



(photo 6). Once it's off the arm, the shock rod will extend itself out. Let the whole unit drop out towards the rear of the car (photo 7).

D: Put the old shock on the bench and yank the top-mounting bracket and rubber boot. (The boot is critical at keeping grit out of the new unit, so don't forget it.) Loosen the single locknut at the top of the OE shock, then pull off the bracket, the bushing, and the boot. The new unit should come with its own bushing (photo 8). Grab this and move it out of the way; slip the boot over the top; and drop the mounting bracket in place. Replace the bushing, then re-tighten the nut and locknut. Bring the new shock back on the car (photo 9).

E: Unlike the standard gas-charged shocks, the oil-filled adjustable QAs stay compressed and don't want to stretch to their full limit by themselves. This makes them relatively simple to pop in. Now, if you're just dumping the OE shock for another gas shock, the trick there is to compress the new unit while it's still off the car and then hold the rod in place with a cable tie. The easiest way to rig that up is to put one end of the shock on a piece of cardboard or a rag on the shop floor, compress the shock with your weight, and then wrap the tie between the lower forks and the top mounting bracket (photo 10). That way the shock will remain compressed while you monkey it back into the proper location.

F: With an oil-filled aftermarket damper, back off the adjuster (turn the knob counter-clockwise on QAs) and compress the shock more than you need. Slip it back into the general vicinity on the car, line up the lower fork (photo 11), and replace the large mounting bolt and nut. Next, extend the top to meet the bracket on the frame and reinstall the 13mm bolts (photo 12).

G: MSI likes to start with the adjusters three clicks away from full soft; whichever units you're using, set the adjusters in accordance with the instructions or your own experience. The important thing is to make sure you know where each shock is starting from.