

How to Change Front Disc Brake Pads

If you have ever had to take your vehicle to a mechanic for repairs, you know how expensive they can be. With a little knowledge of mechanical tools and a few hours, you can follow these instructions to change your front disc brake pads and save money on vehicle maintenance.¹

Equipment and Supplies

To assure that the job goes smoothly, you will need to obtain the correct tools and supplies for completing the task.

You will need the following tools and supplies:

- Car jack
- Jack stands
- Lug wrench
- Socket set
- C-clamp
- New brake pads
- Brake fluid

Note: There are a few different options for replacement brake pads. The options range from ceramic, metallic, and semimetallic being the most popular choices. Do a little research and find out which pad type fits your budget and needs.

Removing the Wheel

Before you can access the old brake pads, you will need to raise the car and remove the tires.

1. Apply the emergency brake to assure the car doesn't move when lifted.
2. Using your vehicle's lug nut tool, loosen the lug nuts on the front passenger wheel.
3. Locate your vehicle's lift points and place your hydraulic jack there and raise the front passenger wheel off the ground.

Danger:

Support the raised vehicle using a jack stand to assure the vehicle does not fall in case of failure of the jack.

4. After the vehicle is raised, remove the loosened lug nuts and remove the tire.

¹ *Note to Instructor:*

These instructions are intended for an audience of novice home mechanics with Basic mechanical skills. The novice mechanic will have basic knowledge of mechanics tools and their use. When followed correctly, these instructions will inform the reader how to replace car front disc brake pads.

Removing the Brake Caliper and Brake Pads

Now that the car has been lifted and supported and the tire has been removed, the brake pads can be accessed and removed.

1. Locate and remove the two caliper retaining bolts using the appropriate socket.



Figure 1. Brake caliper retaining bolts location

Source: "How to change your cars brakes." <http://thegarage.jalopnik.com/heres-how-to-change-your-cars-brakes-all-by-yourself-1654936990>. Accessed October 15, 2015.

2. After removing the caliper retaining bolts pull the caliper off the wheel hub and remove the old brake pads.

Note: Pay attention to the orientation of the old brake pads. The new pads will need to be reinstalled with the same orientation.

Installing the New Brake Pads

Now that you have removed the old brake pads, it's time to install the new ones.

1. Using a large C-clamp push the caliper piston back into the caliper.
2. Carefully install the new brake pads (paying close attention to the orientation).
3. Re-align the brake caliper on the wheel hub and re-install the bolts.
4. Re-install the wheel and tighten the lug nuts to the specified torque.
5. Remove the jack stand and lower the vehicle.
6. Top off the brake fluid reservoir using approved brake fluid.

Note: Repeat all steps for the front driver side wheel.

Caution: Before driving the vehicle, be sure to pump brake pedal three to four times or until the the engine is warm.