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RockShox Judy Gold RL Suspension Fork

RockShox Judy Gold RL Suspension Fork User Manual

Model: Judy Gold RL (Part Number: RSF556015)

1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The RockShox Judy Gold RL is a high-performance suspension fork designed for mountain biking. It features 120mm of travel, a 27.5-inch wheel compatibility, and a 9x100mm quick-release axle. This fork is equipped with the Motion Control damper, offering adjustable compression (including lockout) and rebound damping to optimize ride quality across various terrains.



Figure 1: Front view of the RockShox Judy Gold RL Suspension Fork. This image shows the overall structure of the fork, including the crown, stanchions, lower legs, and dropouts.

2. INSTALLATION

Proper installation is crucial for the safety and performance of your suspension fork. If you are unsure about any step, consult a professional bicycle mechanic.

2.1 Steerer Tube Preparation

1. **Measure and Cut Steerer Tube:** Determine the correct steerer tube length for your bicycle frame and stem. Mark the cut line, ensuring sufficient length for the stem and any spacers. Use a hacksaw guide for a straight cut.
2. **Install Crown Race:** Carefully install the crown race onto the steerer tube until it is fully seated against the fork crown. Use a dedicated crown race setting tool to prevent damage.

2.2 Fork Mounting

1. Insert the steerer tube into the head tube of your bicycle frame.
2. Install any necessary headset spacers and your stem.
3. Install the top cap and bolt, tightening it to remove play from the headset.
4. Align the stem with the front wheel and tighten the stem clamp bolts to the manufacturer's recommended torque specifications.

2.3 Brake Caliper Installation

Mount your disc brake caliper to the fork's post mounts. Ensure the correct adapter is used for your rotor size. Tighten the caliper bolts to the brake manufacturer's torque specifications.

2.4 Wheel Installation

Install your 27.5-inch front wheel into the fork dropouts. Ensure the quick-release skewer is properly aligned and tightened securely. The 9x100mm axle requires a standard quick-release skewer.

3. SETUP AND ADJUSTMENT

Optimizing your fork's settings will significantly improve your riding experience.

3.1 Air Spring Adjustment

The Judy Gold RL uses an air spring. Air pressure determines the fork's stiffness and sag.

1. **Locate Air Valve:** The Schrader air valve is typically located under the cap on the top of the left fork leg.
2. **Set Sag:** Sag is the amount the fork compresses under your body weight. A common starting point for trail riding is 15-25% of total travel. Refer to the RockShox air spring chart (often found on the fork leg or RockShox website) for recommended pressure based on rider weight.
3. **Adjust Pressure:** Use a high-pressure shock pump to add or release air. Cycle the fork a few times after each adjustment to equalize pressure.



Figure 2: Close-up view of the fork arch, displaying the 'JUDY' branding. This section connects the two lower legs for structural integrity.

3.2 Rebound Adjustment

Rebound damping controls how quickly the fork extends after compression. The rebound adjuster is typically a red knob located at the bottom of the right fork leg.

- **Slower Rebound:** Turn the knob clockwise (towards the 'turtle' symbol, if present) to slow down the rebound. This is generally preferred for rougher terrain to prevent the fork from 'pogo-sticking'.
- **Faster Rebound:** Turn the knob counter-clockwise (towards the 'rabbit' symbol, if present) to speed up the rebound. This can be useful for smoother trails or when you need the fork to recover quickly.

3.3 Compression Adjustment (Lockout)

The Judy Gold RL features a Motion Control damper with compression adjustment, including a lockout function. This adjuster is located on the top of the right fork leg.

- **Open Position:** Turn the knob counter-clockwise to the fully open position for maximum suspension activity, ideal for technical descents and rough trails.
- **Lockout Position:** Turn the knob clockwise to the fully closed position to lock out the fork. This minimizes suspension movement, beneficial for climbing or riding on smooth surfaces.



Figure 3: Close-up of the fork crown, showing the compression adjuster (blue knob) on the right leg and the air valve cap on the left leg. These controls allow for fine-tuning of the fork's performance.

4. OPERATING THE FORK

Once installed and set up, the Judy Gold RL fork is ready for use. Always wear appropriate safety gear when riding.

- **Trail Riding:** For most trail conditions, operate the fork in the open compression setting. Adjust rebound to suit the terrain and your riding style.
- **Climbing/Smooth Surfaces:** Engage the lockout for increased pedaling efficiency on climbs or smooth roads. Remember to disengage it before encountering rough terrain.

- **Pre-Ride Check:** Before each ride, ensure your quick-release skewer is tight, brake lines are clear, and there is no excessive play in the headset or fork.

5. MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance extends the life and performance of your RockShox Judy Gold RL fork.

5.1 Cleaning

- After each ride, wipe down the stanchions (the shiny upper tubes) with a clean, soft cloth to remove dirt and debris.
- Clean the entire fork with mild soap and water. Avoid high-pressure washers directly on seals.

5.2 Service Intervals

Refer to the official RockShox service manual for detailed service schedules. General guidelines include:

- **Every 50 hours of riding or annually:** Lower leg service (cleaning, inspection, and replacement of dust wipers and foam rings, fresh lower leg fluid).
- **Every 200 hours of riding or biennially:** Full service (includes lower leg service, air spring service, and damper service).

It is recommended that full services be performed by an authorized RockShox service center or a qualified mechanic.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

Here are some common issues and their potential solutions:

Issue	Possible Cause	Solution
Loss of travel / Fork feels stiff	Insufficient air pressure, air trapped in lower legs, worn seals.	Check and adjust air pressure. Perform lower leg service.
Fork feels 'pogo-stick' / Too fast rebound	Rebound set too fast.	Turn rebound adjuster clockwise to slow down.
Fork feels sluggish / Too slow rebound	Rebound set too slow.	Turn rebound adjuster counter-clockwise to speed up.
Oil leakage around seals	Dirty or worn dust wipers/seals.	Clean stanchions and seals. If leakage persists, replace seals during lower leg service.
Knocking or clunking noise	Loose headset, worn bushings, damper issue.	Check headset tightness. If noise persists, professional inspection is recommended.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Key technical specifications for the RockShox Judy Gold RL Suspension Fork:

- **Model Name:** Judy Gold RL
- **Part Number:** RSF556015
- **Brand:** RockShox
- **Wheel Size:** 27.5 Inches

- **Travel:** 120 mm
- **Axle Type:** 9 x 100 mm Quick Release
- **Offset:** 42 mm
- **Damper:** Motion Control RL
- **Spring:** Solo Air
- **Steerer Tube:** (Please verify specific steerer type for your model, as variations exist)
- **Brake Mount:** Post Mount
- **Color:** Black
- **Item Weight:** Approximately 200 Grams (fork only, without steerer tube cut or hardware)
- **UPC:** 710845844881, 710845844928

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

RockShox products are covered by a limited warranty against defects in materials and workmanship. For specific warranty terms and conditions, please refer to the official RockShox warranty policy available on their website.

For technical support, service, or warranty claims, please contact your authorized RockShox dealer or visit the official RockShox website. You can find more information and resources by visiting the [RockShox Store](#).