

# Front\Rear Spring Restoration

by Tom Endy 2024

The Model A front and rear spring should be removed from the car for restoration. Care should be exercised when removing the rear spring as it can be lethal. The rear spring is under a tremendous amount of tension, a spring spreader should always be used. The front spring is not under much tension and a spring spreader is not required.

To remove the rear spring install a spring spreader to capture the tension and remove the two shackle bolts. Collapse the spring spreader and remove it. Unbolt the spring from the frame of the car and set it on a work bench. The spring is no longer lethal as very little tension remains in the spring pack.

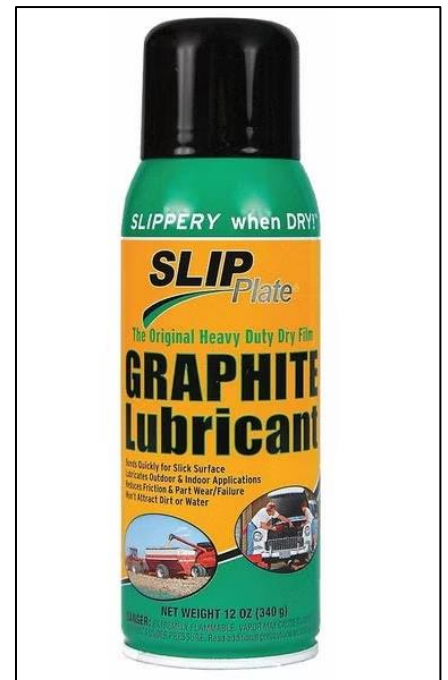


The rear spring spreader

Remove the two retainer clamps on each end of the spring and remove the center bolt in order to separate the leafs. The center bolt is peened on the end, so the end of the bolt will have to be ground in order to remove it. Place a C-clamp on the spring to aid in removing the center bolt. Discard the bolt, as it will not be reused.

Degrease each leaf and wire wheel or bead blast them down to bare metal. Use a disk grinder to grind out the witness mark indentations in each leaf caused by the edge of the leaf above cutting into it. Round off the edge of each leaf where it rubs the leaf below to prevent further wear.

Coat the mating surfaces of each leaf with slip plate graphite lubrication. Allow it to dry before assembling the spring. Use a new center bolt. The new bolts are twice as long as need be to enable the spring to be pulled together as the nut is tightened. Once the spring is together, cut off the excess bolt length and peen the end. Make sure the square head of the bolt is lined up correctly to match the square hole in the frame.



Use a rag and some solvent to clean the excess lubricant that has squeezed out from the spring pack and paint the spring with black Rustoleum. Replace both shackle bushings. Reinstall the spring back in the car using a spring spreader.

