

CHANGING BRAKE PADS LIKE A PRO

Changing brake pads is a relatively simple task that you can accomplish with a few simple tools. Whether you are working on a bicycle, a motorcycle, or a car, the job is essentially the same. Things just get bigger and heavier. Learning to do these things can save you hundreds of dollars.

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EARN THIS NUGGET

Change a set of brake pads and save yourself a bunch of money.

LEVEL L

B-6

Once you have purchased your brake pads, you will have to get to a safe working place so that you can get the job done. For a car, you'll need to jack the car up on firm level ground with the emergency brake on. Get the wheel off so you can get to the brake pads. Never, ever climb under a jacked-up car. People die every year crushed under vehicles. For further details, on jacking and removing wheels talk to an expert family member or do additional research.

- The brake works by squeezing brake pads onto the disc and are housed inside the brake caliper. So your first job will be to undo the caliper bolts using a socket wrench or ring wrench. (Don't use open-ended wrenches if you can avoid it. They can slip and ruin bolt heads.)
- Withdraw the screws and remove the caliper. The hydraulic hose will still be attached. Place the caliper so that it is not putting strain on this hose.
- Remove the two old brake pads. They general snap in and may take a little muscle to remove. Inspect the disc and other components to make sure you don't see any wear or warp.
- Place the new pads into the housing. It is a good idea to put lubricant on the rear of the pads. This helps prevent squeaking. Make sure you don't get any on the pad front surface.
- Replace the caliper. There's a good chance that this will not fit as the brake pads are much thicker now. In this case, push the caliper plunger carefully back in, you may need to use a C-clamp or similar, but never force anything.



These instructions are very general. Use a car repair manual and have an expert oversee what you are doing to ensure that everything is done correctly.