

# Automotive Suspension and Steering



We Support  
ASE Program Certification  
Through



**JACK ERJAVEC**

# Contents

|                      |      |
|----------------------|------|
| Preface              | ix   |
| About the Author     | xi   |
| Acknowledgments      | xii  |
| Features of the Text | xiii |

## **SECTION 1: SAFETY AND COMMUNICATION 1**

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| <b>Chapter 1 • SAFE WORK PRACTICES</b> | <b>3</b> |
| Introduction                           | 3        |
| Safe Work Areas                        | 3        |
| Personal Safety                        | 3        |
| Fire Hazards and Prevention            | 4        |
| Safe Tools and Equipment               | 5        |
| Batteries                              | 6        |
| Accidents                              | 7        |
| Air Bag Safety and Service Warnings    | 7        |
| Hazardous Materials                    | 8        |
| Occupational Safety and Health         |          |
| Administration (OSHA)                  | 9        |
| Handling Shop Wastes                   | 10       |
| Summary                                | 10       |
| Review Questions                       | 11       |

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>CHAPTER 2 • MEASURING SYSTEMS, FASTENERS, AND MEASURING TOOLS</b> | <b>12</b> |
| Introduction   | 12        |
| Measuring Systems  | 12        |
| Fasteners  | 14        |
| Bolt Identification  | 14        |
| Tightening Bolts   | 15        |
| Measuring Tools  | 15        |
| Micrometers  | 17        |
| Summary  | 18        |
| Review Questions   | 18        |

|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>CHAPTER 3 • TOOLS OF THE TRADE</b> | <b>19</b> |
| Introduction                          | 19        |
| Hand Tools                            | 19        |
| Service Information and Manuals       | 20        |
| Power Tools                           | 21        |
| Shop Tools                            | 21        |
| Suspension and Steering Tools         | 23        |
| Summary                               | 29        |
| Review Questions                      | 29        |

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>CHAPTER 4 • WORKING AS A SUSPENSION AND STEERING SPECIALIST</b> | <b>30</b> |
| Introduction   | 30        |
| Compensation   | 30        |
| Employer-Employee Relationships                                    | 31        |
| ASE Certification  | 32        |
| Duties of a Suspension and Steering Specialist                     | 33        |
| Cleaning with Chemicals  | 34        |
| Summary  | 35        |
| Review Questions   | 36        |

## **SECTION 2: BASIC THEORIES AND SERVICES 37**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>CHAPTER 5 • BASIC ELECTRICAL THEORY</b> | <b>39</b> |
| Introduction                               | 39        |
| Basic Electricity                          | 39        |
| Electrical Terms                           | 40        |
| Electrical Circuits                        | 40        |
| Conductors and Insulators                  | 41        |
| Ohm's Law                                  | 41        |
| Circuit Components                         | 41        |
| Electromagnetism Basics                    | 43        |
| Basics of Electronics                      | 44        |

