

VW Touareg - Centre Prop-shaft Joint Failure



With the prop-shaft separated the centre bearing can be replaced

When the centre prop-shaft joint on this 2006 VW Touareg failed, producing vibration and loud knocking noise from the centre of the vehicle, we were surprised that our local factor did not stock a replacement unit. The local main dealer did, but this was around €850. Deciding that there must be a better way, we discovered that our local factor did carry the centre bearing for a price tag of under €100.

The prop-shaft, at first glance, appears to be sealed in the centre making the replacement of just the bearing a difficult job. This is not strictly true. Splitting the shaft involves gently prising off the metal collar by levering the metal retainer away from the joint. This will allow the boot to be pulled back away from the joint and will then reveal the circlip securing the front shaft to the joint in the rear shaft.

Once the circlip is released, the position of the two shafts should be marked to ensure they are refitted in the same position. The two shafts can then be separated. This allows the bearing and centre carrier to be tapped off from the front shaft. Do not secure the bearing and attempt to

knock the shaft though. Hitting the end of the shaft will cause the front joint locating pin to disappear inside the shaft.

Refitting is in reverse order and the metal collar can be reaffixed by gently peening the edges over. The collar has a built-in rubber seal, so providing the edges are peened over sufficiently it will not leak grease.

Once back together, all that was required was for the shaft to be fitted back to the vehicle.