



J1461 Installation Instructions 1986-92 Jeep Comanche MJ 4.5" Suspension Lift

Read and understand all instructions and warnings prior to installation of product and operation of vehicle.

Zone Offroad Products recommends this system be installed by a professional technician. In addition to these instructions, professional knowledge of disassembly/ reassembly procedures and post installation checks must be known. Minimum tool requirements include the following: Assorted metric and standard wrenches, hammer, hydraulic floor jack and a set of jack stands. See the "Special Tools Required" section for additional tools needed to complete this installation properly and safely.

» PRODUCT SAFETY WARNING

Certain Zone Offroad Products are intended to improve off-road performance. Modifying your vehicle for off-road use may result in the vehicle handling differently than a factory equipped vehicle. Extreme care must be used to prevent loss of control or vehicle roll-over. Failure to drive your modified vehicle safely may result in serious injury or death. Zone Offroad Products does not recommend the combined use of suspension lifts, body lifts, or other lifting devices.

You should never operate your modified vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Always drive your modified vehicle at reduced speeds to ensure your ability to control your vehicle under all driving conditions. Always wear your seat belt.

» TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Live Chat provides instant communication with Zone tech support. Anyone can access live chat through a link on www.zoneoffroad.com.

www.zoneoffroad.com may have additional information about this product including the latest instructions, videos, photos, etc.

Send an e-mail to tech@zoneoffroad.com detailing your issue for a quick response.

888.998.ZONE Call to speak directly with Zone tech support.

» PRE-INSTALLATION NOTES

1. Special literature required: OE Service Manual for model/year of vehicle. Refer to manual for proper disassembly/reassembly procedures of OE and related components.
2. Adhere to recommendations when replacement fasteners, retainers and keepers are called out in the OE manual.
3. Larger rim and tire combinations may increase leverage on suspension, steering, and related components. When selecting combinations larger than OE, consider the additional stress you could be inducing on the OE and related components.
4. Post suspension system vehicles may experience drive line vibrations. Angles may require tuning, slider on shaft may require replacement, shafts may need to be lengthened or trued, and U-joints may need to be replaced.
5. Secure and properly block vehicle prior to installation of Zone Offroad Products. Always wear safety glasses when using power tools.
6. If installation is to be performed without a hoist, Zone Offroad Products recommends rear alterations first.
7. Due to payload options and initial ride height variances, the amount of lift is a base figure. Final ride height dimensions may vary in accordance to original vehicle attitude. Always measure the attitude prior to beginning installation.

Difficulty Level

easy 1 2 **3** 4 5 difficult

Estimated installation: 5-6 hours

Special Tools Required

T-50 Torx socket

C-Clamps (Pair)

