COGNITO SM Series Bolt-In Ball Joint Upper Control Arm Kit for 2014-2018 GM 1500 2WD/4WD Trucks and SUVs with Aluminum or Stamped Steel Control Arms

INSTALL INSTRUCTIONS:

COGNITO SM Series Bolt-In Ball Joint Upper Control Arm Kit for 2014-2018 GM 1500 2WD/4WD Trucks and SUVs with Aluminum or Stamped Steel Control Arms
SKU: 110-90293

COMPONENTS INCLUDED:

QUANTITY	PART #	DESCRIPTION
1	80034	COGNITO 2001-2010 GM HD SM Bolt-In Ball Joint UCA DRVR
1	80035	COGNITO 2001-2010 GM HD SM Bolt-In Ball Joint UCA PASS
2	91334	Bolt-In Ball Joint, Large GM
1	HP9321	Hardware Pack

INTRODUCTION

The Cognito Ball Joint SM Series Upper Control Arm Kit is a direct replacement for vehicles fitted with the factory cast steel upper control arms (UCAs). The Cognito UCA kit will add performance to your Chevrolet and GMC truck by adding caster and correcting the ball joint angle for lifted and leveled applications. The allowable droop travel is also improved with the design of these arms. The Cognito UCA kit can also be used with a Cognito spindle replacement lift kit. Designed and made in the USA

TECH NOTES:

- Read instructions carefully and study the pictures (if included) before attempting installation.
- If this product was purchased as part of a bundle/package, familiarize yourself with each set of instructions included with the bundle/package before beginning.
- Check the parts and hardware packages against the parts list to assure that your kit is complete before starting.
- Ball joints come pre-greased from the factory.



WARNING

Please read this entire instruction sheet before beginning installation. Proper installation of these components requires a qualified mechanic. Always wear safety glasses when using power tools, and take appropriate precautions when working under a vehicle. If these instructions are not properly followed you may jeopardize your, and your passenger's safety, and severe frame, suspension or tire damage may also result from improper installation.
Modification of vehicle suspension can interfere with ride-height sensors, active suspension, lane departure features, semi-autonomous, and autonomous driving features. It is the responsibility of the installer to determine feature compatibility prior to installation. Recalibration of sensors may be required in the event of any modification.

BALL JOINT WARNING:

The upper control arm is not designed to be the droop limiter, ball joint failure will occur if the upper arm is used as the droop limiter. A shock or limit strap is required to be the limiter. It is required that the proper length shock from Cognito or a limit strap kit from Cognito be installed to prevent failure which could cause an accident and serious injury. If you have questions, please contact the Cognito Sales Team to have you questions or concerns addressed.

