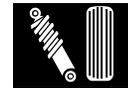


Model  
**1997 Accord**  
**1996-98 Legend**  
**1997-98 Prelude**  
**1997 Odyssey**

Applicable To  
**See VEHICLES  
 AFFECTED**

File Under



Bulletin No.

**99-039**

Issue Date

**May 1999**

## Safety Recall: Lower Ball Joints

### BACKGROUND

Certain vehicles were manufactured with front suspension lower ball joints that may prematurely wear out. In the worst case, the ball joints would separate, causing the front suspension to collapse.

### VEHICLES AFFECTED

Not every vehicle within the VIN ranges shown is affected by this recall. Before beginning work on a vehicle, verify that the vehicle is listed on your campaign VIN report.

**1997 Accord:** VIN JHMCD5. . .VA307535 only

Legend		
	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
<b>1996</b>	JH4KA9...TC000047	JH4KA9...TC001226
<b>1997</b>	JH4KA9...VC100041	JH4KA9...VC102602
<b>1998</b>	JH4KA9...WC200019	JH4KA9...WC201239

Prelude		
	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
<b>1997</b>	JHMBB6...VC000134	JHMBB6...VC002932
	JHMBB5...VC000031	JHMBB5...VC001155
	JHMBB8...VC001592	JHMBB8...VC003754
	JHMBB9...VC002098	JHMBB9...VC005517
<b>1998</b>	JHMBB6...WC000008	JHMBB6...WC200640
	JHMBB5...WC200134	JHMBB5...WC200330
	JHMBB8...WC200059	JHMBB8...WC200060
	JHMBB9...WC000001	JHMBB9...WC200453

Odyssey		
	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
<b>1997</b>	JHMRA1...VC206529	JHMRA1...VC207187

### CORRECTIVE ACTION

Replace the front suspension lower ball joints.

### PARTS INFORMATION

Ball Joint Kit, Accord and Odyssey: P/N 04510-S84-000

Ball Joint Kit, Prelude: P/N 04510-SL5-000

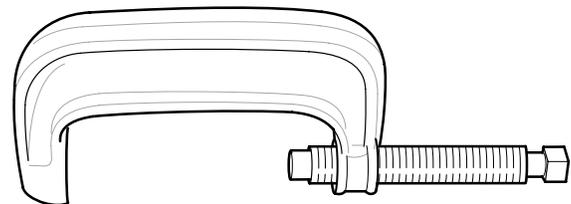
Ball Joint Kit, Legend: P/N 04510-SZ3-000

Front Knuckle Ring, Legend: P/N 51212-SP0-000

### REQUIRED SPECIAL TOOLS

C-Frame Tool: OTC P/N 7248

**C-FRAME TOOL**  
**OTC P/N 7248**



**Ball Joint Remover/Installer Tool Set:**

Tool sets are being automatically shipped to the dealers with this service bulletin. The individual tools do not have tool numbers; **each tool is stamped with a letter for reference.**

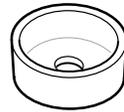
**REMOVER/INSTALLER ADAPTER (A)**  
All models



**BASE INSTALLER ADAPTER (B)**  
Prelude and Legend only  
(Apply grease to O-ring before each use.)



**BASE REMOVER ADAPTER (C)**  
(or equivalent,  
T/N 07GAF-SD40310)  
Prelude and Legend only



**BASE INSTALLER ADAPTER (E)**  
Accord and Odyssey only  
(Apply grease to O-ring before each use.)



**BASE REMOVER ADAPTER (F)**  
(or equivalent,  
T/N 07HAF-SF10130)  
Accord and Odyssey only



**PILOT ADAPTER (G)**  
All models  
(Apply grease to O-ring before each use.)



**REMOVER/INSTALLER PILOT ADAPTER (H)**  
All models



Driver: T/N 07749-0010000

Bearing Driver Attachment, 78 x 90 mm:  
T/N 07GAD-SD40101

**WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION**

Description	FRT
Replace lower ball joints, Accord	1.4
Replace lower ball joints, Legend	1.2
Replace lower ball joints, Odyssey	1.4
Replace lower ball joints, Prelude	1.2

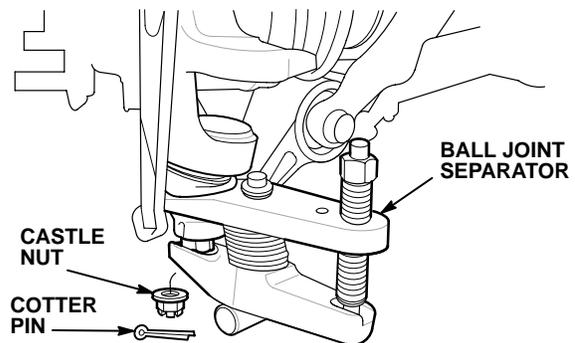
Failed part: Accord, Odyssey  
P/N 04510-S84-000  
  