Tire/Wheel Fitment

31x10.50 tire/15x8, 3.5-4" B.S. wheel

32x11.50 tire/15x8, 4.5" B.S. wheel

Kit Contents

***Important* Verify you have all of the kit components before beginning installation.**

Front Box Kit

Qty	Part	Qty	Part
1	1/8 x 1-1/4 Cotter Pin	1	Bolt Pack - Sway Bar Links
2	3in wide x 2in tall Bump Stop Ext.	4	3/8" SAE flatwasher
1	Bolt Pack - Bump Stops	2	3/8"-16 x 2-1/2" bolt
2	3/8"-16 x 2-1/2" bolt	2	3/8"-16 prevailing torque nut
2	3/8" USS flat washer	2	10mm-1.50 x 40mm bolt
1	3/8"-16 x 1" self-tapping bolt	2	10mm-1.50 prevailing torque nut
2	Lower Control Arm	4	7/16" SAE flat washer
4	3/4 x .090 x 2.62 Sleeve	1	Front Brake Bracket - DS
8	Control Arm Bushing - red	1	Front Brake Bracket - PS
2	Grease Zerk	1	Bolt Pack - Front Brake Brackets
2	90 Degree Grease Zerk	2	1/4"-20 x 3/4" bolt grade 5 clear zinc
2	Front Coil Springs	2	1/4"-20 nylock nut clear zinc
2	Transfer Case Drop Spacer	4	1/4" USS flat washer clear zinc
1	Bolt Pack - Transfer Case Drop	Rear Box Kit	
4	10mm-1.50mm x 50mm bolt	Qty	Part
4	10mm flat washer	2	.750 x .095 x 2.750 Sleeve
4	10mm helical spring lock washer	4	Shackle Bushing
2	Sway Bar Link	2	Grease Zerk
2	Conical Washer	2	Lift Shackle
2	U-Bracket For Sway Bar Disconnect	2	Add-A-Leaf
2	.625 x .075 x 1.375 Sleeve	4	1/2 x 2-3/4 x 6-1/2 Round U-bolt
2	.625 x .109 x 1.375 Sleeve	8	1/2 x 20 Fine High Nut
4	5/8 ID Hourglass Bushing	8	1/2in Washer
		2	5/16 x 3.5 Pin & Nut
		4	2.5in Spring Clamp - Clip
		1	Brake Line Drop Bracket
		1	Snap In Brake Line Clip
		1	3/8 x 1 Bolt
		1	3/8 x 16 Hex Nut
		2	3/8 USS Flat Washer

Important—measure before starting!

Measure from the center of the wheel up to the bottom edge of the wheel opening

LF _____ RF _____

LR _____ RR _____

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Park the vehicle on an appropriate work surface. Ensure that the vehicle is in park for automatic transmission or in first gear for manual transmissions and the parking brake is applied. Block the wheels for added safety.
2. Locate the new lower control arms, control arm bushings, control arm sleeves (3/4" OD x 2.620" long) and provided grease fittings **Figure 1**. Apply grease to the bushings/sleeves and install them in each control arm end. Install the grease fitting in the threaded holes located in each control arm end. One straight and one 90 degree fitting will be used for each arm with the straight fitting installed in the short end of the arm (short length after the arm bend). Ensure the 90 degree fitting is pointed toward the body of the control arm.

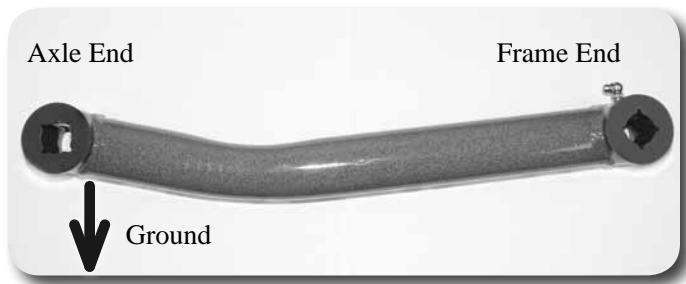


Figure 1

» FRONT INSTALLATION

3. Remove the bolt mounting the front track bar to the passenger's side of the axle **Figure 2**. Save track bar bolt and nut tab. Allow the track bar to hang free.

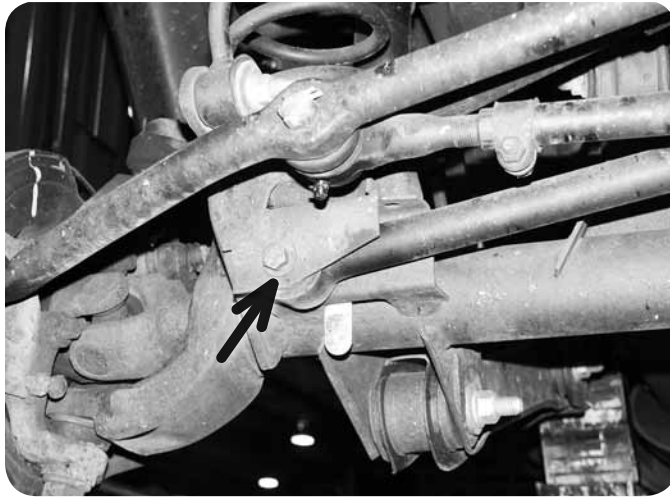


Figure 2

Step 3 Note

The track bar bolt may require a T-50 Torx socket on early models.