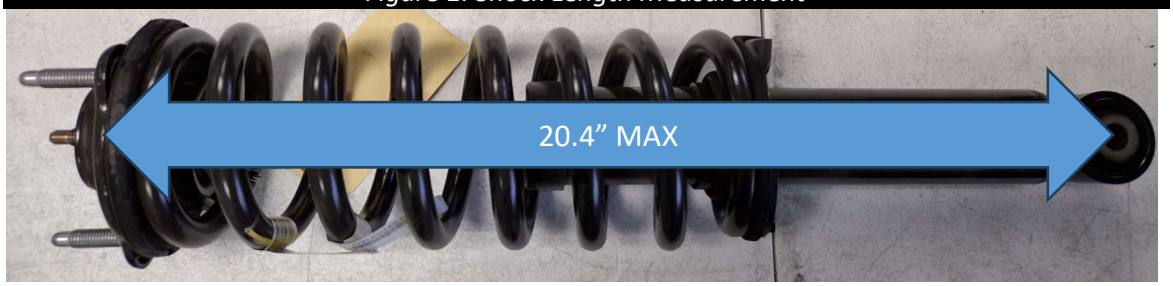
REQUIREMENTS

- **The upper control arm is not designed to be the droop limiter, ball joint failure will occur if the upper arm is used as the droop limiter. A shock or limit strap is required to be the limiter. It is required that the proper length shock from Cognito or a limit strap kit from Cognito be installed to prevent failure which could cause an accident and serious injury. When installing the upper control arms, it is critical that the lower control arm be properly supported to limit the movement of the suspension. Removal of droop limiting parts while the torsion bar is loaded can result is sudden and rapid movement of the suspension, potentially resulting in damage to components, serious injury or death.**
- Minor modification of the OEM spindle ball joint receptacle may be required to accommodate the larger upgraded ball joint.
- Cutting of the service perch under the front upper arm frame pivot may be needed on some vehicles.
- The stock wheel and tire will fit with this UCA kit. Using a tire larger than the factory tires on the factory wheels may result in interference issues (rubbing, damage, noises, etc.).
    - Use of appropriate wheel spacers, and proper fender trimming may be required depending on aftermarket wheel and tire.
- Proper shocks and shock lengths must be used or damage to the control arms, ball joints, and vehicle will occur.
- Installation requires a qualified mechanic.
- Follow the OE specifications when replacing or re-installing OE fasteners, retainers, and hardware specified in the OEM service manual.
- Always wear safety glasses when using power tools.
- When a lift is required to perform the installation of these products ensure the vehicle is properly supported before attempting installation or serious injury may occur.

INSTALLATION

1. **It is critical that the correct length shock is used**, using a shock that is too long will cause the upper ball joint to bind and break. **For this upper control arm kit, when used in a stock-height or leveling application, the maximum shock length that can be used is 20.4" from the center of the lower eyelet to the mounting face at the top of the strut hat. Any spacers added to the shock must be included in this measurement [FIGURE 1]**. If this UCA kit is used with any other parts then specified, warranty will be void on this arm kit, and damage may occur to arms, ball joints, tie rods, cv axles and possibly more.

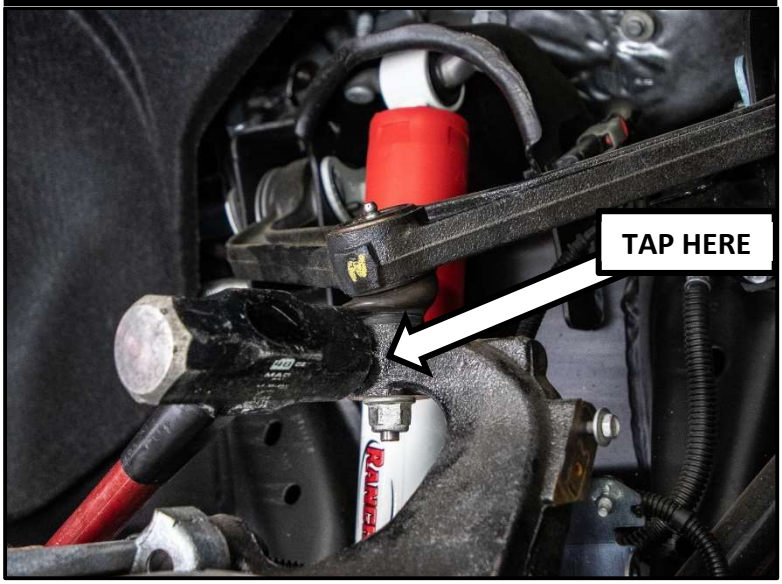
Figure 1: Shock Length Measurement



2. Place the truck on a flat surface with the parking brake engaged, chock the rear tires.
3. Use a suitable floor jack in the manufacturer designated spot on the frame to lift the front of the truck, then place a suitable jack stand under the frame and set the truck down securely on the jack stand. NEVER WORK UNDER AN UNSUPPORTED VEHICLE. Remove the front wheels and tires.

