



# Owner Handbook

RSX 580



## Introduction

Thank you for buying this RSX 580 coil-over suspension kit. RSX is the ultimate in performance with built-in race technology. Your kit is Epoxy Powder Coated and Dyno tested to the strictest TÜV standards. The dampers are Krypton Gas filled to give stunning high speed performance and better quality low speed ride. A well installed and set up RSX kit will transform the handling of your car. This handbook is designed to help you achieve this.

## Safety First

- If working under or on a lifted vehicle, ensure that it is safely supported.
- If compressing a spring, ensure that the correct tools are used. Failure to do this can result in serious or fatal injury.
- SPAX dampers are gas pressurised. Never puncture, dismantle or incinerate.
- Performance suspension puts higher than normal loads on all other suspension components and car bodywork/chassis. All suspension components should be inspected for wear and for damage. They should be replaced if there is any doubt as to their condition.
- The literature contained with this suspension kit is meant as a guide only and is not comprehensive. SPAX Performance Ltd accepts no liability whatsoever for damage, loss or injury incurred as a result of using this literature.

## Fitting Notes

- SPAX recommends that this kit be fitted by a suspension specialist. We can advise you on our Nationwide network of Authorised Fitting Centres.
- This kit is intended to lower your car within the stated range, using standard wheels and tyres. All non standard wheel and tyre combinations should be inspected for clearance, before fitment.
- Never grip or hit the damper piston rod. This will damage the highly polished surface, leading to premature damper failure
- Never use an impact wrench to tighten nuts and bolts.
- Strut top stem nuts (if applicable) should be tightened to the following torque: - M12 to 50Nm, M14 to 80Nm, M16 to 120Nm and M18 to 165Nm.
- Never force the damper adjusters. Forcing them will cause damage.
- On ride height adjustable telescopic dampers, ensure the piston rod does not turn in the damper body when making ride height alterations or when pre-loading the spring. This may cause the damper internals to unscrew causing damper failure, damage or injury.
- On top adjustable dampers (struts), always fit the black plastic bump stop plate below the bump stop.
- Bump stops act to limit suspension travel. Removing or modifying them may cause tyres to rub, incorrect lowering, failure of the spring or damage to the damper top mount.
- SPAX Yellow Polyurethane progressive bump stops should only be used on struts and be fitted with the flat end facing upward.
- To get the best results from your RSX kit, corner weights should be set. However, initially it is normally sufficient to ensure the spring seats are at the same height on each axle.
- After fitting, the tracking and (in some cases) the camber settings should be reset. These should be returned to factory settings where possible.
- On Struts and Strut Inserts; when tightening the main lock nut at the top of the Piston Rod, it is necessary to stop the Piston rod from rotating. The top stem of the damper has 2 machined flats designed to fit an open-ended spanner designed for this purpose. Never hold the adjuster hexagon at the very top of the Strut with a tool, as this will irreparably damage the damper.



## **Adjustment**

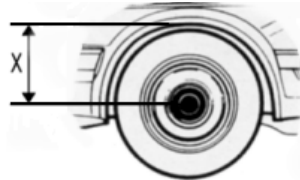
Your RSX kit is adjustable for ride height and for damping force. All adjustments can be made without any dismantling of components, making it simpler, faster and easier to obtain your ultimate set-up.

We recommend adjusting the ride height first and the damping force second.

### ***Ride Height Adjustment***

- Adjusting ride height is a compromise between looks, ground clearance, suspension travel and weight distribution (front/rear). If you are unsure of the result you require, or of the safety issues involved, please contact SPAX for advice.
- Always use the C-Spanners provided to adjust ride height.
- Always adjust ride height with no weight on the wheel.

Dimension X	RIDE HEIGHT (mm)		
	Original	Min. Lowering	Max. Lowering
FRONT	355	340	320
REAR	360	340	325



- These measurements are based on a 2002 Cooper model. Other models may vary.

### ***Damping Force adjustment***

- All Krypton Gas dampers have 28 stages of adjustment. This allows a wide range of adjustment to suit different driving styles and road conditions.
- Struts (adjuster at the top) are adjustable in rebound. Telescopic dampers (adjuster at the base) are adjustable in rebound and in bump.
- To obtain the ideal set up for you and your car, we recommend initially setting the dampers to:  
Front: - 8 clicks up from fully soft (anti-clockwise);  
Rear: - 6 clicks up from fully soft (anti-clockwise).
- Then adjust up in 4 click steps. Every time the driving sensation improves, carry on adjusting up by 4 clicks. Every time the driving sensation becomes worse, adjust down by one click.

## **Use**

SPAX performance suspension is designed to improve the safety, performance and looks of your car. Performance suspension is normally noisier, stiffer and less comfortable than original equipment suspension.

This suspension kit has been designed for road use and for limited track day use.

