

READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS COMPLETELY AND THOROUGHLY UNDERSTAND THEM BEFORE DOING ANYTHING.  
CALL CHASSISWORKS TECH SUPPORT (916) 388-0288 IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE.



## VariShock QuickSet 2 High-Force Coil-Over Installation and Tuning Guide

Part Number	Qty.	Description
VAS 11211-XXXHBR	2	High-Bump Coil-Over Shock with Threaded Body
VAS 501-101	1	Upper and Lower Coil-Over Spring Seat Set (pair)

### Valving

- **QuickSet 2 High-Force double-adjustable** - Features dual adjustment knobs that control bump (compression) and rebound (extension) stiffness independently.

### IMPORTANT NOTE TO CUSTOMER:

YOU MUST BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL AS THESE HIGH-FORCE SHOCK ABSORBERS CAN GREATLY AFFECT THE HANDLING OF YOUR VEHICLE, POTENTIALLY MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE DRIVER TO CONTROL. SEVERE VEHICLE DAMAGE, INJURY OR DEATH COULD RESULT FROM USE OF THIS ITEM. START YOUR TUNING AT LOW FORCE SETTINGS, NO MORE THAN 1 OR 2 CLICKS FROM FULL SOFT. GRADUALLY INCREASE SETTINGS FROM THERE IF THE CARS HANDLING IS NOT IMPAIRED. INSTALLING THESE SHOCKS MEANS YOU ACCEPT THIS PRODUCT AND ASSUME ALL RISKS. IF YOU DO NOT ACCEPT THESE RISKS RETURN THE UNUSED ITEM FOR REFUND.

### Mounting Eyes

- **Spherical Bearing** - 1/2" bore x 1" wide Teflon lined bearing  
This style of mount is primarily used for racing or off-road applications for reduced friction. They are generally mounted between two frame tabs with a 1/2" diameter bolt. The inside width between the tabs should be 1-1/16" to 1-3/16" wide. Replacement bearings are available separately.

Part Number	Total Travel	Compressed Length <sup>1</sup>	Extended Length <sup>1</sup>	Minimum Ride Height	Maximum Ride Height	Spring Length	Usage
VAS 11211-43HBR	4.25	10.05	14.30	11.75	12.60	9	Rear
VAS 11211-51HBR	5.15	10.95	16.10	13.01	14.04	12	Rear
VAS 11211-72HBR	7.15	12.95	20.10	15.81	17.24	14	Rear
VAS 11211-83HBR	8.25	14.05	22.30	17.35	19.00	14	Rear

#### Footnotes:

1	Length of shock is the measured distance between centers of mounting eyes.
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## Spring Rate Selection

Springs are a tuning item, therefore VariShock does not accept exchanges. If you are unsure of the correct spring rate, check with your chassis builder or component supplier for a recommendation. Mathematical formulas are also available to find an accurate baseline rate from which to start. All formulas will require individual weights for the front and rear of the vehicle. As an aid to help you select the correct spring rate, VariShock offers a discount on a second set of springs if purchased with the shocks.

## Installation

*Read these instructions in their entirety before begin installation.*

1. Verify you have the correct length shock, and eye mount style for your application before proceeding. If there is any question regarding correct fit please consult with your chassis builder or component supplier before contacting Chassisworks directly.
2. Trial fit the shock absorber onto the chassis prior to installing the spring. This allows you to easily move the suspension throughout its entire range of travel.
3. Place your vehicle on four jack stands so that the suspension hangs freely and the tires do not touch the ground.
4. Use a floor jack under the rear end to raise and lower the suspension. Check for binding in every joint of the suspension, including the coil-over mounting eyes. If everything checks out, the springs can be installed onto the shocks.
5. Apply anti-seize to threads of lower spring seat and shock body, then screw spring seat onto shock until nearly in contact with adjustment knobs. The spanner wrench notches in spring seat should face toward lower shock eye. Ball-locks may need to be loosened to easily turn spring seat.
6. Install optional spring seat thrust bearing (PN VAS 513-100) onto shock at this time. Bearings must be lightly greased before use.
7. Install spring onto shock, then place upper spring seat into position. The threaded lower spring seat will need to be very near its lowest setting. In most cases, the spring must be slightly compressed to slide the top seat into position.
8. Once upper spring seat is in place, thread lower seat upward until spring just starts to compress. Make sure both lower spring seats are screwed on equal amounts to prevent preloading the spring.
9. Install the assembled coil-over on the vehicle. Verify there is no binding and plenty of clearance around the shock and spring. There must be ample clearance around the spring which was not on the shock during your first travel check. Remove the jack stands and place your car on the ground again checking clearances. While remaining at a safe distance from the car and any moving suspension components, have someone bounce the vehicle at each of its four corners to verify there are not spring clearance issues.