4. Remove the factory upper control arms by supporting the lower control arms with a floor jack or stand used in a safe fashion. Loosen the ball joint nut of the upper control arm enough until the nut can be spun by hand, but do not remove totally. Use a pickle fork to separate the ball joint from the spindle or tap on the side of the spindle next to the ball joint stud. When the tapered seat of the ball joint breaks loose, remove the ball joint nut, and separate the factory upper control arm from the spindle. **[FIGURE 1]**

Figure 1: UCA and Spindle Disassembly



5. Remove the factory bolts and eccentric washers that connect the control arm to the frame and retain them for future use. Place them aside and note the order in which the components were removed, that way they may be re-installed in the same manner they came off.

6. After removing the UCA, locate a cutting tool (such as a reciprocating saw) and cut both the driver and passenger side service perch. **[FIGURE 2 & 3]**

- **NOTE:**
  Warranty on Cognito products will be void if damage occurs due to collision with the factory service perch and/or shock tower.
  Use safety gear (face shield, safety glasses, gloves, etc.) and make sure all brake lines and wires are clear of cutting area.
  Exposed raw metal should be coated or painted to prevent corrosion.

Figure 2: Factory Frame Service Perch Removal - Before

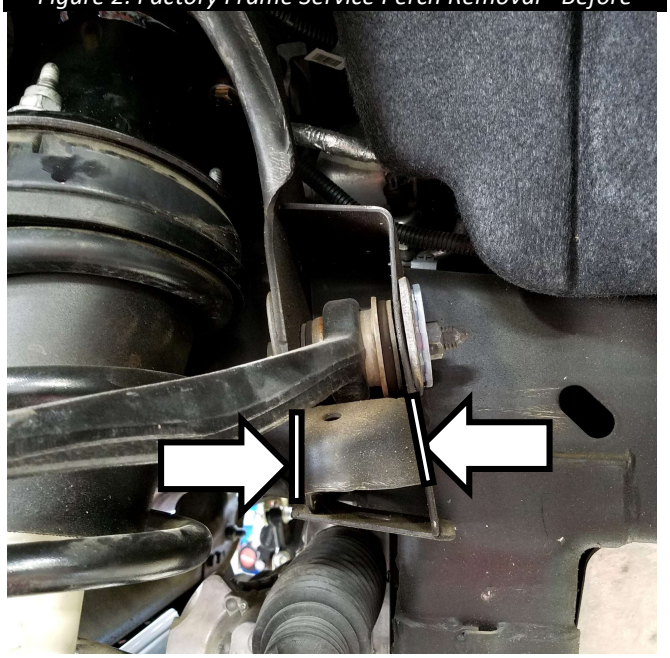


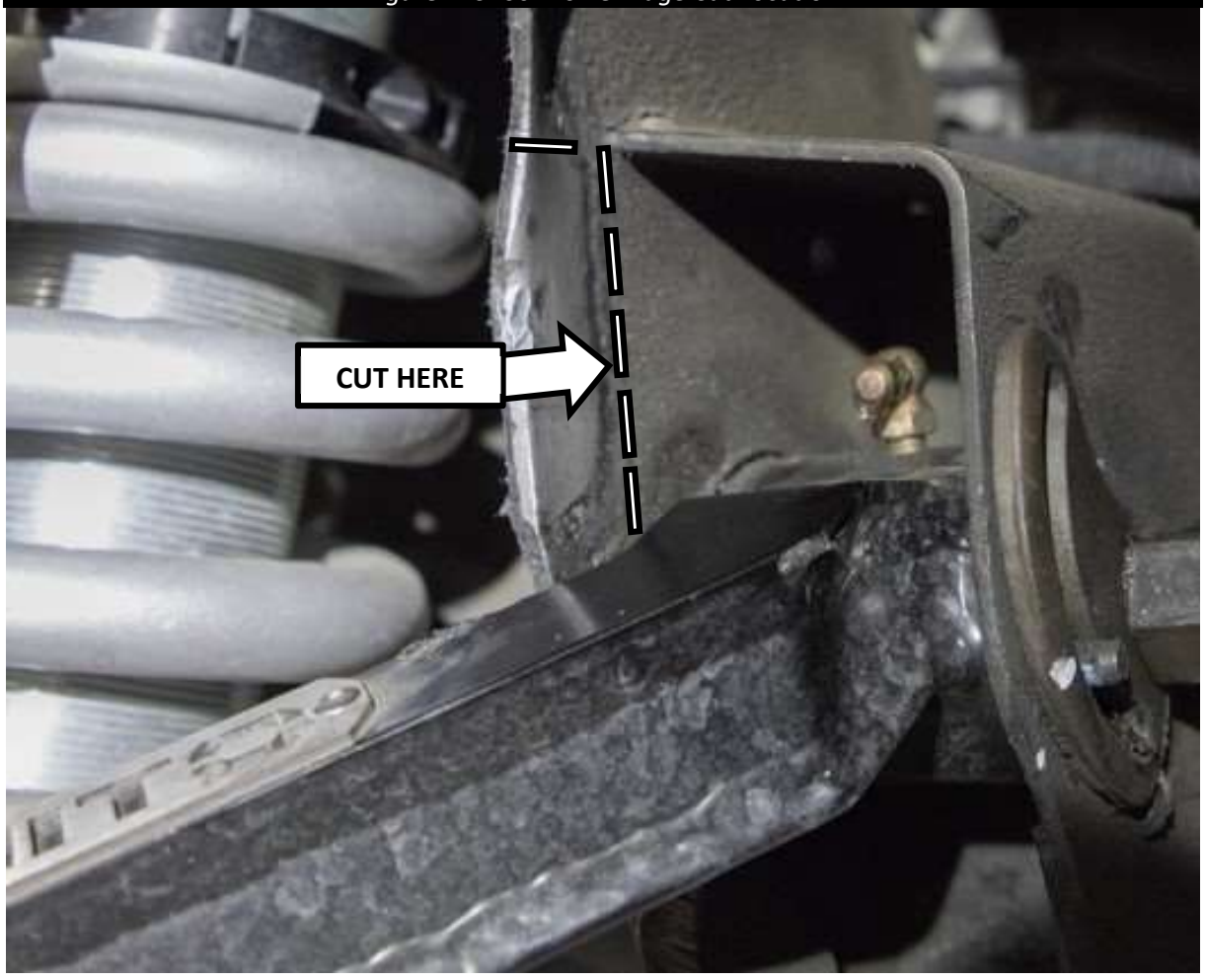
Figure 3: Factory Frame Service Perch Removal - After



7. To prevent the UCA from coming into contract with the frame, the front edge of the shock tower must also be cut and trimmed. **[FIGURE 4]**

- **NOTE:**
  The vertical cut is in line with the front of the UCA pocket. The horizontal cut is in line with the top of the UCA pocket.
  Warranty on Cognito products will be void if damage occurs due to collision with the factory service perch and/or shock tower.
  Use safety gear (face shield, safety glasses, gloves, etc.) and make sure all brake lines and wires are clear of cutting area.
  Exposed raw metal should be coated or painted to prevent corrosion.

Figure 4: Shock Tower Edge Cut Location



8. Locate the driver side **80034** Cognito Ball Joint UCA, **91334** Cognito Bolt-In Alpha Ball Joint, and **HP9321**. Locate the four (4) 5/16" bolts and apply anti-seize (not included) to the threads. Using the 5/16" bolts, flat washers, and locknuts, mount the supplied ball joint to the **bottom** of the UCA.
[Torque the hardware to **22 ft-lbs**]

