

Nix that noise on the MDX®

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Walt's 2001 Acura® MDX comes into your shop complaining that the dashboard is creaking. Just the thought of crawling under the dashboard of Walt's Acura makes your back start creaking. Fortunately, you don't have to be a contortionist to perform this repair. The fix involves removing the front damper/spring assembly, grinding off body spot weld burrs and refinishing the surface, and/or installing self adhesive shims (Acura P/N 75826-634-300, H/C 0701896) three per side, to the damper mounting base.

Applies To: 2001 MDX - ALL
2002 MDX - From VIN 2HNYD1...2H500001 thru 2HNYD1...2H543293

Diagnosis

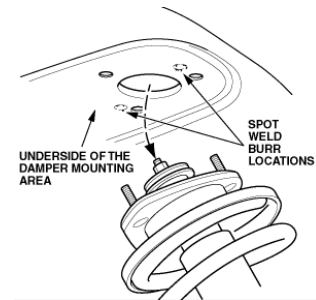
With the hood open and the vehicle parked, rock the vehicle from side to side, and listen for a creaking or ticking noise coming from the front damper area. Test-drive the vehicle as needed. If a creaking or ticking noise comes from the dashboard or front damper area, perform the repair procedure.

Repair Procedure

(Review safety procedures in the ALLDATA® system before beginning)

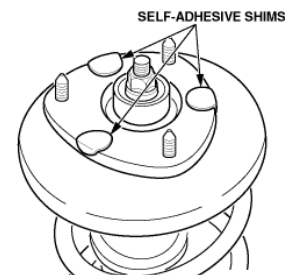
2002 MDX: From VIN 2HNYD1...2H523466 thru 2HNYD1...2H532574

1. Remove the appropriate front damper/spring assembly.
2. While wearing eye protection, use an angle grinder with sandpaper to remove any spot weld burrs that are raised above the surface of the damper mounting area.
3. Grind down the burrs flush with the surrounding area. Grinding off more material than necessary may create an uneven surface and could result in additional noise.



NOTE: The exact location of spot weld burrs may vary. Be sure to check the damper mounting area completely.

4. Prepare and refinish the bare metal to prevent rust.
5. Clean the surface of the damper mounting base with isopropyl alcohol.
6. Install three shims to the damper mounting base as shown. Position the shims so the edge of the shim is slightly rolled over the edge of the damper mounting base.
7. Reinstall the front damper/spring assembly.
8. Check the front wheel alignment, and adjust as necessary.
9. Test-drive the vehicle over bumps to make sure the noise is gone



2001 MDX: All

2002 MDX: From VIN 2HNYD1...2H500001 thru 2HNYD1...2H523465

2002 MDX: From VIN 2HNYD1...2H532575 thru 2HNYD1...2H543293

1. Raise the vehicle on a hoist, and remove the front wheels.

2. Remove the wheel sensor harness bracket from the damper. Do not disconnect the wheel sensor connector.

3. Remove the brake hose bracket from the damper. Do not disconnect the brake hose.

4. Disconnect the stabilizer link from the damper.

5. Position a floor jack under the front lower arm of the damper. Raise the floor jack to support the arm.

6. Remove the service caps from the upper portion of the damper cover.

7. Remove the three flange nuts from the damper, and lower the damper assembly with the floor jack.

8. Clean the surface of the upper damper mounting base with isopropyl alcohol.

9. Install three shims to the damper mounting base as shown. Position the shims so the edge of the shim is slightly rolled over the edge of the damper mounting base.

10. Reinstall the damper assembly. Torque the three flange mounting nuts to 59 N.m (43 lb-ft).

11. Reinstall the service caps to the upper portion of the damper cover.

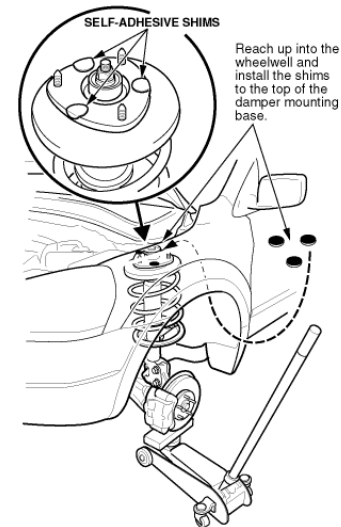
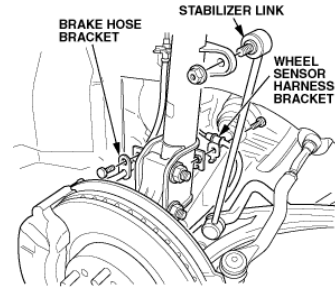
12. Reconnect the stabilizer link to the damper, and torque the mounting nut to 75 N.m (55 lb-ft).

13. Reconnect the brake hose bracket to the damper, and torque the mounting bolt to 22 N.m (16 lb-ft).

14. Reconnect the wheel sensor harness bracket to the damper, and torque the mounting bolt to 9.5 N.m (7 lb-ft).

15. Reinstall the front wheels.

16. Test-drive the vehicle over bumps to make sure the noise is gone.



Written by ALLDATA Technical Editor, Eric Seifert. Eric is an ASE certified Master Technician and Engine Machinist. He is also a graduate of the De Anza College Automotive Technology Program, with 20 years of independent shop and parts store experience.

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