## iv • Contents

|   |           |   |            |
|---|-----------|---|------------|
| Summary   | 46        | Detailed Inspection                                   | 99         |
| Review Questions  | 47        | Power Steering  | 102        |
| <b>CHAPTER 6 • BASIC ELECTRICAL SERVICE</b>                             | <b>48</b> | Lubricate Suspension and Steering Systems             | 103        |
| Introduction  | 48        | Summary   | 103        |
| Quick Overview of Electricity   | 48        | Review Questions                                      | 104        |
| Electrical Problems   | 49        |   |            |
| Basic Electrical Testing  | 50        | <b>SECTION 3: TIRES AND WHEELS</b>                    | <b>105</b> |
| Electrical Wiring Diagrams  | 53        |   |            |
| Testing Circuit Protection Devices                                      | 53        | <b>CHAPTER 10 • WHEELS</b>                            | <b>107</b> |
| Testing Switches  | 53        | Introduction  | 107        |
| Basic Electrical Repairs  | 54        | Construction  | 107        |
| Summary   | 55        | Wheel Sizes   | 109        |
| Review Questions  | 55        | Wheel Offset  | 109        |
|   |           | Replacement Wheels                                    | 109        |
| <b>CHAPTER 7 • SUSPENSION AND STEERING SYSTEMS</b>                      | <b>56</b> | Wheel Attachment                                      | 110        |
| Introduction  | 56        | Servicing Wheels                                      | 111        |
| Wheels and Tires  | 56        | Wheel and Tire Installation                           | 111        |
| Suspension System Components  | 58        | Summary   | 112        |
| I-Beam Front Suspension Systems   | 61        | Review Questions                                      | 112        |
| Short-and-Long Arm (SLA) Front<br>Suspension Systems                    | 61        |   |            |
| MacPherson Strut Front Suspension<br>System Design                      | 62        | <b>CHAPTER 11 • TIRES</b>                             | <b>113</b> |
| Performance Front Suspension Systems                                    | 63        | Introduction  | 113        |
| Torsion Bar Suspensions   | 64        | Tire Construction                                     | 113        |
| Steering Systems  | 64        | Tire Ply and Belt Design                              | 116        |
| Steering Linkage  | 64        | Tire Ratings and Designations                         | 118        |
| Manual Steering Gears   | 67        | Specialty Tires                                       | 120        |
| Steering Wheels and Columns   | 68        | Tire Placard and Inflation Pressure                   | 123        |
| Power Steering  | 69        | Replacement Tires                                     | 123        |
| Summary   | 72        | Summary   | 124        |
| Review Questions  | 73        | Review Questions                                      | 124        |
|   |           |   |            |
| <b>CHAPTER 8 • BASIC THEORIES</b>                                       | <b>74</b> | <b>CHAPTER 12 • DIAGNOSIS OF TIRE PROBLEMS</b>        | <b>125</b> |
| Introduction  | 74        | Introduction  | 125        |
| Matter  | 74        | Tire Wear Patterns                                    | 125        |
| Energy  | 75        | Tire Noises and Steering Problems                     | 126        |
| Volume  | 76        | Tire Thump and Vibrations                             | 127        |
| Force   | 76        | Steering Pull   | 127        |
| Motion  | 79        | Tire and Wheel Runout                                 | 128        |
| Work  | 80        | Summary   | 130        |
| Waves and Oscillations  | 82        | Review Questions                                      | 130        |
| Liquids   | 83        |   |            |
| Gases   | 85        | <b>CHAPTER 13 • TIRE AND WHEEL SERVICE</b>            | <b>131</b> |
| Heat  | 87        | Introduction  | 131        |
| Chemical Properties   | 88        | Wheel and Tire Removal                                | 131        |
| Summary   | 91        | Tire Rotation   | 131        |
| Review Questions  | 92        | Tire and Wheel Service Precautions                    | 132        |
|   |           | Tire Demounting                                       | 132        |
| <b>CHAPTER 9 • GENERAL SUSPENSION AND<br/>STEERING SYSTEM DIAGNOSIS</b> | <b>93</b> | Tire Repair   | 134        |
| Introduction  | 93        | Wheel Rim Service                                     | 135        |
| Road Test   | 93        | Tire Remounting Procedure                             | 136        |
| Basic inspection  | 97        | Installation of Tire/Wheel Assembly<br>on the Vehicle | 137        |
|   |           | Tire Care   | 137        |
|   |           | Summary   | 137        |
|   |           | Review Questions                                      | 137        |

