

Impreza 2.5RS

RS FTW!

Wheel Bearing How-To

STANDARD DISCLAIMER: Any work you do on your car is your responsibility. The information provided on these pages is provided as-is, accuracy is not guaranteed. The author is in no way a certified professional or even that experienced in the matter (read: complete newb), but is simply sharing personal experience. Author assumes no responsibility for the damage done to your car, your wallet, your body, your spirit, or anything else for that matter.

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socket (~36mm), a brake spring tool, and a sledge hammer.

Update: Brake caliper grease. 2-3 cans of brake cleaner - You can never have too much brake cleaner. Anti-Seize, put it on all the bolts, especially the lateral link bolt.

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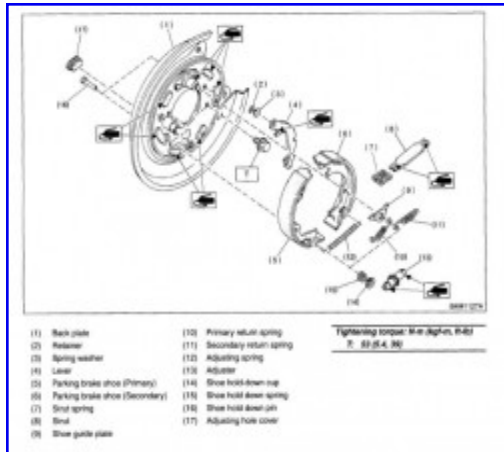
How do I put the e-brake back together?

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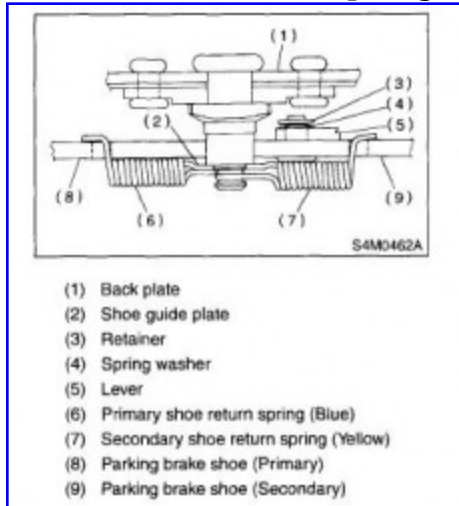
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The devil:



Update: Anti-Seize it when putting everything back together!

My lateral link bushings are damaged, how do I get them out and put new ones back in?

I don't know if this is the standard way of doing it, but here is how I did it and it worked well. Take a large (36mm or so) socket, a long bolt, a nut, and a couple washers. Put the socket on one side of the bushing housing, with the socket opening facing the bushing, then put the long bolt through the bushing and then through the socket with washers on both sides, and finally put the nut on the end of the bolt. Now when you tighten the nut, the bushing will get pulled into the socket. Reinstallation is done using the same technique.

Here is what my bushing removal 'tool' looks like:



How do I get the hub out?

The easiest way to get the hub out is using a slide hammer, pictured below. You can rent one at Autozone. In case yours comes without the handy lug adapter, like mine did, don't waste your time with the jaw puller (worthless), simply feed the slide hammer through the hub, and use a nut and a washer to smack it out of there. It comes out relatively easy.

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What your hub will probably look like:



And what it should look like after the inner bearing race and seal are removed:



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Keep prying. MAKE SURE YOU REMEMBER (take pictures) THE PROPER ORIENTATION OF THE SEALS!

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5/8" diameter threaded rod about 2 feet long.

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16 washers with the inside diameter close to that of the rod, and the outside diameter the size of the inner bearing race

Some very strong wood 😊

Make the tool using the pictures below as a guide. The inner section of PVC is 4 inches long, the outer is 6 inches. You will need to cut about an inch out of the inner pipe to get it to fit into the outer.

Update: Cut about an inch and a half out.

The toolkit:



Inside of the pipe:



The big block of wood and tool used to make a hole in it (also need a chisel):



This is what will happen if you try to use some regular pine 2x4:



The ABS sensor is in the way!

You have two options here, either remove the backplate along with the ABS sensor, or if you're like me and your backplate is rust-welded to the bearing housing, you can simply cut/drill out a hole so the pipe goes around the sensor.

Like so:



How do I use the toolkit to remove the bearing?