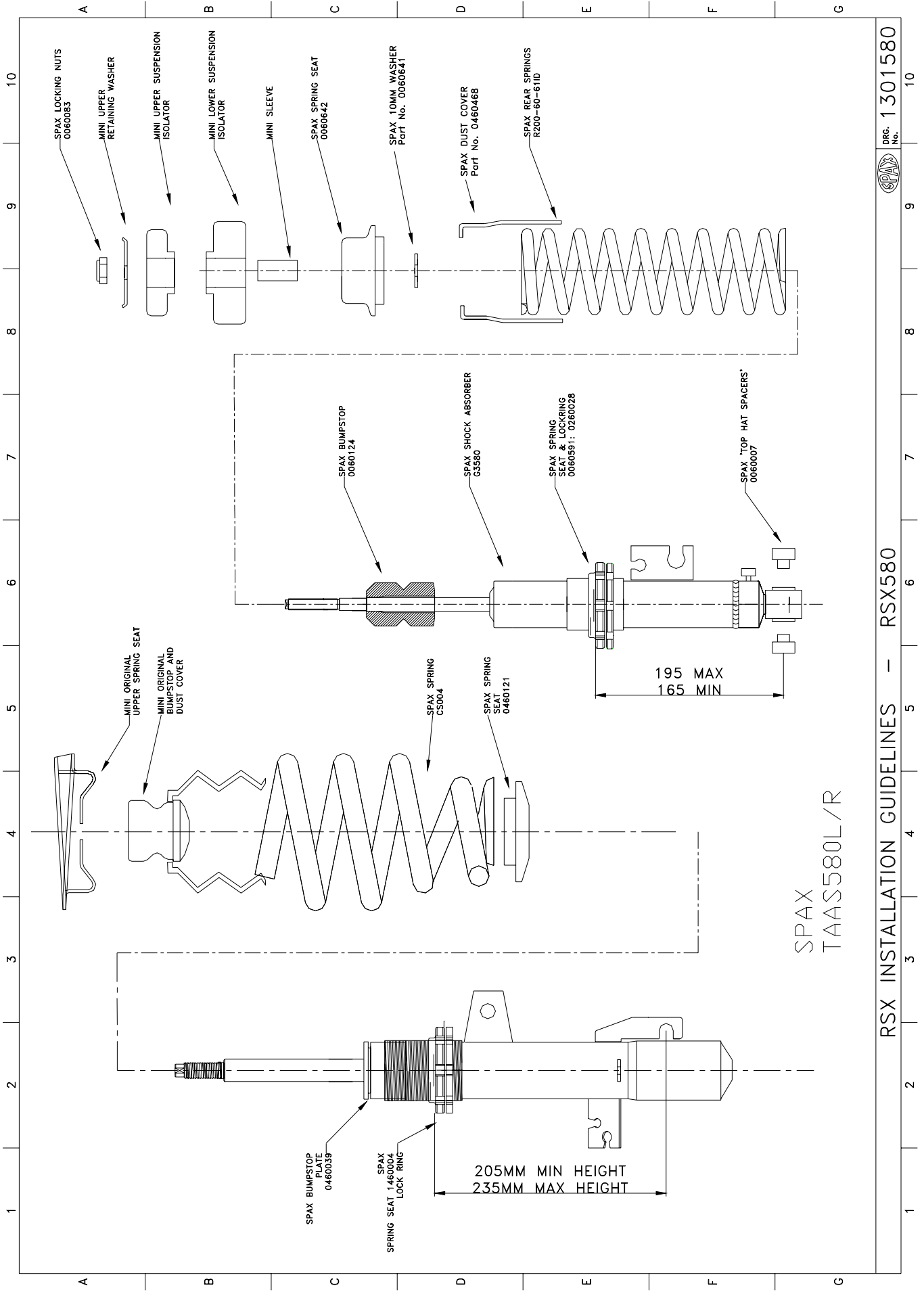
Lowering and stiffening the suspension provides increased performance on smooth, grippy surfaces, but may result in some discomfort and loss of performance on bumpy roads.

## **Maintenance**

Clean components using mild detergent and water. Never use abrasive products.

Long-term exposure to corrosive conditions (e.g. salt, acids) or driving in sandy or dusty conditions will reduce the life span of the components.

Regular lubrication of the threaded height adjuster and damper adjuster mechanism with a waxy corrosion inhibitor will prolong life of the components.



SPAX  
TAAS580L/R

## What makes SPAX special?

**TüV Certification of the Company & Products - The toughest quality standard in Europe**

**POWDER COATING** to give looks and protection that are second to none

**DYNO TESTING** of each and every damper so you get maximum performance and quality - guaranteed

**GAS DAMPERS** - Krypton pressurised for awesome high speed performance and superior low speed ride

**Everything Adjustable on car, with no dismantling**

