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Congratulations on your purchase of Viking Crusader[™] double adjustable shock absorbers! You can rest assured that you are getting the best value for your dollar with Viking high performance shocks.

INSTALLATION / TUNING GUIDE FOR VIKING CRUSADER™ DOUBLE ADJUSTABLE GM / MUSTANG II KITS

[Part Numbers Beginning A301xx – A3xxxx]

*Note: It is strongly recommended that you purchase a spanner wrench and thrust bearing kit (part #**7995-102**) for ease of adjustment.

INSTALLATION

Please read these instructions carefully and entirely prior to installing your new Viking shocks.

- 1. Verify that your shocks are the correct lengths and mount style before beginning installation. Contact your chassis builder, supplier or Viking if you have any questions.
- 2. Measure your vehicle's ride height by measuring from the center point of the fender lip down to the ground. Mark the spot you measured to for later reference.
- 3. Reference your vehicle's owner's manual to determine the proper jacking locations, and the instructions for removing the shocks and springs. **FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS CAN RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**
- 4. Jack your vehicle up until the tires do not touch the ground and the suspension hangs freely and remove the wheels. Remove the shocks and sway bar mounts, if applicable, and retain all mounting hardware.
- 5. **Important:** Ensure that factory or replacement compression bumpers are in place and in good condition prior to installing the shocks. Also check other components on the chassis such as bushings, ball joints, etc. and replace if needed.
- 6. Use a floor jack to support the lower control arm and remove the cotter pin and ball joint nut from the lower ball joint. Loosen the ball joint stud from the spindle using a tie rod / ball joint separator. **Carefully and slowly** release the lower control arm assembly by lowering the floor jack until the spring can be safely removed.
- 7. Remove the hardware that retained the stock shock in the lower control arm. Clean the mounting bolt holes thoroughly. You may need to slightly open them using a file or 3/8" drill bit.
- 8. Important: Verify the shock body will clear the spring pocket sheet metal. These tolerances varied greatly out of the factory, and this pocket may need to be opened up to allow adequate clearance for the shock body.
- 9. Install one stud washer and one bushing (half of the shock stud bushing pack) onto the stud.
- 10. Fully extend the piston rod.
- 11. Screw the lock nut (shoulder up) and the spring nut (shoulder up) down to the last thread **only** (See figure on the right).

- 12. Apply anti-seize to the threads on the nuts and the shock. If the Viking thrust bearing kit is used (recommended), coat both washers with anti-seize. Install the spring seat washer, then the bearing, then the second washer. If you do not use the thrust bearing kit, then coat one side of the washer supplied with the shock with anti-seize and place it coated side down on the spring nut. THE WARRANTY IS VOID AND DOES NOT COVER DAMAGE TO THE SHOCK RESULTING FROM THE FAILURE TO APPLY ANTI-SEIZE PRIOR TO MAKING RIDE HEIGHT ADJUSTMENTS.
- 13. Install the spring onto the shock, putting the small end of the spring over the shock body and down onto the spring seat.
- 14. **For GM Kits:** Install the shock with the T-bar on top of the lower control arm with the adjustment knobs facing out toward the spindle utilizing the 3/8" bolts and nylock nuts. Before tightening, ensure that the shock is centered in the lower control arm.
- 15. **For Mustang II Kits:** If necessary, drill out the lower control arm bolt holes to the appropriate size depending on the shock style selected. If applicable, insert the bearing in a twisting motion. It may be necessary to press the bearings into the shock. If so, do **not** press on the ball; press only on the race surrounding the ball. Install snap rings on both sides of each bearing and ensure they are fully seated in the loops.
- 16. Jack the control arm up very slowly until the shock stud extends through the factory mount while vertically rotating the assembly and making sure that the shock is not binding. You may need to also rotate the spring until it is properly located in the factory recesses.
- 17. Install the upper stud bushing, washer and nut.
- 18. Reassemble the lower a-arm and the spindle. Torque the spindle nut to factory specifications and insert the cotter pin.
- 19. Adjust the spring nut up about 1/3 of the way from the bottom of the threads on the shock.
- 20. Reattach the wheels and torque everything to the specifications defined by the vehicle's manufacturer.
- 21. Verify that there is clearance around the coil-over shock and that the suspension does not bind at all, even when wheels are turned to full lock position.
- 22. Carefully place the car on the ground to check clearances again. Lightly bounce the vehicle at each corner to verify that there are not any clearance issues.
- 23. Measure the ride height as you did prior to installation and ensure that there is sufficient travel in both directions. Ideally, 60% of the shock stroke is available for compression. Adjust the ride height **only** with the weight of the vehicle fully off of the tires. **THE WARRANTY IS VOID AND DOES NOT COVER DAMAGE TO THE SHOCK DUE TO INCORRECT RIDE HEIGHT OR BY MAKING RIDE HEIGHT ADJUSTMENTS WITHOUT THE TIRES RAISED OFF THE GROUND.** Raise or lower the ride height by adjusting the spring nut to achieve the desired ride height. If it is at the extreme top or bottom of the threads, then you may need a softer or heavier spring.
- 24. Once ride height is correct, spin the lock nut up to the bottom of the spring nut and lock them together using the two spanner wrenches.
- 25. It is important to note that your **shocks should never be used as a travel limiter**. Straps or cables made for travel limitation should be used prevent topping out. Vehicles used in a manner where they could bottom out the shocks (such as drag racing) should use a higher rate spring and a bump stop to help prevent shock damage. Any shock can be damaged from wheel stands despite bump stops.
- 26. Have your front end realigned upon completion of installation.

