Installing Rear Springs on an MGB

by Harry MacLean

Tools needed-5/8-11/16” combination wrench - 2 if no ratchet available.
9/16” deep well socket and ratchet to operate it.
9/16” combination or end wrench for spring shackles. Ratcheting combination works best however.
5/8” socket. One larger center punch to line up holes for spring at front.
2 jack stands 3 preferred.
I large hammer, not carpenter’s hammer

I did my springs on my 1980 I had to use a sawsall to cut one of the bolts out to drop spring out. First jack up car and place jack stands in front of front spring perch. Use another to place under axle to hold in place. This is why I said 3 stands are preferred. But if only two use one under front spring perch on whichever side you are doing and other under axle. Unbolt from axle, front spring perches shackles holding spring to axle &rear hangers. Also unbolt shock link and move out of way. Once this is done jack axle about an inch away from springs. DO NOT let axle hang from straps they are rubber and can break even if new. Once everything is unbolted you can remove rear hanger and let spring lie on floor. Use your hand to support spring when removing hanger. However make sure that spring shackle is loose and disconnected especially from lower spring plate. Then remove front bolt from inside car. You may need a punch to punch bolt through spring perch. If bolt will not move then use a sawsall between spring and perch . Do not use a torch due to it will burn the rubber up but not the steel sleeve that has rusted to the bolt. Once this is done spring should come out. Then it’s a matter of replacing with a new spring. Repeat for the other side once new spring is all bolted up.

How to replace front springs on an MGB

by Harry MacLean

There are several ways to do this. Being a mechanic all my life, I tried this and thought it was easiest to do. It is also easier with two people one to handle the jack and get tools you forgot .

TOOLS NEEDED:

Hydraulic floor jack that can go high enough to lift wishbone onto the jack stands.
Jack stands 2 required
2-½" box end wrench long one is best.
¾" box or open end wrench or swivel socket if available.
1 pair diagonal plier
Optional ½" open end wrench and ¾" open end wrench or ratchet/socket
1 pair of small vise grips under 6"
1 tapered punch

The easiest way that I have found as it doesn't require moving the tire unless you want to. Jack car up and put on 2 jack stands to keep car as high as you can get it to safely remove springs. This depends on how high your hydraulic jack will go. Remove nuts at back A-arm on spring pan and front A-arm. Remove Sway bar nut on front A-arm. You may need the small vise grips to hold the sway bar stud if no stud with flattened area for a wrench. Put nuts back on sway stud a few turns and bolt nearest kingpin/tire. Remove cotter pins on Front A-arms and loosen nuts a little. Now for the fun or can be dangerous part. Take the hydraulic jack and jack under the spring pan leaving room to remove the bolts nearest engine. Then loosen front a-arm nuts more and pry a little ways away from wishbone. Lower the hydraulic jack slowly and spring should come down with wishbone. Let all pressure off of jack and take a large screwdriver to pry out spring there won't be any pressure on spring or shouldn't be and spring will fall to floor. Take new spring and put up to top and in pocket on spring pan. Then take hydraulic jack and jack spring back into pocket. If you hear a loud noise it is just spring going into place. Once spring pan is back in place take a small tapered punch and align holes for spring pan to put bolts back in place. Once bolts are in holes in A-arms/spring pan lower jack then install nuts back to bolts and tighten everything back up including front A-arm nuts and installing new cotter keys. Make sure when springs are out that you inspect everything for worn parts or if a hack has worked on your car and you find missing parts that need to be replaced. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK THAT IS SIMILAR TO A PROFESSIONAL MODEL IT IS NOT RECCOMENDED TO TRY DOING THIS. THE POST TYPE JACKS WILL NOT WORK BECAUSE THERE IS MOVEMENT WHEN YOU DO THIS. There are other ways to do this and it should work on all B's you can find them all over the internet. Final note: do this at your own risk.