

A stepped bushing replacement process (Manual #14)

Among the metal-rubber suspension bushings, in addition to the standard elements in the construction, there are also sleeves that have a slightly different characteristics. Stepped bushings may be one such unusual example. While in the case of bushings whose two different dimensions differ significantly and this can be seen at first glance, there are no problems with the disassembly and assembly error, in the case of small differences in dimensions such a problem can occur and it happens quite often.

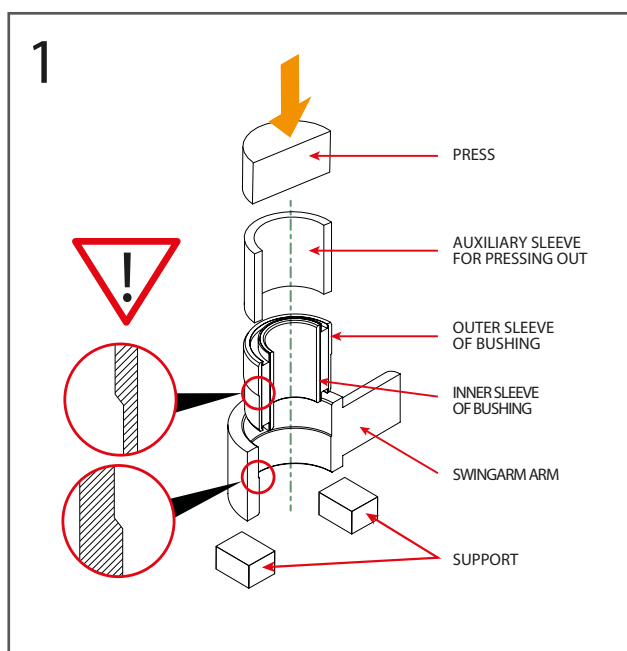
One such example may be the rear lateral rod bushing in the 1993-2000 Ford Mondeo. At the moment when the bushing is placed in the swingarm – it may happen that we overlook the fact that it has 2 different dimensions. Therefore, it is important to take measurements before pressing in the bushing. Remember to press in from a smaller diameter to a larger one. Otherwise, the swingarm socket will be pushed apart, which will result in the newly pressed bushing not being properly seated. Of course, pressing in a new bushing also requires paying attention to the direction of pressing. The same as in the case of differences between the control arm replacements from the original ones, here also the replacements may differ. Some manufacturers use different bushing diameters in their replacements (often giving up two-dimensional ones) than in the original. You should then check the diameter of the socket in the swingarm being repaired, because in such cases the bushing matching the swingarm OE will not fit, which may cause its malfunction.



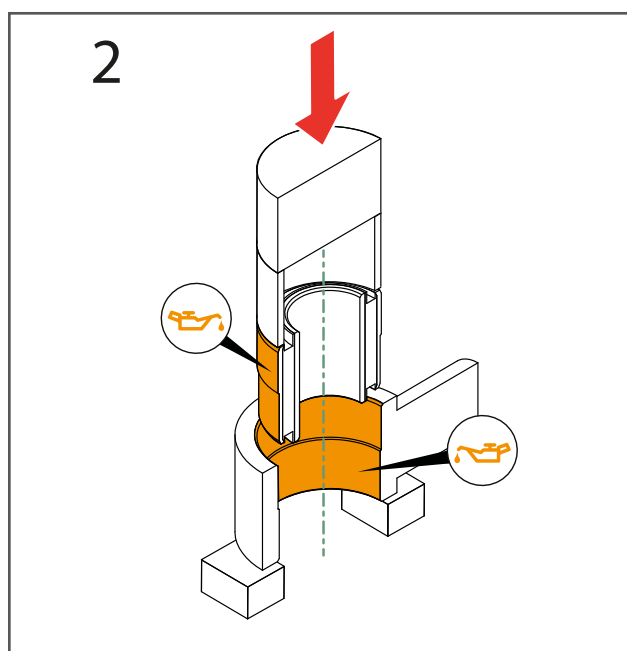
Examples of elements with two dimensions of the outer sleeve:



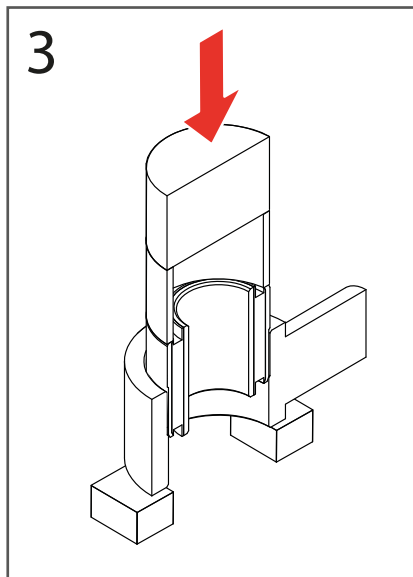
Correct assembly method:



