

## “Strut your stuff”

### The low down on hydraulic strut tensioners

Did you know that replacement hydraulic struts/tensioners are now available through Goodyear? These types of serpentine belt tensioners use a hydraulic strut to tension and dampen the belt drive instead of the common spring loaded type tensioner. The pictures below show a replacement strut (49304) as well as a complete hydraulic strut type tensioner assembly (Goodyear P/N 49303).

The hydraulic strut tensioning system is used by BMW, Honda, Mercedes and Toyota. The Goodyear line up (with the exception of 49303) allows you to purchase the strut only (if required). This can save you time and money! To replace the strut, the mechanic simply needs to remove the serpentine belt and then remove the bolts which secure the strut to the engine and tensioner bracket, replace the hydraulic tensioning strut and re-install the belt.



49304



49303

The hydraulic tensioners operate in a similar manner as a shock absorber on the car's suspension. You'll notice that these tensioners are packaged in a box with a “storage up” label. Never install the hydraulic strut upside down. If unsure, always make note of orientation of the part being replaced prior to removal or reference the service manual.

When inspecting a hydraulic strut type tensioner remember the following...

### **Look, Listen, Feel...**

**Look:** Look for obvious signs of damage. Look at the rubber boot as well as the plastic bushings. Look for signs of oil leaking from the strut. With the engine running, look to see if there is excessive motion in the strut. Look at the belt ribs. Are they cracked or worn? Now is the time to change your belt if it exhibits any of these warning signs.

**Listen:** Listen for any abnormal noises coming from the strut of the pulley. Metallic type whining/buzz type noises that change with increasing RPM may indicate a bad pulley bearing.

**Feel:** With the engine shut off, use the correct tool to stroke the tensioner through its full range. Does it feel smooth? Does it feel like there is excessive up and down play? All of these are reasons to change the tensioner. Also, remove the belt and spin the pulley. Is it noisy or feel rough? If it feels rough or noisy now is the time to change it.

You will find that Goodyear is very competitive on these replacement struts. Contact your local Goodyear dealer to learn more about hydraulic struts, so you can “Strut your stuff”.