Prelude  
P/N 04510-SL5-000  
  
Legend  
P/N 04510-SZ3-000

Defect code: 297

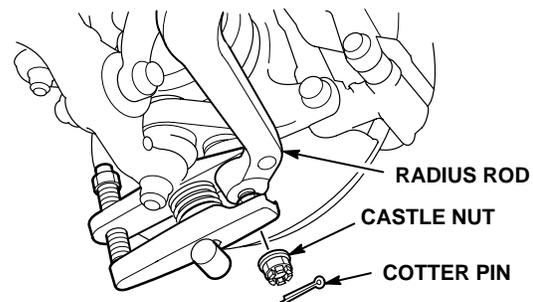
**REPAIR PROCEDURE**

**Ball Joint Removal**

1. Raise the vehicle on a hoist. Remove the front wheels.
2. Remove and discard the spindle nut.
3. Remove the cotter pin and castle nut from the lower ball joint. Discard the cotter pin.
4. Separate the lower control arm from the ball joint with the special tool.



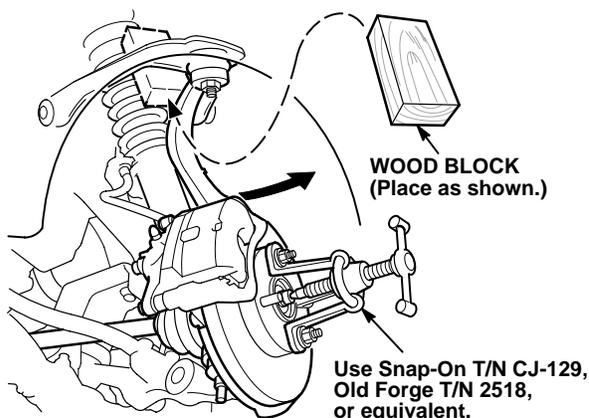
5. *Prelude Type SH only:* Separate the radius rod from the ball joint with the special tool.



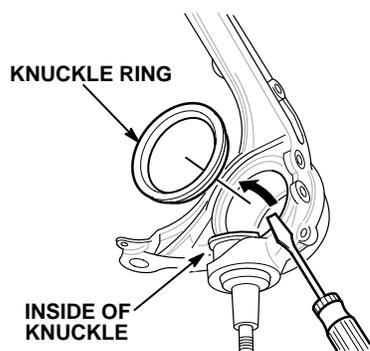
**CAUTION:** Do *not* let the suspension hang by its weight or the ABS sensor wire harness will be damaged.

- Remove the axle from the front wheel hub with a heavy-duty hub puller.

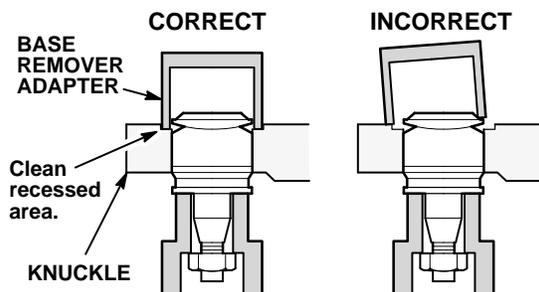
NOTE: Heavy-duty hub pullers can be purchased through the Honda Tool and Equipment Program at 1-888-424-6857.



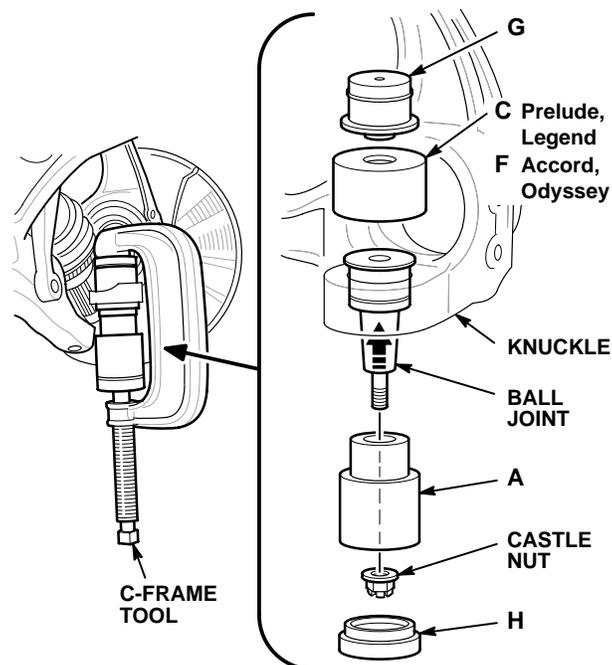
- Lift the knuckle, then place a block of wood (approximately 7 cm x 4 cm x 125 cm) between the upper control arm and the damper assembly.
- Remove the boot from the lower ball joint.
- Legend only:* Remove the knuckle ring.



- Accord and Odyssey only:* Remove the brake caliper mounting bolts and the caliper. Remove the four flange bolts, then remove the brake rotor/hub assembly.
- Clean the recessed area around the ball joint with solvent and compressed air, then install the seat base remover adapter (Tool C or F). Adapters "C" and "F" can be damaged if not squared properly on a clean surface.