4. Raise the front of vehicle with a hydraulic jack and place jack stands under the frame rails, just behind the lower control arm pockets.
5. Remove the wheels.
6. Support the front axle with a hydraulic jack. Remove the shocks. Save the lower shock hardware.
7. Disconnect the front brake line brackets from the uni-body frame. Save hardware.
8. Remove the upper mounting nut from the sway bar links **Figure 3**. Swing the sway bar up off the links.



Figure 3

9. Disconnect the sway bar links from the axle. Remove the nut and the sway bar link from the bolt **Figure 3**. Some early models will require a T55 torx socket to hold the bolt from rotating. Later models used a bolt with a serrated neck that is pressed into the bracket so it will not rotate. Save axle mount hardware.
10. Remove the cotter pin and castellated nut from the drag link end at the pitman arm **Figure 4**. Thread the nut back on a couple of turns. Strike the pitman arm near the drag link end to release the tapered seat. Take care not to damage the end. Remove the nut and the drag link from the pitman arm. Save hardware.

Step 10 Note

This step is done to ensure the drag link tie rod ends do not get damaged when drooping the suspension to install the new springs.



Figure 4

11. Remove the driver's and passenger's side coil spring retainer clips located on the back side of the axle coil seat. Save clips and bolts.
12. Ensure the axle is well supported with a jack. Loosen and remove the driver's and passenger's side lower control arm bolts at the axle and frame. Remove the control arms from the vehicle. Save the control arm hardware.
13. Lower the axle with the hydraulic jack and remove the original coil springs. Take care not to over extend the brake lines.
14. Locate the center of the coil mount on the axle and drill a 5/16" hole **Figure 5**. Using the provided 3/8" x 1" self-tapping bolts, tap the hole and remove the bolt. A lower bump stop extension will be installed here when the coil spring is installed.

Step 14 Note

Be sure to drill the hole with 5/16" drill bit to ensure that the bolt can cut the threads properly. The 3/8" needed for the front bump stop installation is located in hardware pack #439.



Figure 5

15. Install the provided new front coil springs in the vehicle. When installing the coils, insert a 2" bump stop spacer in the coil before placing it on the axle mount. Fasten the bump stop spacer with a provided 3/8" x 2-1/2" bolt and washer. Torque bolt to approximately 25 ft-lbs.
16. Raise the axle until the coils touch the upper mounts. Reinstall the driver's and passenger's side coil retainers and torque to 20 ft-lbs.
17. Install the new driver's and passenger's side lower control arms with the factory bolts/nuts/washers. Snug the bolts but do not tighten completely. The lower control arm bolts will be tightened with the weight of the vehicle on the suspension.
18. Install the new shocks with the provided upper bushings/hardware. Leave the upper nut loose.
19. Attach the shock to the axle with the original shock hardware. Torque bolts to 20 ft-lbs. Go back and tighten the upper shock stem nut until the stem bushings begin to swell. Install the thin jam nut on the stem and tighten it against the first nut.
20. Locate the factory track bar mount on the passenger's side of the axle. Measure from the center of the original track bar mounting hole 3/4" toward the driver's side and mark. Drill a 13/32" hole at the mark through the front and back faces of the track bar mount **Figure 6**. This will be the new mounting point for the track bar. Do not install the track bar at this time.

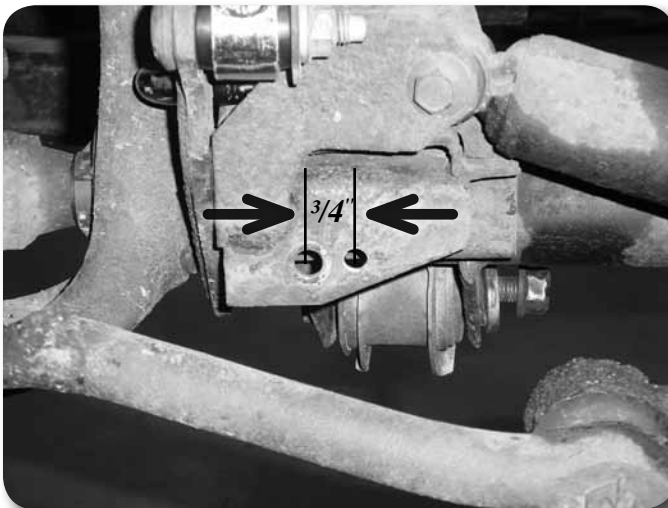


Figure 6

Step 25 Note
Hardware for the front brake line relocation is located in hardware pack #704.

