



right. The limiting factor in your ability to swing this piece out is the still-connected brake line, but with a little fussing and coaxing there's just enough room to get it done. Let the original shock expand to its full extension point, then pull the top out of its hole in the frame (photo 20). That should alleviate any pressure on the bottom bolts, which can now be lifted right out. The shock can be removed from the car now by coaxing it toward the front and away from the chassis.

**M:** Loosen a couple of the upper-control-arm bolts (photo 21) so that you're not going to be tied up at the front of the car just keeping everything all together. Once you have the control arms pegged, go to the bench

and swap the original front dust boot onto the new shock (photo 22).

**N:** Make sure the bushing is in place on top of the boot and that the swiveling lower-shock-bolt mounts are at the correct angle (photo 23), then feed the new shock into place. MSI typically reuses the stock lower bolts, as these are longer than the replacements that come with the (technically C5-spec) QAs. Once the shock is in place, drop in the bolts and re-tighten the bottom nuts to 21 lbs-ft.

**O:** Because the shocks don't self-extend like the stockers and are a little bit shorter overall, there's a trick required for lining up the top bolt. Take a piece of fuel line—maybe eight

inches or so—and feed it through the upper shock-mounting hole in the frame (photo 24). Next, slip the end of this hose over the shaft at the top of the shock (photo 25). (Don't worry—you'll see why in a moment.) Now, go ahead and re-torque the upper-control-arm bolts to 48 lbs-ft.

**P:** To feed the shock up into the hole, grab the front wheel and put it back onto the hub (photo 26). Snug the wheel lugs down without torquing. Now, slowly lower the car onto its wheel. As you do, the fuel line on the shock shaft will guide the rod up into the frame hole (photo 27) so that the new shock top appears in the engine compartment in the right place all on its own.