|  |            |   |            |
|--|------------|---|------------|
| <b>CHAPTER 14 • BALANCING TIRE AND WHEEL ASSEMBLIES</b>      | <b>138</b> | Summary   | 176        |
| Introduction   | 138        | Review Questions                                      | 177        |
| Tire Motion Forces   | 138        |   |            |
| Static Wheel Balance Theory                                  | 138        | <b>CHAPTER 19 • SERVICING NON-DRIVE AXLE BEARINGS</b> | <b>178</b> |
| Dynamic Wheel Balance Theory                                 | 139        | Introduction  | 178        |
| Preliminary Wheel Balancing Checks                           | 140        | Bearing Removal                                       | 178        |
| Static Wheel Balance Procedure                               | 141        | Cleaning and Inspection                               | 179        |
| Dynamic Wheel Balance Procedure                              | 142        | Bearing Lubrication                                   | 181        |
| Summary  | 145        | Bearing Replacement                                   | 182        |
| Review Questions   | 145        | Bearing Adjustment                                    | 183        |
|  |            | Summary   | 184        |
|  |            | Review Questions                                      | 184        |
| <b>SECTION 4: WHEEL AND AXLE BEARINGS</b>                    | <b>147</b> | <b>CHAPTER 20 • SERVICING DRIVE AXLE BEARINGS</b>     | <b>185</b> |
| <b>CHAPTER 15 • WHEEL BEARINGS</b>                           | <b>149</b> | Introduction  | 185        |
| Introduction   | 149        | Servicing FWD Axle Bearings                           | 185        |
| Common Bearings  | 149        | Replacing Front Axle Bearings                         | 186        |
| Front-Wheel Drive (FWD) Drive Axles                          | 151        | Servicing RWD Axles                                   | 189        |
| Rear-Wheel Drive (RWD) Drive Axles                           | 152        | Removing Axles  | 189        |
| Axle Bearing Designs   | 152        | Axle Bearings   | 190        |
| Wheel Bearings   | 154        | Axle Shaft Seals                                      | 191        |
| Seals  | 155        | Installing Axles                                      | 191        |
| Bearing Lubrication  | 155        | Summary   | 192        |
| Summary  | 156        | Review Questions                                      | 192        |
| Review Questions   | 156        |   |            |
| <b>CHAPTER 16 • DIAGNOSIS OF BEARING PROBLEMS</b>            | <b>157</b> | <b>SECTION 5: SPRINGS, SHOCKS, AND STRUTS</b>         | <b>193</b> |
| Introduction   | 157        | <b>CHAPTER 21 • SPRINGS</b>                           | <b>195</b> |
| Basic Wheel and Axle Bearing Troubleshooting                 | 157        | Introduction  | 195        |
| Tapered Roller Bearing Troubleshooting                       | 158        | Spring Terminology                                    | 195        |
| Wheel Hub Diagnosis  | 159        | Coil Springs  | 196        |
| Summary  | 162        | Leaf Springs  | 197        |
| Review Questions   | 162        | Torsion Bars  | 199        |
|  |            | Stabilizer Bars                                       | 200        |
| <b>CHAPTER 17 • FRONT-WHEEL-DRIVE (FWD) DRIVE AXLES</b>      | <b>163</b> | Summary   | 201        |
| Introduction   | 163        | Review Questions                                      | 201        |
| Front Wheel Drive Axles                                      | 163        | <b>CHAPTER 22 • SHOCKS AND STRUTS</b>                 | <b>202</b> |
| Drive Axle Supports  | 165        | Introduction  | 202        |
| Types of CV Joints   | 165        | Shock Absorber Design                                 | 202        |
| CV Joint Boots   | 168        | Shock Absorber Operation                              | 204        |
| Summary  | 169        | Strut Design  | 205        |
| Review Questions   | 169        | Electronically Controlled Shock Absorbers and Struts  | 207        |
| <b>CHAPTER 18 • DIAGNOSING AND SERVICING FWD DRIVE AXLES</b> | <b>170</b> | Summary   | 208        |
| Introduction   | 170        | Review Questions                                      | 209        |
| Talk to the Customer   | 170        | <b>CHAPTER 23 • SHOCK AND STRUT DIAGNOSIS</b>         | <b>210</b> |
| Road Test  | 170        | Introduction  | 210        |
| Visual Inspection  | 171        | Diagnosing Front Suspensions                          | 210        |
| CV Joint Wear  | 172        | Air Shock Absorber Diagnosis                          | 211        |
| Servicing FWD Drive Axles                                    | 172        | Electronic Air Suspension System Diagnosis            | 212        |
| Drive Axle Removal   | 173        | Shock Absorber or Strut Bounce Test                   | 213        |
| Bench Inspection   | 174        | Shock Absorber Visual Inspection                      | 213        |
| General Service Procedures                                   | 175        |   |            |