VIKING CRUSADERTM TUNING AND ADJUSTMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Vehicles used on the street, drag cars, and road racers will all have different needs in terms of shock valving. However, it does not stop there. Driver style / capability, road / track conditions, vehicle type (car vs. pickup, etc.), vehicle weight, horsepower, tires, etc. all create different needs in terms of shock valving. That is the beauty of a double adjustable shock. Your Viking Crusader™ shocks have a total of 19 positions (18 clicks plus a zero position) of compression adjustment and a total of 22 positions (21 clicks plus a zero position) of rebound adjustment, for a total of 418 different valvings. Compression and rebound are independently controlled on the Viking shocks. The "C" knob adjusts compression, while the "R" knob adjusts rebound. Every Viking shock is tested on a dynamometer prior to shipment to ensure that it is functioning properly. Manually moving a shock is not an accurate testing method for ensuring that shocks are functioning properly. Position zero is the softest setting and is found by turning the knob counterclockwise until the positive stop is located. Only very light force is needed to adjust the knobs; do not ever force the knob past its intended stop as doing so will damage the shock.

Recommended baseline points for adjusting your shocks are outlined below. However, you must consider the shock Crusader[™] valving purchased, as these shocks are valved for a specific purpose. As such, while the shock setting can be changed, the "CR" valving was not designed for auto-cross or drag competition. Also, keep in mind the following:

Ride Quality:

In general, for excellent ride quality and decent handling, the rebound should be set roughly 4 to 8 clicks higher than the compression on the front and 2 to 6 clicks higher on the rear.

Handling (Auto-Cross/Road Race):

The handling and autocross settings will vary depending on spring rate. For example, if very firm springs are utilized, the compression setting might be set softer and the rebound setting firmer. In addition, the track condition will also have an impact on the settings. For a rough track, it may be necessary to soften the rebound, as the vehicle may have a tendency to skip across the track if you encounter a rough surface in a corner.

Drag Race:

For drag racing, a lot will depend on how the driver wants the car to react. Does the racer want to maximize weight transfer? If so, the front will be set with a stiffer compression and soft rebound, while the rear will have a soft compression and stiffer rebound. If the racer desires to limit weight transfer, the setting will go in the opposite direction. Track conditions will also impact the settings. For example, a hot slick track will often require stiffer compression and rebound. In addition, as a general rule of thumb, if the tires spin at the hit, soften the rebound. If the tires spin after the initial hook, stiffen the rebound (the compression can also be stiffened in this instance).