21. Reattach the drag link to the pitman arm with the original castellated nut. Torque the nut to 60 ft-lbs. Align the cotter pin hole with the slots in the nut and install the cotter pin. Never loosen the nut to align the cotter pin, only tighten. If the original cotter pin is damaged, replace it with a new one.
22. Install the provided sway bar link u-brackets to each end of the sway bar using 10mm x 40mm bolts, nuts, a 3/8" USS washer and curved a stem washer. Install the bolt up through the bracket and sway bar hole. Fasten the bracket to the sway bar by placing the conical washer on the bolt followed by the nut. The washer is curved to match the concave sway bar hole. Position the bracket so that the through holes are parallel with the sway bar link axle mount hole. Torque bolt to 40 ft-lbs.
23. Locate the new front sway bar links. The front links have offset eyes. Install a 5/8"OD x 0.480" ID steel sleeve in one end and a 5/8"OD x 0.407ID sleeve in the other end of each link. The links will have the bushings preinstalled.
24. Attached the new sway bar links to the axle mount with the factory hardware and to the new sway bar u-bracket with 3/8" x 2-1/2" bolts, nuts and washers run from inside out. The end with the smaller ID sleeve will mount to the u-bracket. When mounted correctly, the links will taper in toward the center of the vehicle as the run from the axle to the sway bar **Figure 7**. Torque the factory hardware to 55 ft-lbs and 3/8" hardware to 30 ft-lbs.



Figure 7

Step 25 Note

Hardware for front brake line bracket installation is located in bolt pack 768.

25. Loosely attach the new front brake line bracket to the unibody with the factory brake line bolt. Attach the brake line to the stud on the relocation bracket with the provided 1/4" x 3/4" bolts, nuts and washers. When install the bracket will set on a 45 degree angle toward the axle to relocate the brake line both down and toward the axle for adequate slack. Torque all hardware to 10 ft-lbs.