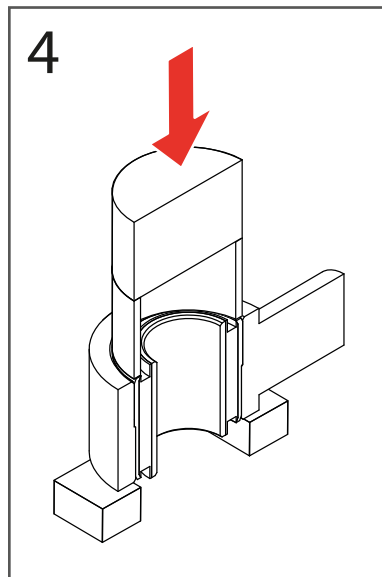
Proper preparation of elements for the pressing process (it is important to press the sleeve with the narrow side)



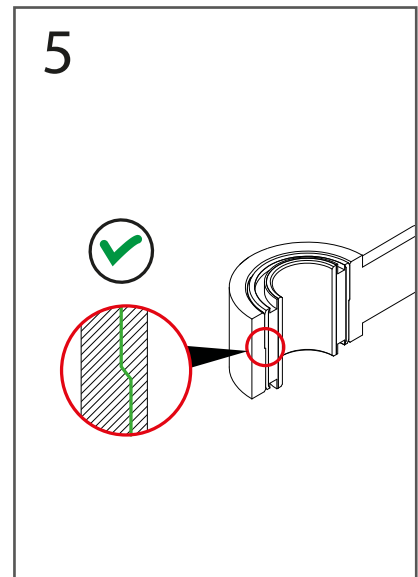
Lubricate marked areas (outer surface of bushing and inner surface of swingarm socket).



When pressing in, be aware not to allow the crooked insertion of the bushing.

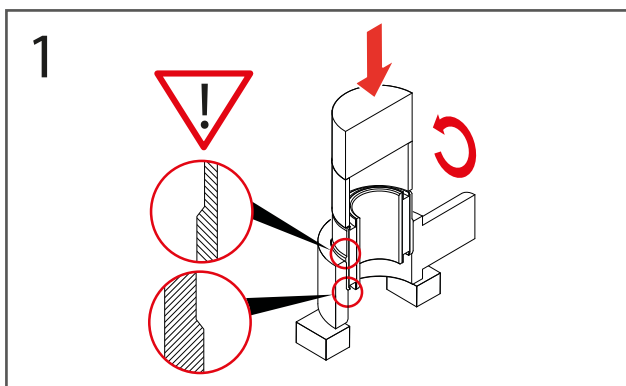


The new bushing should easily go into the socket.

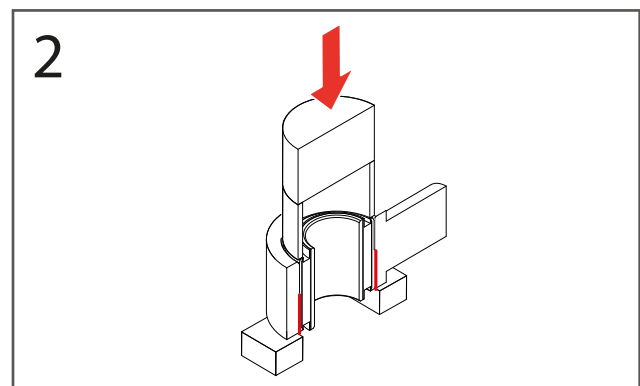


Correctly pressed in bushing fits the shape of control arm socket.

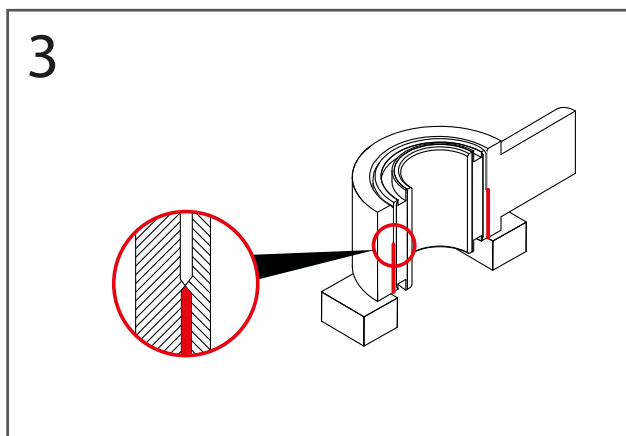
X Incorrect installation method:



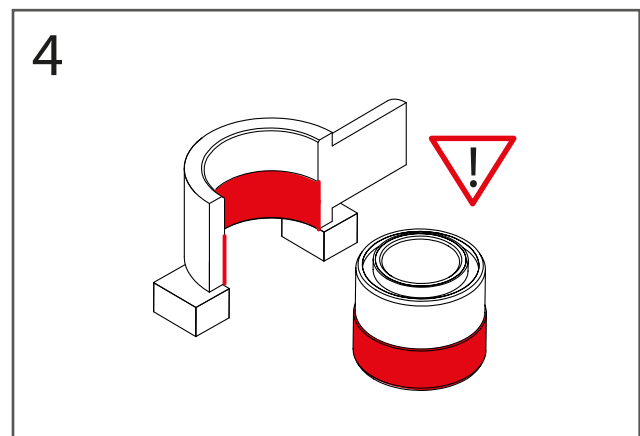
Incorrect assembly (pressing the bushing wider side into the control arm).



There are problems with pressing in on the marked area.



Result of wrong preparation of elements for the pressing process (the bushing wasn't pressed in by narrow side).



The damage of socket and bushing itself resulted in a inability to re-press the bushing correctly.