

Hood Strut Replacement (using Napa struts)

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After installing these struts I found they were a little weak. I talked to the counter person at NAPA, and they said you can order them in varying degrees of pressure. Part # **819-5581** works well because they are rated at 120 lbs force. The price from NAPA online is \$21.99 each and can be ordered online at <http://www.napa.com>. Use the NAPA part number with the search feature to find them.

Whatever strength you purchase, they need to have the following specs:

Length = 11 inches
Stroke = 6 inches
Force = at least 100lbs
End Type = A

The strut to use is Strong Arm brand, Napa part # **819-5581**. They have two different kinds in the store. One has a threaded stud end (figure 0 below), and the other type has a non-threaded end with a cir-clip. The one shown below is the threaded style, but the cir-clip style would work just as well.



Parts/Supplies needed:

- 2 new struts, with threaded stud ends. (See figure 0).
- 2 - 10 mm nuts that will be used to attach the old bracket to the new strut.

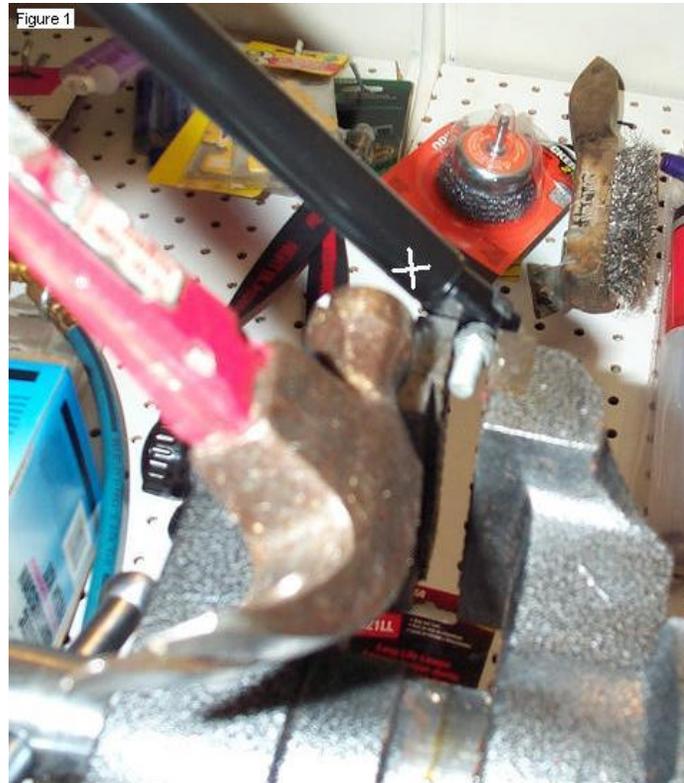
Tools used:

- 12mm open end wrench
- 10 mm socket and ratchet
- Needle nose pliers, Vice grip pliers
- A bench top vice
- A hammer
- A Drill
- A 7/32" metal drill bit
- A hole punch.

Directions:

1. Remove the old strut from the car using a 12mm open end wrench for the upper strut bolt and a 10mm socket for the two lower strut bolts that attach the strut bracket.

2. Remove the strut from the upper bolt by using a vice to hold the bolt, while hitting the old cartridge with a hammer (fig 1). This may take a couple good whacks to get it off.!



3. Saw / Cut the bracket from the old strut shaft (figure 2.), with a hack saw or a Dremel with a cut off wheel. Be careful not to damage the bracket.



4. Use a whole punch to mark the center of the bracket flange. Use a $7/32$ " metal drill bit to drill a hole for the new strut stud to fit through (Figure 3).



5. Use a pair of vice grips to hold the new strut shaft at the very end, as not to damage the shaft where it matters (Figure 4). Use a 10mm nut to attach the new strut to the old bracket.



6. Install the upper bolt to the strut by tapping it, and then install the lower strut bracket. Repeat all of the steps for the other bracket which should complete the project.