Comfortable Ride / Cruise ("CR" kit) - Crusader™ "CD" Valving

Ride Quality/Street: Front ("CD"): 1 - 4 compression; 8 - 12 rebound

Rear ("CD"): 0 - 3 compression; 4 - 8 rebound

Handling: Front ("CD"): 8 - 12 compression; 18 - 21 rebound

Rear ("CD"): 7 - 11 compression; 15 - 18 rebound

Drag Racing: Front ("CD"): 12 - 16 compression; 0 - 4 rebound

Rear ("CD"): 0 - 4 compression; 10 - 14 rebound

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Drag-Lower Horsepower ("DL" kit) – Crusader™ "AD" Front & "AJ" Rear Valving

Ride Quality/Street: Front ("AD"): 1 - 4 compression; 5 - 9 rebound

Rear ("AJ"): 0 - 3 compression; 3 - 7 rebound

Handling: Front ("AD"): 8 - 12 compression; 14 - 18 rebound

Rear ("AJ"): 7 - 11 compression; 11 - 15 rebound

Drag Racing: Front ("AD"): 12 - 16 compression; 0 - 4 rebound (weight transfer) Rear ("AJ"): 0 - 4 compression; 6 - 10 rebound

Drag-Higher Horsepower ("DH" kit) − Crusader[™] "AP" Front & "AM" Rear Valving

Ride Quality/Street: Front ("AP"): 1 - 4 compression; 3 - 6 rebound

Rear ("AM"): 0 - 3 compression; 3 - 6 rebound

Handling: Front ("AP"): 8 - 12 compression; 10 - 14 rebound

Rear ("AM"): 7 - 11 compression; 12 - 16 rebound

Drag Racing: Front ("AP"): 8 - 12 compression; 15 - 19 rebound (front tie-down) Rear ("AM"): 7 - 11 compression; 8 - 14 rebound

Drag Racing: Front ("AP"): 12 - 16 compression; 0 - 4 rebound (weight transfer) Rear ("AM"): 0 - 4 compression; 6 - 12 rebound

Pro-Touring ("PT" kit) - Crusader™ "AP" Valving

Ride Quality/Street: Front ("AP"): 1 - 4 compression; 3 - 6 rebound

Rear ("AP"): 0 - 3 compression; 1 - 4 rebound

Handling: Front ("AP"): 8 - 12 compression; 10 - 14 rebound

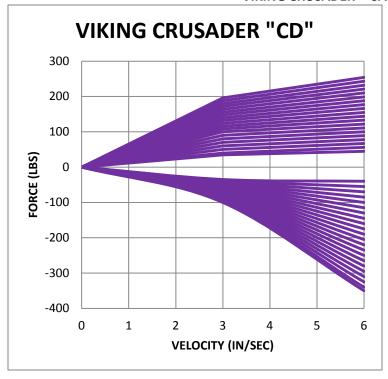
Rear ("AP"): 7 - 11 compression; 8 - 12 rebound

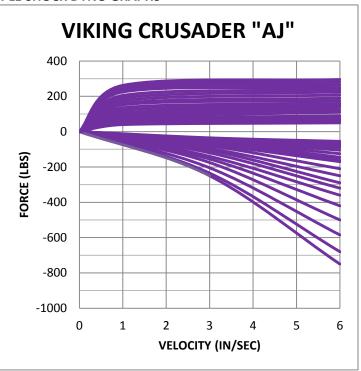
Drag Racing: Front ("AP"): 8 - 12 compression; 15 - 19 rebound (front tie-down) Rear ("AP"): 7 - 11 compression; 6 - 10 rebound

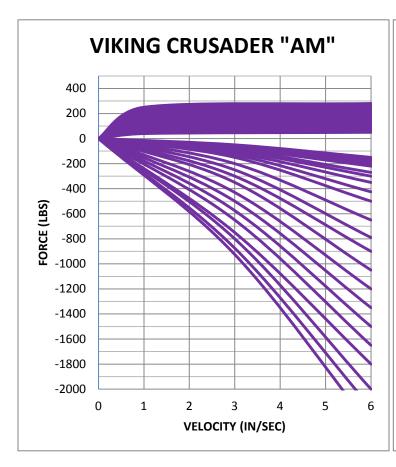
Drag Racing: Front ("AP"): 12 - 16 compression; 0 - 4 rebound (weight transfer) Rear ("AP"): 0 - 4 compression; 4 - 8 rebound

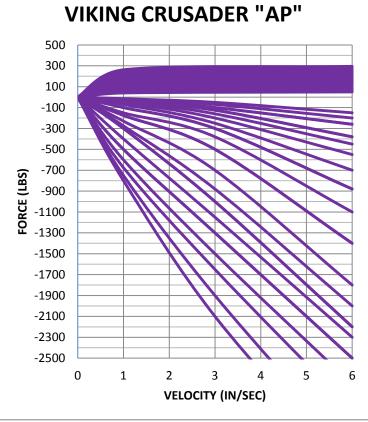
NOTE: The above recommended starting points are suggestions. These settings may or may not work for your application. Certain vehicle/driver/track combinations may have optimal shock settings completely outside of these ranges and may even be at an extreme, such as full max on rebound. That is the beauty of a double adjustable shock absorber... you can set it where it works the best for you and your set-up!

