

## UPPER BALL JOINTS

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**R**eplacing the ball joints on the upper control arms (UCAs) are more of a challenge since they are not pressed into the UCA but rather held in place with rivets. Although, removing the ball joints from the UCA may be accomplished in many different ways, the 'drill out' method described below is effective in removing the rivets from the UCA (or any other rivet used on your truck).

### TOOLS REQUIRED

The following tools are needed to remove the ball joints from the UCAs:

- Safety Glasses (and Leather Gloves, optional)
- Hammer
- Center Punch and Pin Punch
- Electric Drill
- High Speed Metal Bits (1/4" and 3/8")
- Cutting Oil

### PROCEDURE

This method is best performed with the UCA unbolted from the front suspension.

1. Using a hammer and a center punch, punch the center of each of the 4 rivet heads that secures the ball joint to the UCA.



2. Using a 1/4" bit, drill through each of the heads and slightly into the shafts of the rivets. Use cutting oil to assist in the drilling.



3. Step up to the 3/8" bit and drill out the heads of the rivets. Again, use cutting oil while drilling.



4. Once the heads of the rivets are drilled out (removing any remains that may exist), use a hammer and a pin punch to punch out each of the rivets.
5. Once all 4 rivets are removed the upper ball joint may be detached.

6. Clean the area in and around the ball joint's mounting hole of the UCA. Ensure that the area around the mounting hole free from debris.



7. To install, position the upper ball joint housing through the mounting hole on the topside of the UCA.
8. Attach the upper ball joint to the UCA with the four bolts and nuts. Torque to specifications.
9. Insert and tightened the zerk fitting.



10. Repeat this procedure for the upper ball joint on the other UCA.

## **THE END**

**O**nce the LCAs and the UCAs are installed and front suspension is buttoned up, grease the ball joints on the LCAs and UCAs (via the zerk fittings). Use caution not to overfill the rubber boots. After 100 miles or so, inspect the ball joints and grease again, if needed. And, as usual, periodically grease the ball joints when performing regular maintenance.