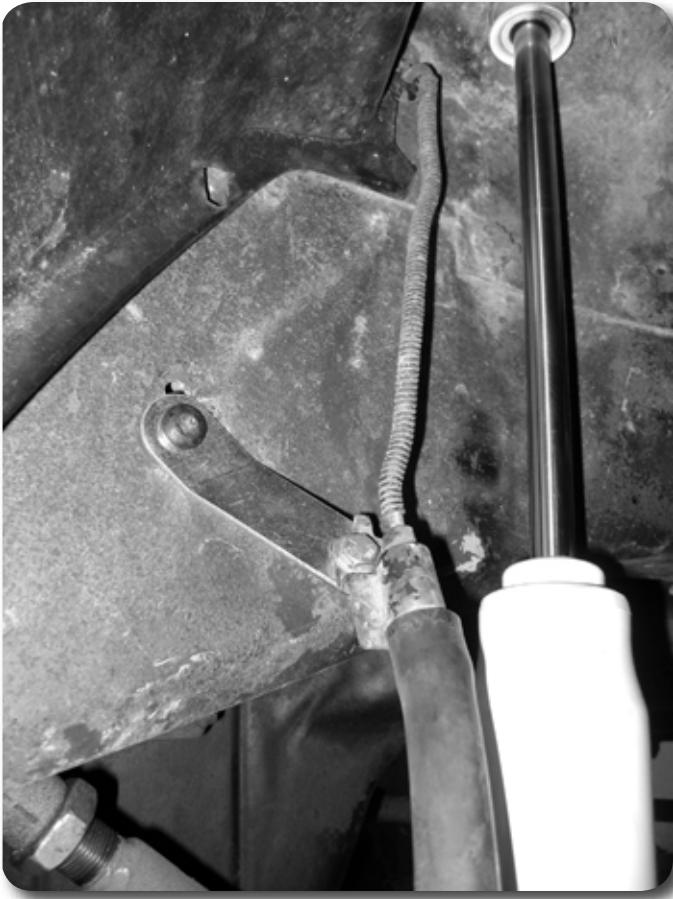


Figure 8

26. Install the wheels and torque the lug nuts to the manufacturer's specs. See vehicle owner's manual.
27. Remove the jack stands and lower the vehicle to the ground.
28. Bounce the front of the vehicle to settle the suspension.
29. Connect the front track bar to the newly drilled hole in the axle mount with the original hardware. Torque bolt to 50 ft-lbs. Note: To aid in aligning the track bar hole have an assistant turn the steering wheel to shift the trackbar in the correct direction.
30. Torque the lower control arm bolts to 85 ft-lbs.
31. Check all hardware for proper torque.

» REAR INSTALLATION

32. Block the front wheels for safety.
33. Raise the rear of the vehicle with a hydraulic jack and support with jack stands at the frame rails just ahead of the leaf spring hanger.
34. Remove the wheels.
35. Remove the rear brake line retaining clip at the frame. Remove the brake line from the bracket. Save clip.
36. If the vehicle is equipped with a height sensitive proportioning valve on the rear axle, remove the connecting link at the axle.



Figure 9

Support the rear axle with a hydraulic jack. Remove the shocks. Save all shock hardware.

Complete the following one side at a time, starting with the passenger's side.

37. Remove the leaf spring u-bolts and bottom u-bolts plates on both sides.
38. Using a hydraulic jack lift the axle and move it forward to make the leaf spring center pins visible.
39. Remove the bolts from the factory style bolt-on leaf spring clamps. With the AAL installed these bolts will no longer be used. It's possible to either leave the factory alignment clamps installed to maintain spring alignment and maximize articulation or cut off the factory alignment clamps and install the provided clamps that will hold the spring together.

Do the following steps one side at a time.

40. Place C-clamps on each side of the leaf spring center pin to hold the leaf pack together. Remove the leaf spring center pin and then release the C-clamps. This will allow the leaf pack to come apart. Take note each leaf's position and orientation (front to rear).
41. Place the provided new leaf in between the 2nd and 3rd leaf in the factory leaf pack. The leaf lengths get shorter as they go from the top leaf in a pyramid shape (Figure 5). Place the new center pin in the main leaf to aid in aligning the leaves. Using the C-clamps on each side of the center pin hole, compress the leaves together while aligning the new center pin with the holes in the leaves. With the pack completely compressed together with the C-clamps, fasten the center pin with the provided nut. Torque nut to 20 ft-lbs. Cut off any access center pin. Do not use the center pin to compress the pack together because it will strip the threads.



Figure 10

42. Repeat the add-a-leaf installation on the other side.
43. Remove the C-clamps from the leaf pack and ensure the individual leaves are all inline with each other. If you cut off the factory spring clamps, install the provided bend-over style clamps on the leaf pack **Figure 11**. Install one clamp on each side of the center pin near where the factory one was placed. Bend the ends of the clamps out and down to secure them to the spring.

