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Dorman 521-793

Dorman 521-793 Front Left Upper Control Arm Instruction Manual

Model: 521-793



1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the proper installation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of the Dorman 521-793 Front Left Upper Control Arm. This component is designed for specific vehicle applications to restore original equipment performance and safety.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

WARNING: Automotive repair can be dangerous. Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including safety glasses and gloves. Ensure the vehicle is properly supported on jack stands before beginning any work. Consult a professional mechanic if you are unsure about any step of the installation process. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or vehicle damage.

- Always refer to your vehicle's service manual for specific torque specifications and procedures.
- Do not reuse old hardware unless explicitly stated.
- Ensure all fasteners are tightened to the manufacturer's recommended torque.
- After installation, a professional wheel alignment is highly recommended.

3. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that all components are present and undamaged before beginning installation.

- 1x Dorman 521-793 Front Left Upper Control Arm
- Necessary mounting hardware (if included with the specific package)



Image 1: The Dorman 521-793 Front Left Upper Control Arm, showing its overall structure and ball joint.

4. INSTALLATION

This section outlines the general steps for installing the Dorman 521-793 Front Left Upper Control Arm. Specific procedures may vary by vehicle. Always consult your vehicle's service manual.

1. **Prepare the Vehicle:** Park the vehicle on a level surface, engage the parking brake, and block the rear wheels. Loosen the lug nuts on the front left wheel.
2. **Lift and Secure:** Safely lift the front of the vehicle using a jack and support it with appropriate jack stands. Remove the front left wheel.
3. **Remove Old Control Arm:**
 - Locate the upper control arm.
 - Remove the cotter pin and castle nut from the upper ball joint stud.
 - Use a ball joint separator tool to separate the ball joint from the steering knuckle.
 - Remove the bolts securing the control arm to the vehicle frame/chassis.
 - Carefully remove the old control arm.
4. **Install New Control Arm:**
 - Position the new Dorman 521-793 control arm into place.
 - Insert the bolts through the frame/chassis mounting points and hand-tighten them. *Do not fully tighten at this stage.*
 - Insert the ball joint stud into the steering knuckle. Install the new castle nut and tighten it to the manufacturer's specified torque. Install a new cotter pin.
 - With the vehicle's weight on the suspension (or simulated by a jack under the lower control arm), tighten the frame/chassis mounting bolts to the manufacturer's specified torque. This prevents premature bushing wear.
5. **Reassemble and Check:** Reinstall the wheel, lower the vehicle, and tighten the lug nuts to specification. Double-check all fasteners for proper torque.
6. **Wheel Alignment:** It is crucial to have a professional wheel alignment performed immediately after replacing suspension components to ensure proper handling and tire wear.



Image 2: A different view of the Dorman 521-793 control arm, highlighting the bushings and ball joint.

5. MAINTENANCE

Regular inspection of suspension components is recommended to ensure vehicle safety and performance.

- **Visual Inspection:** Periodically inspect the control arm, ball joint boot, and bushings for signs of wear, cracks, tears, or damage.
- **Noise Check:** Listen for unusual noises (clunking, squeaking) from the suspension, which may indicate worn components.
- **Professional Check:** Have your suspension system professionally inspected during routine vehicle maintenance.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

Symptom	Possible Cause	Solution
Clunking or rattling noise over bumps	Loose fasteners, worn ball joint, or worn bushings.	Inspect and tighten all fasteners. Check ball joint and bushings for wear and replace if necessary.
Uneven tire wear	Incorrect wheel alignment, worn ball joint, or worn bushings.	Perform a professional wheel alignment. Inspect and replace worn components.
Vehicle pulls to one side	Incorrect wheel alignment, damaged control arm, or worn components.	Perform a professional wheel alignment. Inspect control arm and related components for damage.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

- **Part Number:** 521-793
- **Brand:** Dorman
- **Fit Type:** Vehicle Specific Fit
- **Item Weight:** Approximately 4.2 pounds
- **Product Dimensions:** Approximately 15.8 x 1 x 12.5 inches
- **Position:** Front Left Upper



Image 3: Example of a typical mounting nut, often used with control arms, emphasizing the importance of correct hardware.

