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Relieving Tension by Jeff Peters & Bill Lacy

After listening to stories of how Corvette People used all kinds of clamps, chains, jacks, and other devices to release the tension on the outer spring bolts of the rear spring. We decided to share a simple process that we learned from a longtime friend and Corvette Restorer, Dick Ferando of D&A Corvette. First and foremost, it is highly recommended that you have to have a helper with this process.



1. The tools needed are a 6 foot or longer pry bar (Photo 1)
2. A good floor jack
3. A good pair of jack stands (I like to use 2 ½ ton because it gives me some extra height).
4. Wheel chocks
5. Something to remove a cotter pin
6. Appropriate sized wrenches

(The 6' X 1 ¾" hexagon bar used in this article was purchased at Lowes Home Improvement Center. Do not try to save a few dollars by using a pipe or a piece of lumber).

Let's get Started

Using the floor jack, raise the car up to a suitable height and using all of the normal safety precautions, chock the wheels fore and aft and place the jack stands under the frame and remove the floor jack.



1. Place the pry bar under the spring and over the strut arm (photo 2).

2. Lever the pry bar upward. You will see the spring tension release (Photos 3, 4, 5), [Note: photo 3 is the same as photo 2].



3. While your helper holds tension on the pry bar, you remove the cotter key, nut, and washer. On this spring the nut had been removed from the nut recently and it was not necessary to use a socket and wrench (Photo 6).



4. Slowly lower the Pry bar and the spring will be free of the bolt (Photo 7).



5. To reinstall the spring put the pry bar over the strut arm and under the spring, then raise the pry bar. It may be necessary to angle the bolt to line it up with the hole in the spring (Photo 8).

There you have it, a safe and simple way to remove the tension from the spring and outer spring bolts.