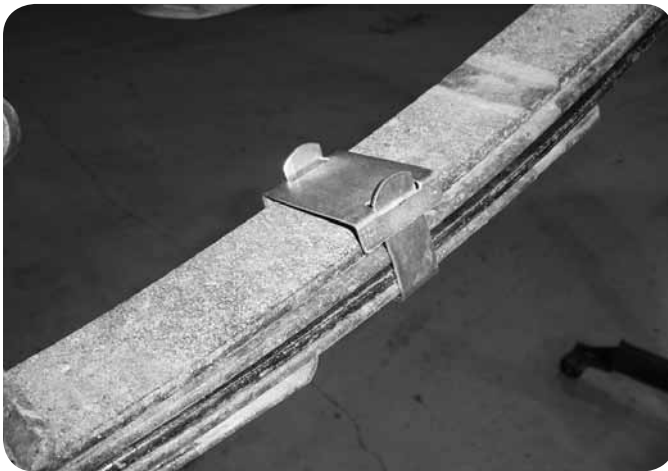


Figure 11

44. Locate the factory u-bolt plate and align the axle with the center pins and fasten with the provided u-bolts, nuts and washers. Snug u-bolts but do not tighten completely. U-bolt torque will be set with the weight of the vehicle on the suspension.
45. Locate the new extended shackles, shackle bushings (4), straight grease fittings (2) and 0.750 x 0.095 x 2.750 sleeves (2). Install the grease fittings in the threaded holes in each the shackle eye. Lightly grease and install the bushings and sleeves in the shackles.
46. With the axle still well supported with a jack, remove the factory shackles from the leaf spring and frame. Save hardware.
47. Loosely attach the new shackles to the frame with the factory bolts. The bend of the shackle will point towards the spring. Adjust the axle height with the jack to align the leaf springs with the shackles and loosely fasten with the factory bolt/nut.



Figure 12

48. With both sides complete, install the new shocks with the factory hardware. Torque the upper and lower hardware to 40 ft-lbs.
49. Install the provided brake line drop bracket to the factory brake line bracket on the frame with a 3/8" x 1" bolt, nut and 3/8" washers. The open hole in the bracket mounts toward the ground and is where the line is installed. Torque hardware to 25 ft-lbs. Carefully reform the brake hardline and install it in the new bracket. Fasten with the factory brake line clip or the one provided.



Figure 13

50. If the vehicle is equipped with a height sensitive proportioning valve, remove the 2 bolts holding the axle pivot bracket to the differential. Remove the pivot stud and flip it so it goes through the opposite direction. Re-install the modified bracket so the pivot stud is now on top and facing rearward and re-connect the link at the axle.



Figure 14

51. Install the wheels and lower the vehicle to the ground.
52. Bounce the rear of the vehicle to settle the suspension. Torque the u-bolts to 75-90 ft-lbs. Torque the shackle bolts to 65 ft-lbs.

» TRANSFER CASE DROP

53. Support the transfer case with a hydraulic jack.
54. Remove the 6 bolts and two nuts (one nut per side) holding the transfer case crossmember to the frame rails and 4 bolts (2 on each side) mounting the crossmember to an additional bracket on the frame.
55. Lower the transfer case about 1-1/8". The stud in each frame rail must be removed. This can be done with the double nut method. Install one nut followed by another and tighten the nuts against each other. Remove the stud by turning the top nut (one closest to the frame).
56. Position the provided transfer case drop spacers between the frame rails and the crossmember. Align the holes in the crossmember with the holes in the spacers. The outer face of the spacer should be relatively flush with the outer edge of the crossmember, if not turn the spacer around. Fasten the crossmember and spacers to the frame with 10mm x 60mm bolts and lock washers. Torque hardware to 35 ft-lbs. The inside mounts will not be used.
57. Check the transfer case shift lever operation. The linkage may need to be adjusted in some cases.

Step 55 Note

If the double nut method will not work, the nut can be tack welded to the stud to form a "bolt". Thread the nut on the stud and tack the end of the stud so the nut cannot be threaded off. Remove the stud. BE SURE to disconnect the battery before welding.

Post-Installation Warnings

1. Check all fasteners for proper torque. Check to ensure for adequate clearance between all rotating, mobile, fixed, and heated members. Verify clearance between exhaust and brake lines, fuel lines, fuel tank, floor boards and wiring harness. Check steering gear for clearance. Test and inspect brake system.
2. Perform steering sweep to ensure front brake hoses have adequate slack and do not contact any rotating, mobile or heated members. Inspect rear brake hoses at full extension for adequate slack. Failure to perform hose check/ replacement may result in component failure.
3. Perform head light check and adjustment.
4. Re-torque all fasteners after 500 miles. Always inspect fasteners and components during routine servicing.

» Post-Installation

58. A complete front end alignment is required.
59. Adjust headlights.
60. Grease the new lower control arms (4 places total) as well as the rear shackles (2 places total). Grease these points at each scheduled service interval.