VIKING CRUSADER[™] SAMPLE SHOCK DYNO GRAPHS









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CRUSADER[™] **REBOUND REVALVE INSTRUCTIONS**

The following instructions are meant to explain how to successfully change the rebound valving on our Crusader[™] series shock. This does not pertain to the compression side valving – do not open the compression side. If any of the instructions are unclear or you experience any difficulties please contact Viking Performance technical department.

Tools needed:

• 5/64" Allen Wrench

• 5/8" Socket & Ratcheting Wrench

• Small Syringe

Vise

Flat Head Screw Driver

• Torque Wrench

Tweezers

Before disassembling the shock, be sure that the shock and work station are clean. Any foreign debris that could enter the shock hydraulic system can severely damage the product and/or the vehicle.

Removal:

1. Adjust the rebound knob so it is rotated all the way counterclockwise, at the zero position. The rebound knob is the right knob labeled with the letter "R". Loosen the set screw on the side of the rebound adjustment knob with a 5/64" Allen wrench. The set screw does not have to be completely removed; simply back the set screw out 5 to 6 revolutions to avoid misplacing it. This will allow the knob to be removed. Be careful to not misplace the small ball bearing and spring when removing the knob. Once the knob is removed, the adjuster stud and nut is exposed.





2. Mount the shock in the vise so the rebound stud is facing up. **Make sure the piston rod is all the way extended.** Failure to do this will result in a loss of shock oil.







3. Remove the 5/8" adjuster nut with a socket and ratcheting wrench, and then remove the adjuster stud/needle assembly.

Continue on to the next step if you are replacing both the valve needle and the seat; multiple needles work with the same seat, so removal of the seat as explained in the next steps is not always necessary.

4. Take the small syringe and carefully remove the small amount of oil in the rebound cavity. Do not discard this oil: save it in the syringe, or place it in a small clean container to use later. Removing this small amount of oil will expose the valve seat.







5. Unscrew the valve seat with a flat head screw driver and carefully remove the seat with a tweezers.

Installation:

Make sure that you are installing the correct needle and seat combination. Failure to do this can potentially result in a complete blockage of oil flow, which can cause damage to the shock and/or the vehicle.

- 1. Drop the seat down into the rebound hole and securely tighten it using the flat blade screw-driver.
- 2. Fill the rebound valve cavity up with the oil that was previously removed in the removal process.
- 3. Prepare the new needle valve. Unscrew the adjuster from the old needle and assemble it to the new needle valve. This adjuster has left hand threads. Make sure there is an O-ring installed around the needle valve and that it is not damaged.
- 4. Place the needle valve in the rebound valve cavity and thread on the adjuster nut.
- 5. Using a torque wrench, secure the adjuster nut to **XXX** lbs. /in.
- 6. Reinstall the rebound adjuster knob. Place the small spring in one of the holes on the back side of the knob. Place a small amount of grease on top of the spring and set the ball bearing on top. The grease will temporarily hold the ball in place when installing the knob.
- 7. Ensure the rebound stud is turned all the way counterclockwise. Try turning the stud with pliers to verify that it is snug.
- 8. Place the knob on the stud, making sure the ball bearing lines up on top with one of the 6 divots in the adjuster nut*. Firmly place pressure on the knob and tighten the set screw.



^{*}After installation is complete, check to make sure that when you turn the rebound all the way soft (turn counterclockwise), it lands perfectly on a "click" and doesn't fall in between "clicks". If it is in between clicks, then the knob was installed incorrectly. The adjuster stud was either not turned all the way counterclockwise or the ball bearing wasn't aligned with a divot.

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In order to be eligible for service under this v	varranty, return the defective part to Viking together with the pre-approved R.G.A.
number issued by Viking. Tag each item with	the part number and the specific explanation of defect. All returns must be shipped
prepaid to: Viking Performance, Inc., RGA #_	, 21401 Hemlock Ave., Lakeville, MN 55044.

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