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## **Jeep Cherokee 1984-2001 3” Lift Kit Installation Instructions**

### **Safety Warning:**

Installing a suspension lift kit raises the center of gravity of the vehicle. This increases the possibility of a rollover accident. Avoid sudden maneuvers at high speed and avoid all situations where a side rollover may occur. In addition larger tires decrease braking performance, please drive accordingly. We recommend a tire and wheel combination that make the vehicle's track width wider (wheels with less backspacing). This will lower the center of gravity and add stability. We also recommend that this system be installed by a qualified professional. Knowledge of suspension component function is necessary for safe installation and post installation inspections. Be sure to re-torque all suspension components after the first 100 miles of use, and frequently inspect all safety critical suspension components.

### **Before you begin:**

- Read all safety warnings.
- Read and understand installation instructions.
- A coil spring compressor will make installation easier, but is not required. You may wish to borrow, rent, or buy one if you don't have one.
- Check all steering and suspension components for wear and replace as needed.
- Contact Iron Rock Off Road with any questions before, during, or after installation.
- Ensure that all parts are present and in good condition:
  - 2 Front coil springs
  - 2 Rear leaf springs or add-a-leaf kit (2 long spring leaves, 2 centering pins, 4 spring pack clamps)
  - 2 Front shock absorbers with all necessary mounting hardware
  - 2 Rear shock absorbers with all necessary mounting hardware
  - 2 Transfer case lowering spacers
  - 4 M10 x 60mm transfer case crossmember bolts with washers
  - 2 Front sway bar links, u-brackets, and hardware kit 10 (bushings, bolts, etc...).
  - 1 rear brake line drop bracket
  - 1 5/16 x 1” bolt, with 1 nut, and 2 washers for rear brake line lowering bracket

### **Front suspension:**

1. Lift front of vehicle and support with tall jack stands under the unibody frame.  
\*Tip: break lug nuts loose before lifting vehicle.
2. Ensure that vehicle is safely supported.
3. Remove front tires.
4. Remove front shocks.
5. Remove front sway bar links.
6. Remove track bar bolt at axle end only (do not loosen the “tie rod end” at the uni-frame).
7. Loosen all upper and lower control arm bolts (do not remove).
8. Place a floor jack under the driver's side of front axle for support (do not lift vehicle).

9. If not using a coil spring compressor, unbolt the driver's side lower control arm at unibody.
10. Remove the coil spring clamp (at the axle).
11. Lower axle as far as needed to remove coil spring.
12. Install new spring in vehicle being careful to align the spring to the spring bucket on the axle.
13. Re-install lower control arm at unibody, do not tighten bolt at this time.
14. Repeat for passenger side of vehicle.
15. Install new front shocks using provided bolts, washers, and nuts. Tighten upper stud mount nuts just enough to slightly compress the bushings. Overcompressing these bushings will result in damage to the bushings and premature bushing failure.
16. Locate front sway bar links (8.75" center to center), 2 u-brackets, and hardware kit 10.
17. Install sway bar link u-brackets to the sway bar using 1/2 x 1 1/2" grade 8 hex bolts, lock washers, and nuts. Brackets mount to the bottom of the sway bar with the bolt facing up and the lock washer and nut on top of the sway bar. Align brackets, tighten bolts.
18. Lubricate sway bar link bushings and bushing sleeves with multi-purpose grease and install into sway bar links.
19. Install sway bar links driver's side first using provided M12 x 70mm hex bolt and nut through the u-bracket with the nuts toward the outside of the vehicle, and the original bolt, nut, and washer at the axle. Tighten all bolts.
20. Install track bar bolt, do not tighten at this time.
21. Install Front tires.
22. Lower vehicle from Jack stands.
23. With the vehicle on the ground, torque any loose bolts to spec. including Upper and Lower control arm bolts, track bar bolts, sway bar links, and lug nuts. Install coil spring clamps.

### **Rear Suspension:**

24. Lift rear of vehicle and support with tall jack stands under the unibody frame.  
\*Tip: break lug nuts loose before lifting vehicle.
25. Ensure that the vehicle is safely supported.
26. Remove rear tires.
27. Remove rear shocks.
28. Allow suspension to droop as much as possible.
29. Remove retaining clip from rear brake line at the unibody.
30. Push the brake line forward until it can be pulled down out of the bracket.
31. Install rear brake line bracket using 5/16 x 1" bolt, nut, and 2 washers. Bracket should be oriented to extend the brake line down and back.
32. Gently bend the steel brake line into it's new location in the bracket. Be very careful to not create a crack or a kink. Any rusted, worn, cracked, or damaged rubber or steel brake line should be replaced.
33. Install brake line retaining clip.
34. If replacing leaf springs: (if installing add-a-leaf kit proceed to step 44)
35. Starting with the driver's side: place a floor jack under the driver's side of the rear axle for support (do not lift vehicle).
36. Remove leaf spring bolts at unibody and shackle.
37. Remove the u-bolts.
38. Allow axle to droop and remove leaf spring.
39. Install new leaf spring.
40. Install front bolt and rear bolts but do not tighten yet.
41. Clean any debris from axle seating surfaces.
42. Raise the axle up to the leaf spring, make sure the center pin drops into the axle and the axle seats flat against the leaf spring. Install u-bolts.

U-bolt torque specs for grade 8 u-bolts:

1/2" u-bolt diameter: 65-80 ft/lbs

9/16" u-bolt diameter: 75-90 ft/lbs

5/8" u-bolt diameter: 86-110 ft/lbs

43. Repeat for passenger side.
44. If installing add-a-leaf kit:
45. Starting with the driver's side, remove u-bolts.
46. Allow axle to droop and remove leaf spring clamps and center pin to take apart the leaf spring pack. Note orientation of leaves.
47. Install the new highly arched leaf in the spring pack (above any shorter leaves and below any longer leaves). Use a c-clamp or two to help install the new center pin.
  49. Tighten leaf spring centering pin.
  50. Use a c-clamp or two to help install new leaf spring clamps.
  51. Clean any debris from axle seating surfaces.
  52. Raise the axle up to the leaf spring, make sure the center pin drops into the axle and the axle seats flat against the leaf spring. Install u-bolts and torque to spec. Be sure to re-torque u-bolts after first 100 miles of use.
  53. Repeat for passenger side.
  54. Install new shocks.
  55. Install rear tires.
  56. Lower vehicle from Jack stands.
  57. With the vehicle on the ground, torque any loose bolts to spec. including leaf spring bolts and lug nuts.

### **Transfer Case Drop Kit:**

48. Place a floor jack under the driver's side of transfer case crossmember for support.
49. Remove bolt and nut that hold the t-case crossmember to the unibody.
50. Lower t-case crossmember away from unibody and remove threaded stud from unibody. If you do not have a stud puller, you can install 2 nuts and tighten one against the other then remove using a box end wrench on the inner nut.
51. Install spacer using new bolts and washers. Torque to spec.
52. Repeat for passenger side.

### **Adjustments and Safety Inspection:**

53. Check all components for clearance for suspension to fully cycle up and down and wheels to turn lock to lock. Pay special attention to brake line length and location of all brake lines, axle vent hoses, and ABS wires. Reposition as needed.
54. A professional front end alignment is required after installation. Your toe-in will be affected and may cause unpredictable steering and accelerated tire wear.
  - \*Re-torque all fasteners after 100 miles, and frequently inspect all safety critical suspension components.

