Axle Shaft

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

1. Raise and support the front of the vehicle on jackstands and remove the wheels.
2. Remove the bolts attaching the axle shaft to the differential while the brake pedal is being depressed.
3. Remove the free running hub assembly with the brake pedal depressed.
4. Remove the brake caliper assembly without disconnecting the hydraulic brake line. Support or hang the brake caliper with a wire to avoid breaking the hose.
5. Remove the tie rod ball joint.
6. Support the lower link with a jack and remove the nuts attaching the lower ball joint on the lower link.
7. Remove the upper ball joint attaching bolts.
8. Remove the shock absorber lower attaching bolt.
9. Cover the axle shaft boot with a suitable protector, and then remove the axle shaft with the knuckle still attached.
10. Separate the axle shaft from the knuckle by removing the snapring and lightly tapping the shaft with a rubber mallet.

To install:

11. Install the axle shaft into the knuckle and then install the assembly.

Fig. 1: Disconnect the driveshaft at the final drive unit

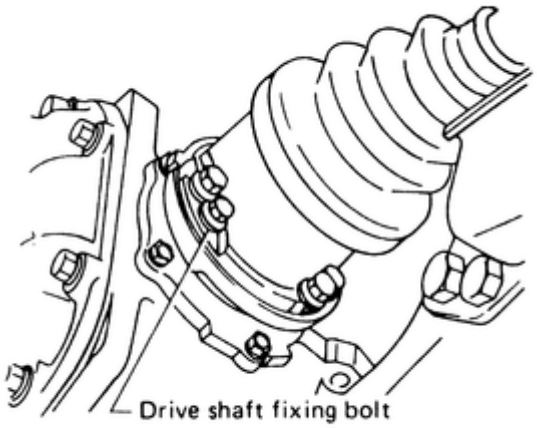


Fig. 2: Remove the driveshaft with the steering knuckle still attached

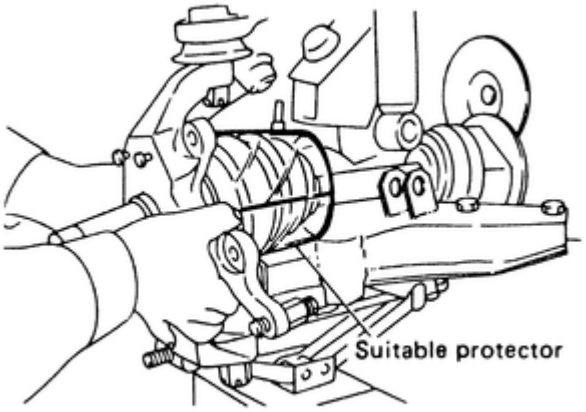


Fig. 3: Press the driveshaft end out of the steering knuckle

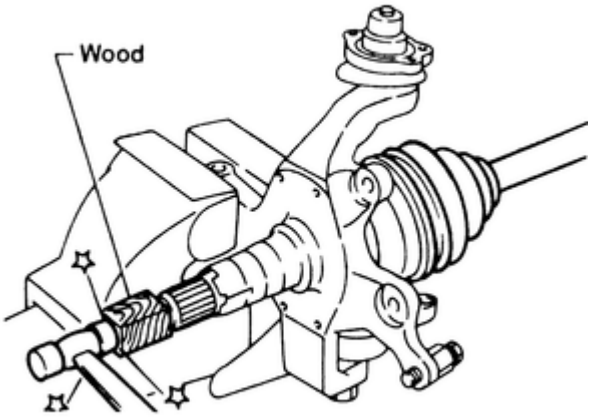