Put the PVC pipes over the bearing housing, stick the threaded rod through the bearing and put some washers on the other end along with the coupling nut. Use something VERY sturdy like a big block of wood against the other end of the pipe, then put some washers on, and the other coupling nut, then crank it to pull the bearing out of the housing.

A couple things to note here. First, make sure that your washers in the back are resting against the bearing race and not the bearing housing. Second, put some grease on the washers and threaded rod under them, that seems to help keep them from messing up the threads.

Tools set up for removal:





Should I repack the new bearing with grease before I put it in?

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This is a controversial issue. Some people say regrease, others and Subaru say don't (there is even a bold print warning about this in the wheel bearing replacement document). My subjective opinion is that it doesn't hurt to regrease the bearing, but if you're not sure, maybe you shouldn't. I will not make any recommendations on this here, flip a coin or something.

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How do I put the new bearing in?

Using the tool we made. Except now put something to hold against in the back of the bearing housing and push it in with the washers and the coupling nut from the front. Due to limited space I used a small block of aluminum instead of wood for this. Push the bearing in until it gets past the cavity where the snap ring goes, it should get really tight right after it does.

You can see Bills setup in this picture:



Here is my aluminum block:



How do I put the seals back in?

Slowly and carefully with a rubber mallet. Don't use a screwdriver or any sharp metal object as you will damage the seals. Yes, even in the back, I know it's a PITA, but it can be done.

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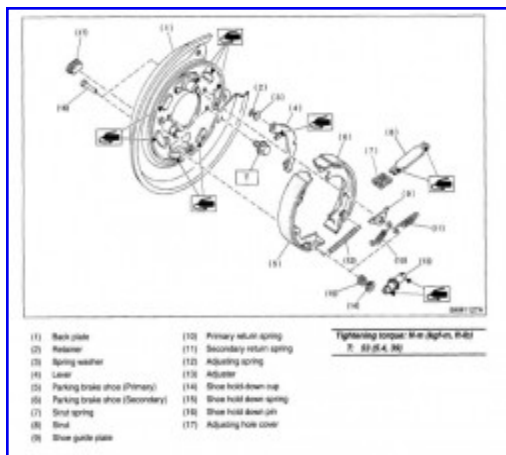
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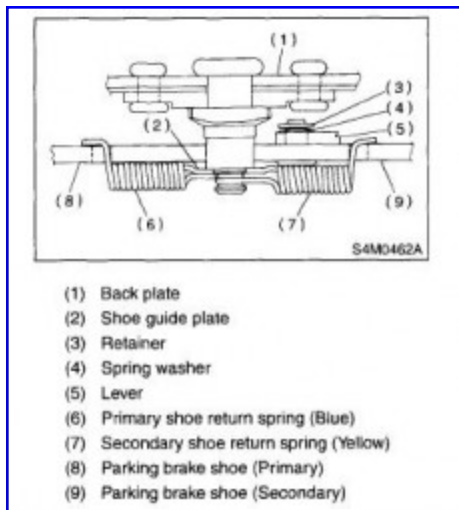
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• Pages

- [About](#)
- [Autocross](#)
 - [Car Setup Tips](#)
 - [Event Calendar](#)
 - [Numbers](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Modification FAQ/Tips](#)
- [Rallycross](#)
- [Repair Manuals](#)
- [Wheel Bearing How-To](#)

• Archives

- [December 2007](#)
- [September 2007](#)
- [May 2007](#)
- [April 2007](#)
- [March 2007](#)
- [February 2007](#)
- [January 2007](#)
- [December 2006](#)
- [November 2006](#)
- [October 2006](#)
- [September 2006](#)
- [July 2006](#)
- [June 2006](#)
- [May 2006](#)
- [April 2006](#)
- [March 2006](#)
- [February 2006](#)

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- [Fixes](#) (7)
- [Mods](#) (5)
- [Pictures](#) (16)
- [Racing](#) (24)
- [Uncategorized](#) (3)
- [Updates](#) (24)

• Communities

- [NASIOC](#)
- [RS25.com](#)
- [Corolla-Racing](#)
- [XceedSpeed](#)

• My Other Sites

- [ACM-OU](#)
- [AngryCUBE](#)
- [AWDFTW.net](#)
- [PMGZ.net](#)

• Parts

- [1st Subaru Parts](#)

• Meta

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- [WordPress](#)

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