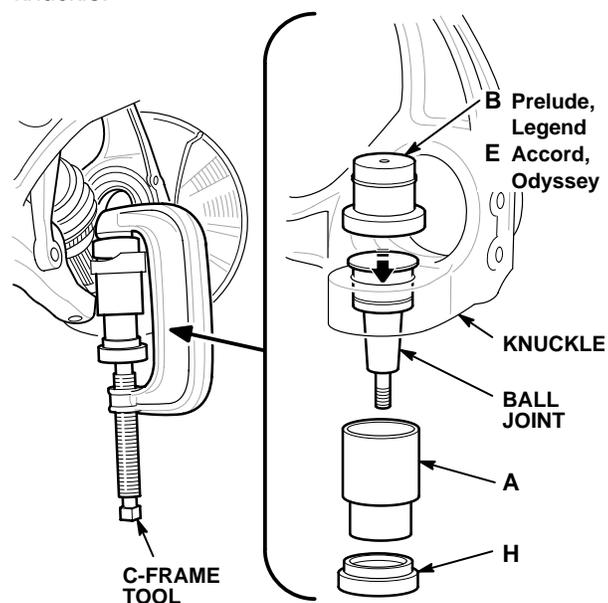
- Install the special tools on the lower ball joint and the knuckle. **To avoid damaging the special tools, verify that they are correct for the vehicle you are working on and are aligned properly.**



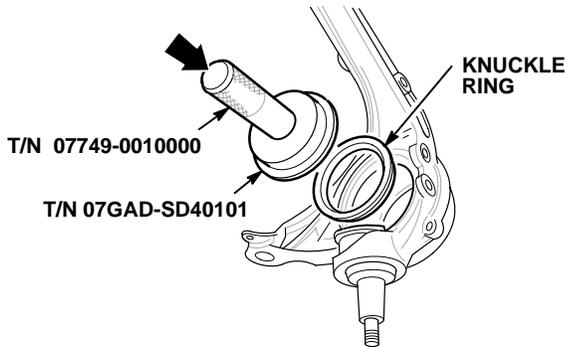
- Tighten the C-frame and press the lower ball joint out of the knuckle.

### Ball Joint Installation

- Position the new ball joint in the knuckle.
- Install the special tools on the ball joint and the knuckle.



16. Tighten the C-frame and press the ball joint into the knuckle.
17. *Accord and Odyssey only:* Reinstall the brake rotor/hub assembly. Torque the flange bolts to 44 N·m. Reinstall the brake caliper. Torque the mounting bolts to 108 N·m.
18. *Legend:* Install a new knuckle ring.



19. Remove the wooden block, then install the axle into the hub.  
**CAUTION:** Do *not* let the suspension hang by its weight or the ABS sensor wire harness will be damaged.
20. Install the lower control arm onto the ball joint.
21. Install and torque the ball joint castle nut. Install the new cotter pin.

	Torque
<b>Legend</b>	69-78 N·m
<b>All other models</b>	49-59 N·m

22. *Prelude Type SH only:* Reinstall the radius rod to the ball joint. Torque the castle nut to 69-78 N·m.
23. Apply oil to the threads and flange of the new spindle nut. Install the spindle nut; torque it to 245 N·m.
24. Stake the spindle nut.
25. Repeat steps 2 through 24 on the other side.
26. Reinstall the front wheels. Tighten the wheel nuts to 108 N·m.
27. Lower the vehicle.
28. Center-punch a completion mark above the third position of the engine compartment VIN on Legends and above the fourth position on all other models.

Center-punch here for Legends.

**JH4XXXXXXXXXXXXXX**

Center-punch here for all other models.

**JHMBXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**

## Example of Customer Letter

May 1999

### Safety Recall: Lower Ball Joints

Dear Honda Owner:

**What is the reason for this notice?**

Honda Motor Co., Ltd. has determined that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Honda automobiles. Some vehicles were manufactured with front suspension lower ball joints that may prematurely wear out. In the worst case, the ball joint would separate without prior warning, causing the front suspension to collapse. This condition would result in vehicle deceleration and a sudden loss of power. Also, steering controllability would be reduced, and a vehicle crash could occur.

**What should you do?**

Call any authorized Honda automobile distributor and make an appointment to have your vehicle repaired. They will replace the front lower ball joints. *This repair will be done free of charge.* Parts are now available. The repair takes about two hours, but please plan to leave your vehicle at the dealer all day to allow them scheduling flexibility.

**Who to contact if you experience problems.**

If you are not satisfied with the service you receive from your Honda dealer, or if you believe that the dealer has failed or is unable to remedy the defect in your vehicle, without charge, within a reasonable period of time (60 days from the date you first contact the dealer for a repair appointment), you may submit a complaint to:

**(Distributor – Enter name, address, and telephone number)**

**What to do if you feel this notice is in error.**

This notice was mailed to you according to the most current information we have available. If you no longer own this vehicle, or some information in this notice is incorrect, please contact the nearest Honda dealer.

**If you have questions.**

If you have questions about this notice, or need assistance with contacting a Honda dealer, please call

**(Enter Distributor telephone number).**

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.

Sincerely,

**(Distributor Name)**