



1984-1989 Toyota 4Runner Idler Arm Replacement

This guide shows how to replace a broken idler arm.

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INTRODUCTION

The idler arm is an essential part of the steering and suspension system on a truck. If the idler arm is not functioning correctly, then it will eventually completely break and leave the truck unable to be steered. This guide will take you through how to replace a bad arm.

TOOLS:

- [Wheel Chocks](#) (1)
- [Hammer](#) (1)
- [Large Needle Nose Pliers](#) (1)
- [Penetrating Lubricant](#) (1)
- [Safety Glasses](#) (1)
- [Latex or nitrile gloves](#) (1)
- [17 mm Box End Wrench](#) (1)
- [Socket 19mm](#) (1)
- [17 mm Socket Wrench](#) (1)
- [1/2" Drive Breaker Bar](#) (1)

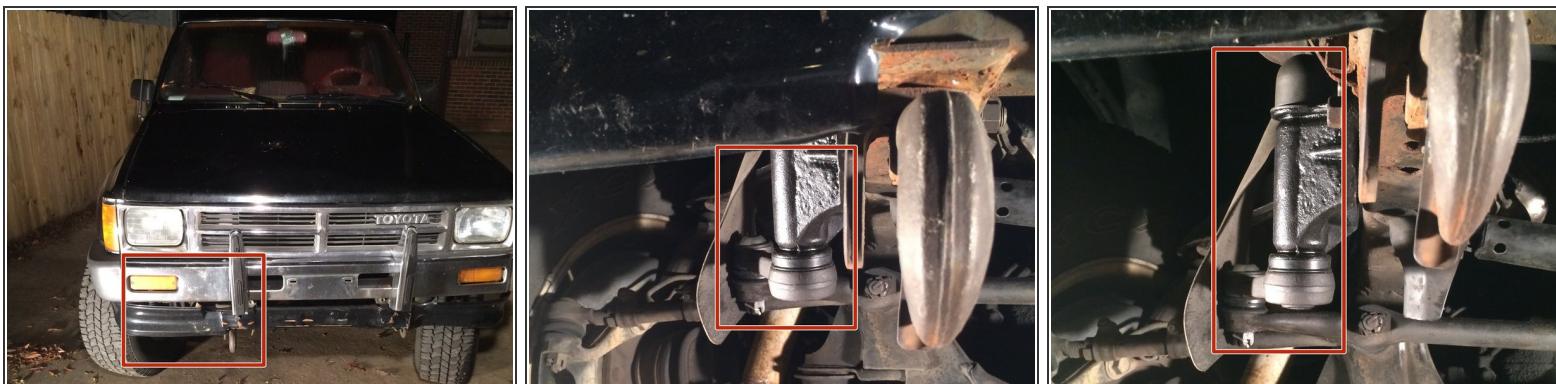
Step 1 — Idler Arm



⚠️ WARNING: Injury may result if this procedure is not followed properly. Use caution and follow all warnings.

- First the truck should be prepared to be worked on.
 - Disconnect the negative battery terminal from the battery in order to be sure that no electrical current is running through the truck.
 - Set the parking break and put the truck in 1st gear.
 - Be sure to chock the wheels, so that it will not roll while you are underneath.

Step 2



- Locate the idler arm.
- It can be found underneath the vehicle, next to the front passenger tire bolted onto the frame.

Step 3



- The first step is to remove the set nut holding the arm to the relay rod.
 - Begin with cleaning any oil and dirt from the set nut and then spray with the penetrating lubricant.
 - Once the spray has sat for 5 minutes, use needle nose pliers to straighten the cotter pin and pull it out.
- ⚠ During reassembly, never reuse a cotter pin. A new one should be included in a new arm. If a new arm is not purchased then one can be purchased from an auto parts store.
- Remove the set nut using a 19 mm socket.
- 📌 When installing the arm this nut should be torqued to 43 ft.-lb.

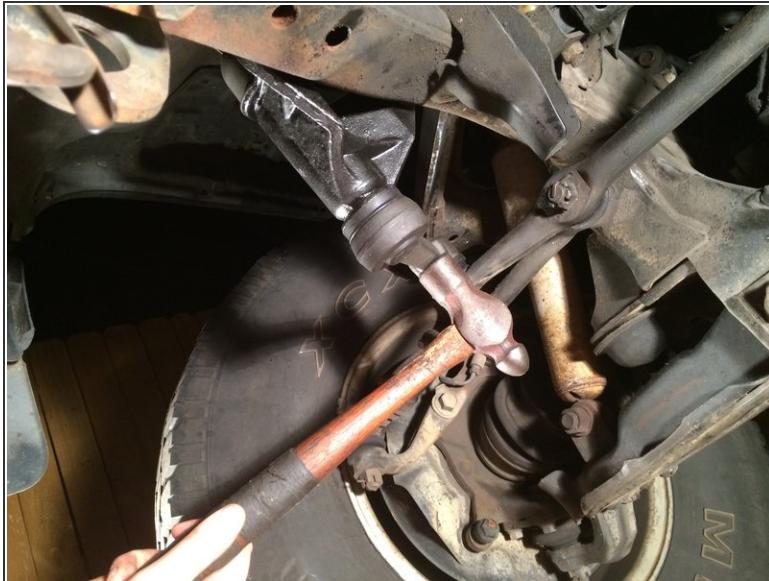
Step 4



- Now that the relay rods are disconnected, the arm can be unbolted from the frame.
- Spray both the bolts and the nuts with the penetrating lubricant.
- On the bolt head use the breaker bar and 17 mm socket; put the 17 mm box wrench on the nut on the back side of the arm.
 - The wrench will get stuck on the frame and the breaker bar can then be used to break the rust off the bolt holding it onto the frame.
- Once the bolt is loose a socket wrench can replace the breaker bar to make the job easier.
- The (2) 4 1/4" bolts go on either side of the arm. The (1) 3 1/2" bolt goes at the top.

All three bolts should be torqued to 70 ft-lb when putting the arm back on.

Step 5



- To separate the arm from the relay rods, a hammer may be used to gently tap up on the idler arm.
⚠ Do not hit down on the relay rods; doing so may cause damage and require them to be replaced.
- A pitman arm puller can be used if the hammer is not able to knock it loose.
- The idler arm can now be removed from the frame.

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.