## vi • Contents

|   |            |  |            |
|---|------------|--|------------|
| Shock Absorber Manual Test                  | 215        | Coil-Spring Rear Suspension                                    | 251        |
| Summary                                     | 215        | Semi-Independent Rear Suspension Systems                       | 253        |
| Review Questions                            | 215        | Independent Rear Suspensions                                   | 253        |
| <b>CHAPTER 24 • SPRING SERVICE</b>          | <b>216</b> | Summary  | 257        |
| Introduction                                | 216        | Review Questions   | 258        |
| Effects of Weak Springs                     | 216        | <b>CHAPTER 29 • COMPUTER-CONTROLLED<br/>SUSPENSION SYSTEMS</b> | <b>259</b> |
| Selecting Replacement Springs               | 217        | Introduction   | 259        |
| Coil Springs                                | 217        | Air Systems  | 259        |
| Torsion Bars                                | 219        | Electronically Controlled Shock<br>Absorbers and Struts        | 263        |
| Leaf Springs                                | 220        | Summary  | 267        |
| Stabilizer Bars                             | 222        | Review Questions   | 267        |
| Summary                                     | 222        | <b>CHAPTER 30 • FRONT SUSPENSION DIAGNOSIS</b>                 | <b>268</b> |
| Review Questions                            | 223        | Introduction   | 268        |
| <b>CHAPTER 25 • SHOCK AND STRUT SERVICE</b> | <b>224</b> | Road Test  | 268        |
| Introduction                                | 224        | General Front-Suspension Inspection                            | 269        |
| On-Car Installation of a Strut Cartridge    | 224        | Detailed Inspection  | 270        |
| Front Strut Removal                         | 225        | Ball Joints  | 271        |
| Strut Cartridge Replacement                 | 227        | Summary  | 273        |
| Strut Reassembly                            | 228        | Review Questions   | 274        |
| Strut Assembly Installation                 | 229        | <b>CHAPTER 31 • FRONT SUSPENSION SERVICE</b>                   | <b>275</b> |
| Strut Disposal Procedure                    | 229        | Introduction   | 275        |
| Rear Strut Replacement                      | 230        | Steering Knuckles  | 275        |
| Shock Absorber Replacement                  | 230        | Ball Joints  | 276        |
| Summary                                     | 232        | Control Arms   | 277        |
| Review Questions                            | 232        | Control Arm Bushings   | 279        |
| <b>SECTION 6: SUSPENSION SYSTEMS</b>        | <b>233</b> | Strut Rods   | 280        |
| <b>CHAPTER 26 • FRAMES</b>                  | <b>235</b> | Summary  | 281        |
| Introduction                                | 235        | Review Questions   | 281        |
| Frame Construction                          | 235        | <b>CHAPTER 32 • REAR SUSPENSION DIAGNOSIS</b>                  | <b>282</b> |
| Vehicle Directional Stability               | 237        | Introduction   | 282        |
| Frame Checks                                | 238        | Diagnosis  | 282        |
| Frame Straightening                         | 239        | Lower Control Arm and Ball Joint Diagnosis                     | 283        |
| Summary                                     | 239        | Track Bar Diagnosis  | 284        |
| Review Questions                            | 239        | Tie Rod Inspection   | 284        |
| <b>CHAPTER 27 • FRONT SUSPENSIONS</b>       | <b>240</b> | Summary  | 285        |
| Introduction                                | 240        | Review Questions   | 285        |
| Basic Operation                             | 240        | <b>CHAPTER 33 • REAR SUSPENSION SERVICE</b>                    | <b>286</b> |
| Ball Joints                                 | 241        | Introduction   | 286        |
| Short/Long Arm Front Suspension Systems     | 243        | Lower Control Arm and Ball Joints                              | 286        |
| MacPherson Strut Front Suspension Systems   | 245        | Track Bar Replacement  | 289        |
| Performance-Oriented Suspensions            | 246        | Tie Rod Replacement  | 289        |
| Other Front Suspension Designs              | 248        | Summary  | 289        |
| Summary                                     | 249        | Review Questions   | 289        |
| Review Questions                            | 249        | <b>CHAPTER 34 • ELECTRONIC SUSPENSION SERVICE</b>              | <b>290</b> |
| <b>CHAPTER 28 • REAR SUSPENSIONS</b>        | <b>250</b> | Introduction   | 290        |
| Introduction                                | 250        | Preliminary Inspection   | 290        |
| Leaf-Spring Rear Suspension                 | 251        |  |            |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Air Systems   | 290 |
| Electronically Controlled Shock Absorbers<br>and Struts | 294 |
| Summary   | 297 |
| Review Questions  | 297 |