Figure 5: Bolt-In Ball Joint Installation



9. With the bolt-in ball joint secured to the UCA and the service perch cut, mount the Cognito UCA to the frame using the factory bolts, nuts, and eccentric washers as previously removed. [Torque the hardware to **90 ft-lbs**]
    - **NOTE:**
      The control arms are not identical and are stamped with identifying numbers. **8187** is the driver side, and **8188** is the passenger side UCA.
10. Mount the ball joint to the spindle with supplied hardware. Use the flat washers supplied if the castle nut needs to be spaced down for the cotter pin to engage with its castellations, [Torque the castle nut to **50 ft-lbs**]. Install cotter pin and bend to lock into place.
    - If the castellations in the castle nut and the hole in the ball joint pin do not align once torqued to **50 Ft.-lbs.** continue tightening the nut until the two are aligned and the cotter pin can be installed. ***NEVER LOOSEN THE NUT TO GET THE CORRECT ALIGNMENT!***
11. If there were factory lines mounted to the factory UCA such as ABS or brake lines, they must be restrained to avoid binding and contact with any moving parts of the vehicle. Use the 1/4" hardware provided within HP9321 to fasten the factory brake line bracket to the Cognito UCA. If necessary, slide the brake line through the bracket to obtain a suitable mounting situation. Use the small tabs on the control arms to restrain the ABS line as needed.
12. If extra length is needed for the ABS line, remove the ABS line clip from the top of the frame shock pocket and use the cable ties to restrain the ABS line to the brake line and the tabs as needed.
13. Repeat the steps above for the passenger side using the UCA Assembly P/N 80035.
14. Ensure that all bolts are properly torqued. Ensure there are no rubbing or loose cables anywhere after the Cognito UCA installation. Use cable ties to restrain any cables from interfering with any other part. Check that all lines are free of stress or interference while the vehicle is in full droop, full bump, and throughout the complete steering cycle.
15. Reinstall the wheels and tires [Torque lugs to factory specs].

16. Before lowering the vehicle, measure from the top of the wheel well directly above the center line of the wheel to the top of the tire, see Figure 6. Record this measurement as (A) in Table 1. Subtract 3 inches from A and record this number.

- **NOTE:**
  It can be helpful to place a piece of painter's tape at the top of the wheel well directly above the centerline of the wheel and measure from there.

17. Set the truck on the ground and drive forward and backward a few times to settle the suspension. Measure again from the top of the tire to the top of the wheel well as in the step above and record this measurement as (C) in Table 1.

- **NOTE:**
  If (C) is larger than (B), the ride height is too tall. This can be caused by shocks or shock spacers that are too long, stacked shock spacers, spring preload devices, or any combination of the above.

  Failure to use compatible shocks to limit the vehicles front suspension may cause over-extension, which as a result can cause damage to ball joints, uni-balls, tie rods, and/or CV axles, along with other related safety issues.

  Warranty on Cognito products will be void if the vehicles front suspension is not properly limited to the above max ride height calculation.

Suspension Travel	Record	Measurement (Inches)
Full Droop	**A**	
Max Ride Height	**B** = A – 3 in	
Ride Height	**C**	

Table 1. Suspension Travel Measurements

Figure 6: Measuring and Setting Ride Height



18. Adjust the headlights per your owner's manual.

19. Check wheel and tire clearance one last time through the steering cycle. Make adjustments as needed.

20. Get vehicle professionally aligned after the install.

- **NOTE:**
  Some COGNITO upper control arms have added caster built into them to increase drivability performance, therefore it's important to be sure the correct control arm is installed on the correct side of the vehicle. It's also important to make your alignment shop aware that if caster is higher than normal for OEM, that is the intention by design.
  Cross caster is important in making your vehicle track straight down the road. Most roads have crown to them, high in the middle for water runoff. This crown will make your vehicle want to pull to the right. Vehicles with stock tires on them have a narrow contact patch on the ground and are not as affected as a vehicle having larger wider tires. With larger wider tires it's important to have cross caster proper in order for the vehicle to track straight on these roads. Trucks with dual rear wheels have more tire on the ground and require more cross caster. The length of the wheelbase will also affect cross caster needed.

  Generally, crew cab short and long bed trucks like .8 degrees of cross caster. For example, the driver side would have 2° while the passenger side would have 2.8° of caster. Dual rear wheel trucks like .9-1.0 degrees of cross caster. Your area might have roads that are crowned more or less than average therefore these numbers may need to change, and your alignment shop should understand this. If your alignment tech is stating they can't align the truck, that typically means they can't get the alignment to OEM spec, and that's fine because your vehicle is no longer OEM. A good tech will understand this and the numbers and let caster run slightly out of OEM spec (Caster should always be above 2 degrees positive) while maintaining cross caster needed for the vehicle and roads so you enjoy your vehicle with aftermarket Cognito parts and your driving experience. Camber should always be from -.1° to +.1° and toe should always be .125" to .250" toe in for best tire wear.