Fig. 4: Don't forget to install the snapring

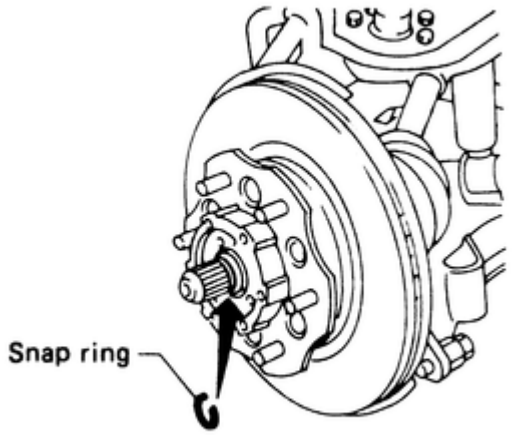


Fig. 5: Exploded view of the front axle driveshaft — 6-cylinder engines

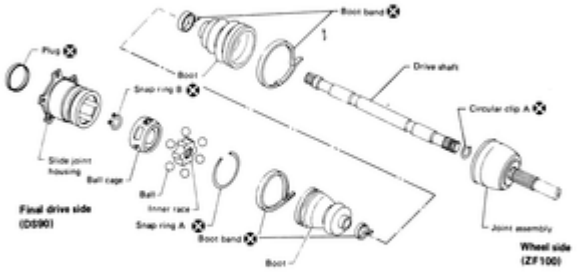


Fig. 6: Exploded view of the front drive axle — all models similar

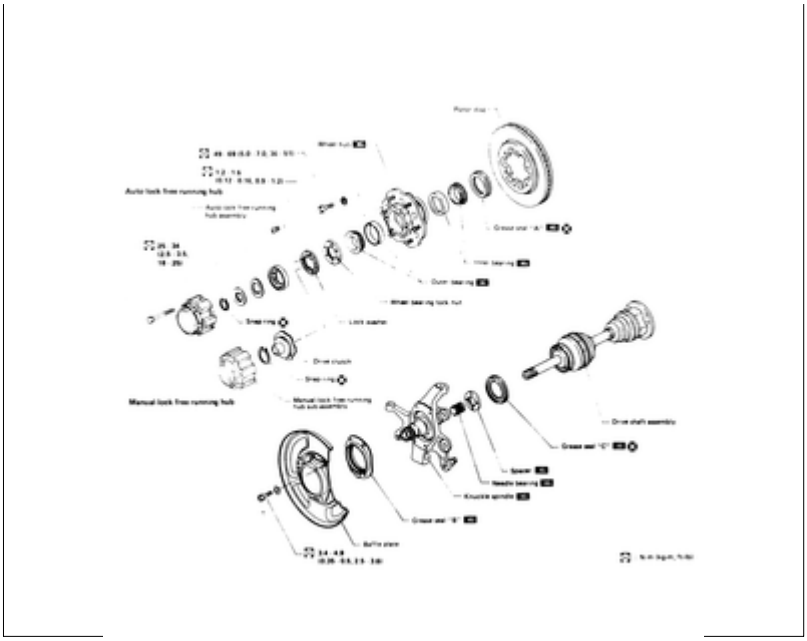
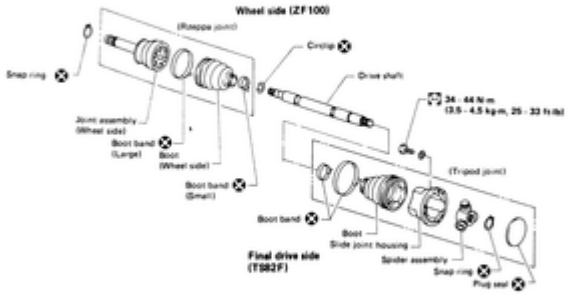


Fig. 7: Exploded view of the front axle driveshaft — 4-cylinder engines



12. When installing the bearing spacer onto the axle shaft, make sure that the bearing spacer is facing in the proper direction. Temporarily install a new snapring on the axle shaft at the same thickness as it was before removal and then measure the axial end-play of the axle shaft with a dial gauge. The axial end-play should be 0.004–0.012 in. (0.1–0.3mm). Select another snapring if not within specifications.
13. Connect the shock absorber and tighten the bolt to 43–58 ft. lbs. (59–78 Nm).
14. Connect the upper ball joint and tighten the bolts to 12–15 ft. lbs. (16–21 Nm).
15. Connect the lower ball joint to the lower link and tighten the nuts to 35–45 ft. lbs. (47–61 Nm).
16. Install the tie rod ball joint and the brake caliper.
17. Install the hub and then connect the axle shaft to the differential and tighten the bolts to 25–33 ft. lbs. (34–44 Nm).
18. Install the wheels, remove the stands and lower the vehicle.