Packard SERVICE TECHNICAL Bulletin

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To: ZONES AND DEALERS

Subject: TORSION-LEVEL SUSPENSION LOAD ARM SNAP - 55TH SERIES

A snap or clicking noise may be heard occasionally in the Torsion-Level Suspension under full jounce or rebound of the car. In other words "when the body moves upward."

The direction of force on the rear load arms and links is always downward, therefore, when weight is removed from the passenger or trunk compartment or the body raises on rebound, the rear link upper ball studs sometimes shift on their seats causing the snap.

The rear load arm link upper ball studs have been redesigned, having a slight concave contact surface which prevents the slight shift on rebound. These new studs started in production on the following vehicle numbers: 5542-7358, 47-6761, 62-8210, 67-6978, 82-8926, 87-6739, 88-1376. The ball seat in the lower part of the link has been changed slightly and should be replaced while replacing the upper ball stud.

The new rear load arm link upper ball studs can be installed as follows:

1. Attach the Torsion Bar Loading and Unloading Tool J-5954 as illustrated in your Service Manual.

   Raise the rear load arm with the tool as shown in figure 34.

2. Remove the two bolts that attach the load arm link to the torque arm and remove the link assembly.

3. Press or drive out the ball stud from the upper part of the link and install the new stud, part number 6479133, in its place. See illustration "A."

   Press or drive out the ball seat from the lower part of the link and install the new seat, part number 6479132, in its place.

4. Place some special lubricant, part number 474028, in the ball stud seats and reinstall the links. Release the unloading tool permitting the load arm to rest in the lower seat on the link.

The direction of force on the front load arms and links is always against each other, in other words, the load arm pushes downward on the link and the lower support arm pushes upward on the link. Therefore, a snap or clicking noise in the front links are rarely encountered.

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A snap or clicking noise in the front suspension may be caused by the following:

1. Loose upper or lower support bolts where attached to the frame.

2. Loose rubber bushing retaining nuts at the inner ends of the support arms.

3. Excessive clearance in the vertical support threaded bushings.

Should you encounter a snap in the front suspension that is definitely in the front links, install the new type rear ball studs, part number 6479133, in the lower end of the front links. See illustration "B."

1. Install the Front Load Arm Link Removing Tool J-6065 and remove the front link.

2. Clamp the link in a vise and using a blunt chisel carefully drive out the lower ball stud by driving downward on the seal retainer above the stud.

3. Install a new seal retainer if necessary when installing the new ball stud.

4. Place some special lubricant in the ball stud seats and reinstall the links. Remove the Load Arm Link Tool.

If the Torsion Bar Loading and Unloading Tool J-5954 is not available, the rear links can be removed using a twin-post lift and high jacks in the following manner:

a. Raise the car with the lift and then place high jacks under both rear corners of the frame to support the frame and body.

b. Disconnect the lower ends of the rear shock absorbers and rear lateral stabilizers.

c. Drive the retaining pin out of the rear links if the car is so equipped.

d. Slowly lower the lift rear post until the links are free and then remove the links.

If a twin-post lift and high jacks are not available, the links may be disengaged from the load arms by disconnecting the shocks and stabilizers and raising the rear of the car with chain falls with the rear wheels resting on the floor.

CAUTION: Do not attempt to grind a concave surface in the old ball studs as you will grind through the hardness on the studs.

The new parts may be ordered as follows:

Part No. 6479133 Load Arm Link Ball Stud

Part No. 6479132 Rear Load Arm Ball Stud Seat

Part No. 445927 Seal Retainer

The above parts should be ordered from your zone warehouse. Part number 6479132, Seat, will be available about August 15.

Very truly yours,

H. N. Johnson
Assistant Service Manager

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