to stabilize body roll.

When servicing the control arm-to-body attachment and the stabilizer shaft-to-body insulators, make sure the attaching bolts are loose until the control arms are moved to the trim height, which is curb height. Trim height is the normal position to which the control arms move when the vehicle is sitting on the ground. Refer to "General Specifications" in this section.

The springs in the front suspension of engine family II are stronger and the strut dampeners heavier than are the springs and strut dampeners found in the front suspension of engine family I.