**SECTION 7: STEERING SYSTEMS 299**

**CHAPTER 35 • STEERING COLUMNS AND LINKAGES 301**

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Introduction                | 301 |
| Steering Wheels and Columns | 301 |
| Steering Linkages           | 304 |
| Summary                     | 308 |
| Review Questions            | 308 |

**CHAPTER 36 • MANUAL STEERING GEARS 309**

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Introduction                   | 309 |
| Recirculating Ball Steering    | 310 |
| Worm and Roller Gears          | 312 |
| Rack-and-Pinion Steering Gears | 312 |
| Summary                        | 314 |
| Review Questions               | 314 |

**CHAPTER 37 • STEERING SYSTEM DIAGNOSIS 315**

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Introduction                      | 315 |
| Visual Inspection                 | 316 |
| Rack and Pinion Steering          | 318 |
| Reciprocating Ball Steering Gears | 320 |
| Summary                           | 322 |
| Review Questions                  | 322 |

**CHAPTER 38 • AIR BAG SERVICE 324**

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Introduction                 | 324 |
| Electrical System Components | 324 |
| Air Bag Module               | 327 |
| Diagnosis                    | 327 |
| Servicing the Air Bag System | 327 |
| Summary                      | 329 |
| Review Questions             | 329 |

**CHAPTER 39 • STEERING COLUMN AND LINKAGE SERVICE 330**

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Introduction      | 330 |
| Steering Wheel    | 330 |
| Steering Columns  | 331 |
| Steering Linkages | 332 |
| Summary           | 335 |
| Review Questions  | 335 |

**CHAPTER 40 • RECIRCULATING BALL STEERING GEAR SERVICE 336**

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Introduction               | 336 |
| Removal and Replacement    | 336 |
| Disassembly and Reassembly | 337 |

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Adjustments      | 338 |
| Summary          | 340 |
| Review Questions | 340 |

**CHAPTER 41 • RACK-AND-PINION STEERING SERVICE 341**

|                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Introduction                          | 341 |
| Steering Gear Removal and Replacement | 342 |
| Manual Rack-and-Pinion Steering       |     |
| Gear Disassembly                      | 343 |
| Manual Rack and Pinion Steering       |     |
| Gear Assembly                         | 345 |
| Summary                               | 346 |
| Review Questions                      | 346 |

**CHAPTER 42 • FOUR-WHEEL STEERING SYSTEMS 347**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Introduction                            | 347 |
| Four-Wheel Steering Theory              | 347 |
| Mechanical 4WS                          | 348 |
| Hydraulic 4WS                           | 349 |
| Electro/Hydraulic 4WS                   | 349 |
| Electronic/Electrical 4WS               | 351 |
| Fail-Safe Programs                      | 352 |
| Four-Wheel Steering Service             | 352 |
| Road Test                               | 353 |
| Diagnostic Trouble Code (DTC) Retrieval | 353 |
| Sensors                                 | 354 |
| Summary                                 | 354 |
| Review Questions                        | 354 |

**SECTION 8: POWER STEERING 355**

**CHAPTER 43 • POWER STEERING DESIGNS 357**

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Introduction                             | 357 |
| Types of Power-Assisted Steering Systems | 357 |
| Main Components                          | 359 |
| Power Recirculating Ball Steering Gears  | 360 |
| Power Rack-and-Pinion Steering Gears     | 362 |
| Summary                                  | 363 |
| Review Questions                         | 363 |

**CHAPTER 44 • POWER STEERING PUMPS 364**

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Introduction                    | 364 |
| Power Steering Pump Drive Belts | 364 |
| Power Steering Pump Designs     | 365 |
| Power Steering Pump Operation   | 366 |
| Summary                         | 367 |
| Review Questions                | 367 |

**CHAPTER 45 • ELECTRONIC STEERING SYSTEMS 368**

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Introduction   | 368 |
| Electronically Controlled Power-<br>Steering Systems | 368 |
| Electronic Variable Orifice Steering                 | 370 |