## Baseline Spring Rate (REAR ONLY)

Rear Vehicle Weight (lbs)	Rate (lb/in)	Part Number
820-925	80	VAS 21-XX080
925-1025	95	VAS 21-XX095
1025-1125	110	VAS 21-XX110
1125-1225	130	VAS 21-XX130
1225-1350	150	VAS 21-XX150
1350-1500	175	VAS 21-XX175
1500-1750	200	VAS 21-XX200
1750-2025	250	VAS 21-XX250
2025-2300	300	VAS 21-XX300
2300-2600	350	VAS 21-XX350
2600-2900	400	VAS 21-XX400
2900-3200	450	VAS 21-XX450



Figure 2-1



Figure 2-2

# VariShock Adjustment and Tuning Guide - QuickSet 2

This guide covers adjustment features and tuning procedures for VariShock QuickSet 2, double-adjustable, shock absorbers. The information contained has been greatly simplified and is only intended to get you started in the right direction. Suspension tuning involves multiple variables such as: spring rates, antiroll bar rates, vehicle weight distribution, tire sizes, tire pressures, suspension geometry, and track conditions. We highly recommend thoroughly researching suspension tuning and vehicle dynamics, or consulting an experienced professional.

## Travel Limiters

Shocks are not to be used as travel limiters. An extension travel limiter, such as a strap or cable, should be used to prevent topping out and damaging the shocks. The installed compression bumper protects the shock if bottomed out during normal use. If the bumper shows signs of wear or damage it must be replaced immediately. Never operate a vehicle with a missing or damaged bumper. Vehicles that consistently bottom out shocks or land harshly from wheel stands should use a higher rate spring along with some form of suspension stop to limit compression travel without directly impacting the shock body. Any shock will be damaged if the car is dropped from a wheel stand.

## Ride Height

When a shock is at ride height a certain amount of travel is available in either direction. Depending upon performance application, shock travel will be reserved in different percentages for compression or extension.

### Drag Race Baseline: 40-percent Bump, 60-percent Rebound

Drag race vehicles generally require more extension (rebound) travel to help weight transfer, and because the drag strip is very flat, less compression travel is needed. The amount of extension travel available in the shock will drastically affect how the car works. At baseline ride height, the shock and spring should collapse 60-percent from their installed heights. This results in 60-percent of travel available for extension and 40-percent of compression travel.

## Baseline Spring Rate Selection

Spring rate affects ride quality, ride height, stored energy, weight transfer and how effectively the front suspension handles downward movement after drag race launches. Differences in vehicles such as specific performance application, weight reduction and chassis stiffening should be taken into consideration. Additional springs can be purchased for tuning purposes. The recommended spring rates are based on the combination of weight of the car and baseline ride height.

## Spring Preload

The threaded lower spring seat is used to adjust spring preload. Compressing the coil spring to any length shorter than its free height, with the shock fully extended, is considered preloading the spring. If you adjust the spring seat to change the vehicle's ground clearance, be aware that you will be adding or subtracting travel in the shock. Usually when lighter-than-baseline spring rates are used it is necessary to add preload to achieve the correct balance of travel and ride height. If preload has been added make sure there is adequate spring travel remaining to prevent coil bind before the shock is fully collapsed.

