

Stainless Strut Cover Installation Instructions

For all PT Cruisers

- 1. Find a suitable support** to have ready for your hatch since your gas cylinders (struts) will be detached. A broom handle, or other yard tool may work, or you might tie a line to your garage ceiling. You might also enlist a helper to hold it for you.
- 2. Remove the lower bolt** that fastens the left strut to the PT. This requires either a T-40 torx drive socket (about \$6 at Sears), or a 3/16" allen wrench. Once the bolt starts turning, lift the hatch firmly with one hand to keep pressure off of the bolt as you remove it. Now rest the hatch on your support, as the single remaining strut will not support the hatch.
- 3. Remove the strut end-cap.** The end-cap is threaded and turns off. Ideally, yours will turn off by hand, but if not, use locking pliers **WITH** brass or wood shims to keep the strut's rod from turning when you turn the cap off. Do **NOT** use the pliers directly or you might scratch the strut's rod and thereby risk damaging the pressurized cylinder's seal. If the end cap is stubborn, you may use a heat gun on the end cap, but be careful not to let heat get to the cylinder's seal. In extreme cases for stubborn end-caps, remove the entire strut and place the rod in a smooth brass-faced vice. Then turn the end-cap off.
- 4. Slide the Strut Cover into place.** The covers are made to a high-tolerance fit, and should slide on easily. A friction fit can be achieved with just a wrap of masking tape over the existing cylinder (see illustration).
- 5. Reassemble the end cap**, and (while supporting the hatch) replace the torx headed bolt. Repeat steps 2 through 5 for the right strut.

