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Hood struts!!

Decided to get this figured out yesterday and installed today(plans with friends prevented my install yesterday).

As we all know, Cosmo hood struts/replacements are not available. I know countries outside of North America can re-gas the originals but I couldn't find anything about anyone doing that on this continent.

(The following how-to is American-oriented, just FYI if you have no idea what AutoZone is)

So I took off a strut and went to my normal O'Reilly Autoparts store and looked through their struts, both what was in the aisle and what was in the back. Wasn't too happy with the selection. Headed to an AutoZone. Much bigger selection. Skimmed through and matched up to the Cosmo strut. I picked up a pair of part number C96519 lift struts which happen to be for the first gen Mazda6 Hatchback (I think). \$25.99usd list price, and I needed two pairs of the ball fitting bolts. Of course that store only had one box, so I bought that and went a few miles to another store for the other. Just to see, I looked at the selection at the second AutoZone and found struts even closer to a match to the Cosmo. These are C95301 which are hood struts for what AutoZone shows as the 2000-2009 Ford Taurus/Montego/Sable. They are maybe half an inch shorter than the Cosmo strut but a little longer than the Mazda6 hatch strut. I would say that either strut would work, I wanted to get as close to the right length as possible plus the Taurus struts were \$18.09 list. Returned the 96519s, bought the 95301s, and the other hardware box.

Going to do this how-to with the 95301 struts.

What you'll need:

Two of AutoZone/MightyLift C95301 \$18.09 each

One Mighty lift hardware kit ML3000 \$3.99

Two M8 bolts, fairly short. I need to find a solution for this issue.

Tools:

10mm socket/ratchet

11mm wrench

12mm wrench

5/16 drill bit

Small flat head screw driver

Remove the stock struts. Start at the bottom ball bolt (12mm) as it's more tedious to do. If you don't have your hood supported, it's easier to break the top brackets loose (10mm bolts) so that you can remove the bolts by hand while supporting the hood.

A note: the top bracket bolts thread into a loose piece in the hood - I don't know if this piece can slide down but it definitely isn't held in there. To prevent a possible tool-throwing moment, I suggest removing one bolt, sliding the bracket down, and threading that bolt back in before removing the other.

Once off the car, take your 5/16th drill bit and drill the end of the rivet that holds the bracket to the Cosmo strut to get that bracket off.

Drill out the bracket's hole where the rivet was.

Reinstall bracket to the hood.

Install one of the ball bolts (11mm) where the strut mounts to the side of the engine bay. I came across a pair of ball bolts looking through spare parts, so I'm actually going to return the AutoZone hardware.

The struts aren't clocked correctly so I had to rotate both of mine. The ball receiving ends should be facing the same way.

Rod-side down, pull the metal ball retainer clip back and install the strut over the ball.

Line up the other end with the bracket on the hood and screw in one of those M8 bolts where the ball would normally go. For whatever reason, this end uses a smaller ball, and I didn't check it while I was at the parts store. I'm in a bit of a time crunch today and can't track down the correct hardware, but I will soon. For now, this works and holds the struts securely. The bolts thread into the metal clips perfectly fine but obviously it's not the right way to do it. Lol

These struts are strong! One will hold the hood. Two will raise the hood pretty quickly from half way up. Takes a bit of force to initially start closing the hood but otherwise these work perfect.

Hope this helps. Don't know how to make a PDF to put into the Files section.

PS [Ryan Berg](#) Want to comment to say that the ball bolts for the hood side of things are from a Cadillac DeVille or SeVille, I can't remember off the top of my head. Just went through a junkyard looking at every car with hood struts and found that one to have the correct size.

[Kayne Thompson](#) Here in nz i popped down to repco they sent them away 2 days later i had new ones. No fuss at all

[Kayne Thompson](#) No sorry i walked in and looked at what they had in stock i took one to the counter that was close.

The guy said leave it with me he looked in a book with the pressure ratings and said it'll be a few days. At the time i didn't think it was a hard thing to find i also brought a new starter for my FC box which i have been told are "near impossible to find" haha

Repco usually gives me a headache but they will surprise on the odd occasion.