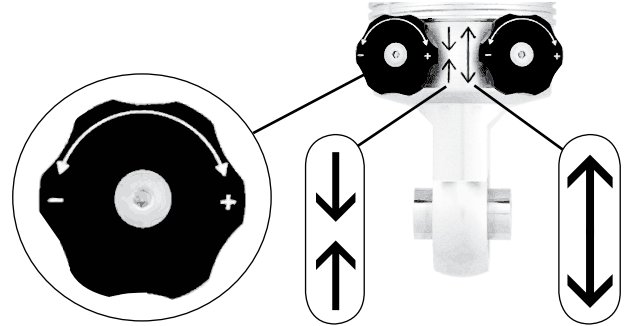
## Tuning Front Suspension with Spring Rate (Drag Race)

A drag race car should run the lightest front spring rate possible, without letting the shocks bottom out when making a pass. As a general guideline, lighter springs allow the car to easily transfer weight, and settle faster down track. Changing spring rate affects ride height and the rate at which weight is transferred to the rear tires. A softer rate makes the front easier to raise during acceleration. A stiffer rate makes the front harder to raise during acceleration. If you are having trouble getting the front end to rise, you can soften shock rebound valving or change to a softer spring. When using lighter rate springs preload must be added by screwing the lower spring seat upward, compressing the spring to achieve proper ride height. In general terms, the worse a car hooks the more shock extension travel it will need. If you need more extension travel, preload can be removed to lower ride height. Using this method will cause the car to have less ground clearance and reduce the amount of compression travel. If you are going to operate the shock at a ride height shorter than recommended, the upper chassis mounts must be relocated to correct any major vehicle ride height issues. It may take some work with spring rates and upper mount relocation to get the correct combination of vehicle ride height and front suspension travel for your application.

## Adjustment Features

The QuickSet 2 valve system features dual adjustment knobs that independently control bump- and rebound-damping stiffness of the shock. Dual-arrow symbols engraved into the shock body demonstrate the function of each knob. Arrows pointing toward each other designate bump (compression) adjustment; the shock collapsing. Arrows pointing away from each other represent rebound (extension) adjustment; the shock extending. Knobs are clearly etched indicating the correct direction of rotation to decrease (-), or increase (+) damping stiffness. There are 16 specific adjustment positions for each knob, with a total of 256 unique combinations possible.

Position 1, the softest setting, is found by turning the knob in the counter-clockwise direction until the positive stop is located. Rotating the knob in the clockwise direction increases damping stiffness. Each of the 16 settings is indicated by a detent that can be felt when turning the knob, and an audible click as the knob gently locks into position. Only very light force is necessary to rotate the knob past each detent. If access to the adjustment knobs is limited, a 5/64 or 7/64 (depending upon model) ball-drive Allen wrench can be used to adjust the knob. Do not force the knob beyond its intended stop, doing so will damage the valve mechanism.



**Note:** VariShocks have a substantial range of adjustment with very little bypass or internal bleed. Due to our minimal-bleed design, shocks will feel extremely stiff at some settings when operated by hand, whereas other shocks with excessive bleed will move more freely. Manual comparison should not be performed. A person cannot manually operate the shock at a rate anywhere near real life conditions and any results found in this manner will be meaningless. Prior to shipping, every VariShock is dynamometer (dyno) tested and calibrated throughout an accurate range of shaft speeds and cylinder pressures found in real-world operation.

Symbol	Direction	Effect
+	Clockwise	Increase Stiffness
-	Counter-Clockwise	Decrease Stiffness
↓ ↑	Bump (compression) Adjustment	
↕	Rebound (extension) Adjustment	

## The Truth About 16- vs. 24-Clicks

Don't be fooled by shocks offering more adjustment clicks. They are actually 1/2-click adjustments. The manufacturer merely added more detents to the mechanism without increasing the range of adjustment. This practice gives more clicks, but the adjustment is so slight that your vehicle will not respond to the change. A 16-position VariShock actually has a broader range of adjustable force with the added benefit of a more manageable number of adjustments to try.

## Tuning Procedures - QuickSet 2

VariShock shock absorber's broad range of adjustment is suitable to the three categories of suspension tuning: ride quality, handling performance, and drag racing. All three tuning categories have the common goal of controlled weight transfer, but have greatly differing vehicle-dynamic requirements. Each will be discussed in the following text. Before proceeding verify that all suspension components, such as control arms, balljoints, and bushings are in acceptable condition and that tire pressures are correctly set.

