

Removal of my sub-frame (or prongeron) revealed two failed rear raft bushes. The failure of these had been induced by the over-tightening of the mounting bolts, causing the centre sleeve of the bush to balloon and separate from the rubber. Almost certainly the result of a heavy handed exhaust fitter, but whatever the cause, they needed replacing. Ideally, without removing the rafts from the car!

Replacement bushes are readily available (D100C6001F for my SE) and are pictured here next the removed (failed bushes)



The failed bushes were pretty easy to remove, by driving a chisel into the side of the outer sleeve, causing the sleeve to collapse – done carefully, this caused no damaged whatsoever to the casting of the raft.

It quickly became apparent that the new bushes were going to be unwilling to simply “press” into the rafts in situ, due to the floating nature of the raft, the force required, and general alignment issues.

Easy solution:

300mm of M12 Threaded bar, three M12 nuts, a handful of washers, and a 36mm ½” drive socket.

Using a small amount of force, lever the raft down, away from the chassis, and pack some (I found 5 were about right) washers behind the rear end of the raft – being careful not to obscure the hole for the bush.



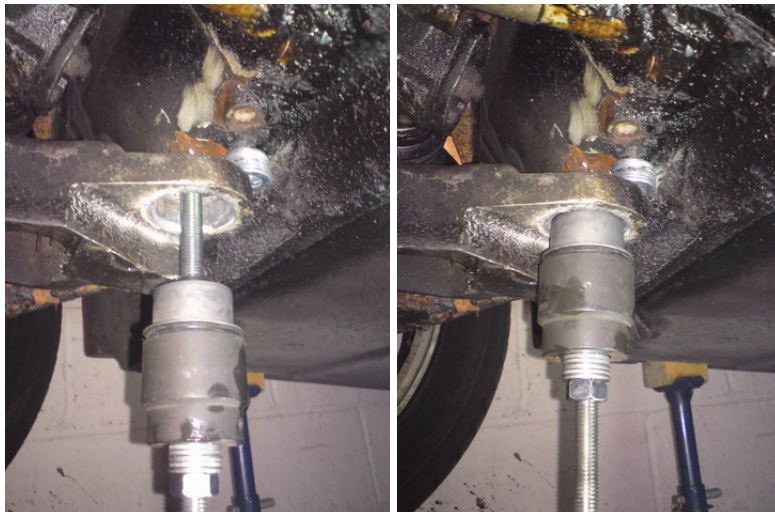
Lock two M12 nuts against each other at one end of the threaded bar, with a third nut about 100mm further along with a few washers to aid turning...



Lightly oil the threads on the free end of the bar, and slide on the socket, and the bush...



Offer the bar into the bush hole, and screw into the chassis – at least 25mm, using the locked nuts...



Once the start of the bush is brought up to the casting, double check that all is lined up well.

Once you are happy all looks good, use the free nut (behind the washers) to drive the bush (using the socket) home.



Be sure to get the flange of the bush fully flush with the raft casting.
Once you're happy it's home, loosen the tension on the single nut, then using the
locked nuts, wind the whole tool back out of the way...



Remove the packing washers from behind the raft, and you're all done...



Having written this up, I have to say it was so easy, I can't understand how it had me
stumped for so long!

Hope this is of help to someone – any comments welcome to zakk@gtcmaint.co.uk
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