VERIFY ALL FASTENERS ARE PROPERLY TORQUED BEFORE DRIVING VEHICLE.
RETORQUE ALL NUTS, BOLTS AND LUGS AFTER 100 MILES AND PERIODICALLY THEREAFTER.

This completes the installation steps, enjoy your new Cognito SM Series Ball Joint Upper Control Arm Kit!

WARRANTY / RETURN POLICY / SAFETY

Cognito Limited Lifetime Warranty

Cognito Motorsports, Inc. hereinafter "Cognito," warrants to the original retail purchaser, that its suspension products are free from workmanship and material defects for as long as the purchaser owns the vehicle on which the product(s) were originally installed. This warranty will be void if any modifications are made to the components, including alterations to the surface finish, i.e.; painting, powder coating, plating, and/or welding, or if they are improperly installed. Cognito truck suspension products are not designed nor intended to be installed on "competition" vehicles used in race applications, stunt or for exhibition purposes that are outside of the intended operating conditions specified by the manufacturer. Racing and competition are defined as any contests between two or more vehicles; or vehicles competing individually on off road circuits in timed events (whether or not such contests are for an award or prize).

This warranty does not include coverage for police, taxi, government or commercial vehicles, and the warranty does not cover Cognito products sold outside of the USA. Cognito's obligations under this warranty are specified and applied at its sole discretion, and warranty coverage is limited to repair or replacement of the defective product(s). Any and all costs of removal, installation or reinstallation; freight charges, incidental or consequential damages associated with the covered products are expressly excluded from this warranty.

The following items are exempt from Cognito limited warranty coverage: bushings, bump stops, tie-rod ends (Heim joints) and limiting straps. These parts are "consumables" and designed to wear as a normal part of their duty cycle, therefore they are not considered defective when worn. The aforementioned products are warrantied separately against defects in workmanship, for 60 days from the date of purchase. As a condition of warranty validation, respective Cognito suspension components must be installed as a complete system (not combined with non-Cognito hardware or ancillary parts). Any substitutions or omission of required components will void the warranty. Some minor cosmetic wear and imperfections may occur to parts during shipping, which is not covered under this warranty. This limited warranty does not apply to any components that have been subjected to collision damage, negligence, alteration, abuse, or misuse, and coverage does not extend to products manufactured by third-party companies. Cognito reserves the right to supersede, discontinue, or change the design, finish, part number and/or application of its parts when deemed necessary, without notice.

Return Policy

Product returns will not be accepted without prior written approval from an authorized Cognito representative. All products being returned must be shipped via trackable, prepaid freight. Returned products are subject to a 25% percent restocking fee. The eligible return period for products purchased directly from Cognito is 30 days from the verified date when the product(s) were originally received by the purchaser.

Product Safety Advisory

The installation of Cognito steering and suspension components will modify your vehicle's original factory equipment and geometry, which may cause it to handle differently than a stock (unaltered) vehicle. Installation of these components is not intended to strengthen nor reinforce the vehicle's frame, nor are they designed to increase rollover protection. It is necessary to periodically inspect all suspension and drive train components for proper attachment, torque specifications, operation, and for any potential unusual wear or damage. Installation of these parts will modify the height of the vehicle and may raise the center of gravity. Modifying vehicle height combined with off road operation may increase your vehicle's susceptibility to rollover conditions, which may cause serious injury or death. Many states regulate allowable vehicle height modifications, and it is your responsibility to know and comply with the legal requirements specified by the laws where you reside. Modifications to your vehicle's ride height may also affect the ride quality, driver input response, trackability and handling, and wear to your vehicle's suspension components and tires.

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