## Tuning for Drag Racing - QuickSet 2

Required settings for drag racing applications vary greatly depending upon, vehicle weight, weight distribution, suspension geometry and travel, horsepower, and available traction. A properly tuned drag race suspension enables the vehicle to launch straight while transferring weight to the rear tires in an efficient, controlled manner. Extensive testing and adjustment is critically important when operating your vehicle at or near its performance limits. Testing must be done in a safe and controlled environment, such as a dedicated motorsports facility. It is generally better to tune shocks according to improvements in ET's (Elapsed Times) rather than for specific occurrences such as the amount of wheel stand. Due to differences in weight distribution, wheel base, tire size, and horsepower, not all vehicles leave the starting line in the same manner once their suspension has been optimized. Watch your ET's and if your times start to get slower return to the prior adjustment. Once you have completed the following procedures, only fine adjustments may be needed to tune for specific track conditions.

## **Prior to Testing**

Make certain that wheelie bars are raised as high as possible while maintaining control and eliminating their influence as much as possible on damper settings. Begin with shocks adjusted to the number 3 position for bump and rebound.

## **Initial Testing**

First verify that the vehicle tracks straight before aggressively launching from the line. Begin with light acceleration and low speeds. If the vehicle tracks and drives acceptably at this level, make incremental increases in acceleration and top speed until the vehicle is safe at higher speed. Vehicles not tracking straight at speed should verify all chassis settings including but not limited to alignment, bump steer, tire pressures, etc. Once the vehicle drives in a safe manner at speed, move on to test launching.

Test launches should consist of only the initial launch with no subsequent gear changes. Begin with low rpm launches and gradually increase rpm and severity if the car launches acceptably. At this time we are only determining that the car launches in a controlled manner to avoid damaging components or the vehicle. The vehicle should leave in a straight line without extreme wheel standing or harsh bounces. Sudden, uncontrollable front end lift should be corrected by making suspension instant center adjustments, if possible. More gradual front end lift can be corrected by adjusting the shock valving. If the car gradually wheel stands or bounces violently, adjust front suspension first, then rear. If there is rear tire shake, wheel hop or excessive body separation, adjust rear suspension first, then front. If your car is launching severely to the right or left, first check that the rear end is centered and there is no preload adjusted into the rear suspension. If the car still launches severely to the right or left, you will have to add preload to the rear suspension. If everything checks out okay and the car only minimally drives to the right or left, you can stagger the rear shock valving to correct this.

When a vehicle launches slightly toward the right, rebound (shock extension) stiffness is added to the driver side and bump (shock compression) stiffness is added to the passenger side. A vehicle launching slightly toward the left would make the opposite adjustments. It is not recommended to have more than two clicks difference side to side for either bump or rebound. Rear shock adjustments are only applicable to correcting the launch and will have little to no affect on down track performance.

After the car has been adjusted to launch straight, test launch and include the first gear change. Make any required adjustments and add the next gear change. Repeat until the car can be launched straight and driven at speed safely. The car is now ready for fine tuning to optimum results.

## **Front Shock Adjustment**

Pay close attention to what is happening to the front end during launch. Your goal is to eliminate all jerking or bouncing movements during launch and gear shifts. Ideally the front end should rise in a controlled manner, just enough to keep the rear tires loaded, then continue the pass with smooth transitions at all times. Front end rise without any appreciable traction gain is wasted energy that should be used to propel the vehicle forward instead of up. While testing, document your ET's along with any changes made. If ET does not improve, return to previous settings.

## **Front Rebound (Extension) Adjustment Overview**

Too light of a rebound (extension) setting allows excessive front end chassis separation and may result in the front wheels jerking violently off the ground during launch. Also, during gear change, too light a setting allows the car to bounce off its front rebound travel limiter and then bottom out in an oscillating manner. Too firm a setting will prevent the front end from rising sufficiently, limiting the amount of weight transferred to the rear tires. Adjust the rebound setting in one click increments to control the rate at which the front end rises at launch and during gear changes. While testing, document your ET's along with any changes made. If ET does not improve, return to previous settings.

<b>Front Wheels Lose Contact with Ground</b>	Increase Rebound Stiffness	Violent chassis separation and may result in jerking the front wheels off the ground. Increase shock rebound stiffness by one, then test again.
<b>Rear Tires Hook Then Lose Traction</b>	Increase Rebound Stiffness	If weight transfer occurs too quickly the rear tires may hook then lose traction as the front end begins to travel downward. Slowing the rate at which the front end rises prevents the shocks from topping out too quickly and increases the duration of time that the rear tires benefit from the weight transfer. Increase shock rebound stiffness by one, then test again.
<b>No Front End Rise</b>	Decrease Rebound Stiffness	Too firm of a shock setting limits the amount of weight transferred to the rear tires, resulting in poor traction. Decrease shock rebound stiffness by one, then test again.

### Front Bump (Compression) Adjustment Overview

After the launch or during a gear change, a firm bump setting will cause the chassis to bounce off the front tire as the chassis settles down. Too light of a bump setting allows the shock to bottom out and bounce off the stop travel bumper. Adjust bump in one click increments to control the amount and rate at which the front end settles during gear change. While testing, document your ET's along with any changes made. If ET does not improve, return to previous settings.

<b>Front "Bottoms Out" After Launch</b>	Increase Bump Stiffness	If front suspension settles too fast after launch or gear change it may cause the front suspension to bottom out at the end of its downward travel. If the suspension bottoms out hard enough, rear traction may be lost. Increase shock bump stiffness by one, then test again. If increasing bump stiffness cannot extend weight transfer duration long enough, a higher rate spring should be installed.
<b>Hard Front End Bounce</b> (After Launch or Gear Change)	Decrease Bump Stiffness	If the tires cause the front end to bounce upon landing, the shocks are too stiff. The front end should settle in a single, smooth motion. Decrease shock bump stiffness by one, then test again. This can be a very subtle problem. Watch the front tire sidewall as it contacts the ground.

### Rear Shock Adjustment (Double Adjustable)

Maintain traction by controlling the rate at which torque and weight is transferred to the rear tires. Ideally the rear suspension should be as firm as possible before a loss of traction occurs. Changes to the vehicle such as ride height, tire size, weight distribution, or suspension link adjustments will alter the instant center location in relation to the vehicle's center of gravity. Any shift of either the instant center or center of gravity will usually require a shock setting adjustment to optimize traction. While testing, document your ET's along with any changes made. If ET does not improve, return to previous settings.

<b>Rear End Squats</b>	Increase Bump Stiffness	Some vehicles will squat during launches instead of pushing the vehicle forward. To assist in planting the tires, increase shock bump stiffness by one, then test again.
<b>Vehicle Separates from Rear End</b>	Increase Rebound Stiffness	Some suspension geometries plant the tires so forcefully that the rear end of the vehicle rises away from the housing too rapidly. The vehicle may hook initially, then spin the tires once the shocks are topped out. Slowing the rate at which the rear end rises increases the duration of time that the rear tires benefit from the improved traction. Increase shock rebound stiffness by one, then test again.
<b>Loss of Traction with Minimal Chassis Movement</b>	Decrease Bump/ Rebound Stiffness	A suspension system that is too stiff can hit the tires too hard, causing a loss of traction. Softening the suspension slows the transfer of weight and reduces the initial tire shock. Minimal chassis movement makes it very difficult to visually tell if the bump or rebound needs to be decreased. We suggest adjusting bump first and watch for a gain or loss in the ET. If ET does not improve, return to previous setting, then adjust rebound instead and test again.

### Completion of Testing

When all adjustments have been completed, reset your wheelie bars as low as possible without affecting your ET.

## NOTES:

**WARRANTY NOTICE:**

There are NO WARRANTIES, either expressed or implied. Neither the seller nor manufacturer will be liable for any loss, damage or injury, direct or indirect, arising from the use or inability to determine the appropriate use of any products. Before any attempt at installation, all drawings and/or instruction sheets should be completely reviewed to determine the suitability of the product for its intended use. In this connection, the user assumes all responsibility and risk. We reserve the right to change specification without notice. Further, Chris Alston's Chassisworks, Inc., makes **NO GUARANTEE** in reference to any specific class legality of any component. **ALL PRODUCTS ARE INTENDED FOR RACING AND OFF-ROAD USE AND MAY NOT BE LEGALLY USED ON THE HIGHWAY.** The products offered for sale are true race-car components and, in all cases, require some fabrication skill. **NO PRODUCT OR SERVICE IS DESIGNED OR INTENDED TO PREVENT INJURY OR DEATH.**

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