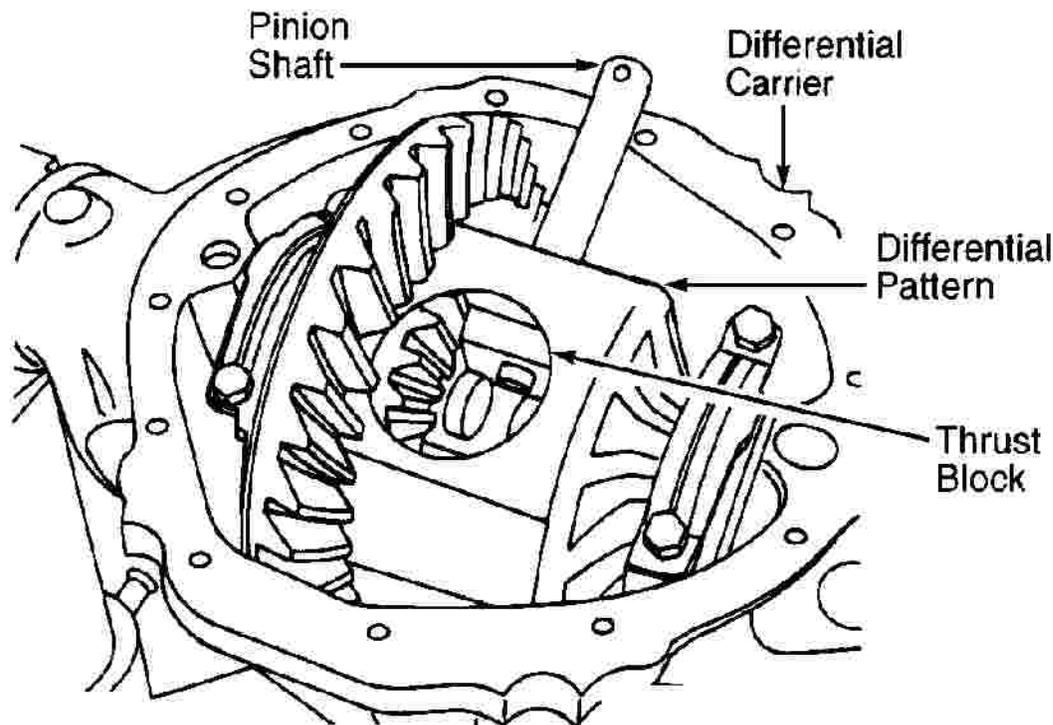


AXLE SHAFT & BEARING

Removal

1. Raise vehicle and support. Remove rear wheels and brake drums. Place drain pan below differential cover. Loosen, but DO NOT remove, differential cover bolts. Break cover loose. Allow lubricant to drain. Remove differential cover. Remove differential pinion shaft lock bolt.
2. On non-locking differential assemblies, remove differential pinion shaft. Push outer flanged end of axle shaft toward center of vehicle. Remove "C" lock from axle shaft groove and from counterbore recess in side gear. Remove axle shaft from axle housing.
3. On locking differential assemblies (with thrust block and clutch packs), move pinion shaft part way out. Rotate differential case to lock pinion shaft against carrier housing. See **Fig. 1**.



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Fig. 1: Removing Axle From Locking Differential Assembly
 Courtesy of GENERAL MOTORS CORP.

4. Using screwdriver, rotate "C" lock until its open end faces thrust block and "C" lock is aligned with thrust block sides. See **Fig. 2**. Push axle shaft inward. Remove "C" lock from thrust block and axle shaft groove. Remove axle shaft from axle housing. See **Fig. 2**.

1999 Chevrolet Blazer

1998-99 DRIVE AXLES 7 5/8", 8 1/2", 8 5/8" & 9 1/2" Ring Gears

CAUTION: DO NOT hammer on axle shaft flange.

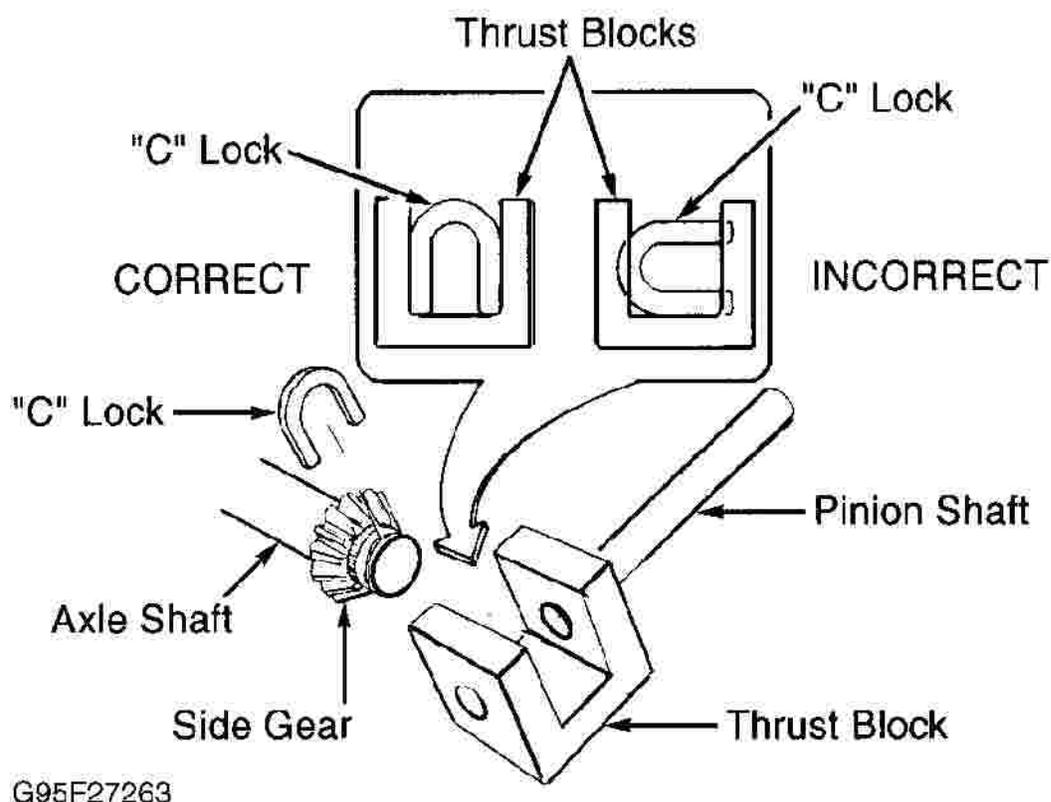


Fig. 2: Removing "C" Lock From Locking Differential
Courtesy of GENERAL MOTORS CORP.

5. On all assemblies, insert Axle Bearing & Seal Remover into axle housing behind bearing. Attach Slide Hammer (J-2619) and Adapter (J-2619-10) to bearing remover. Remove axle bearing and axle seal. See Fig. 3.

1999 Chevrolet Blazer

1998-99 DRIVE AXLES 7 5/8", 8 1/2", 8 5/8" & 9 1/2" Ring Gears

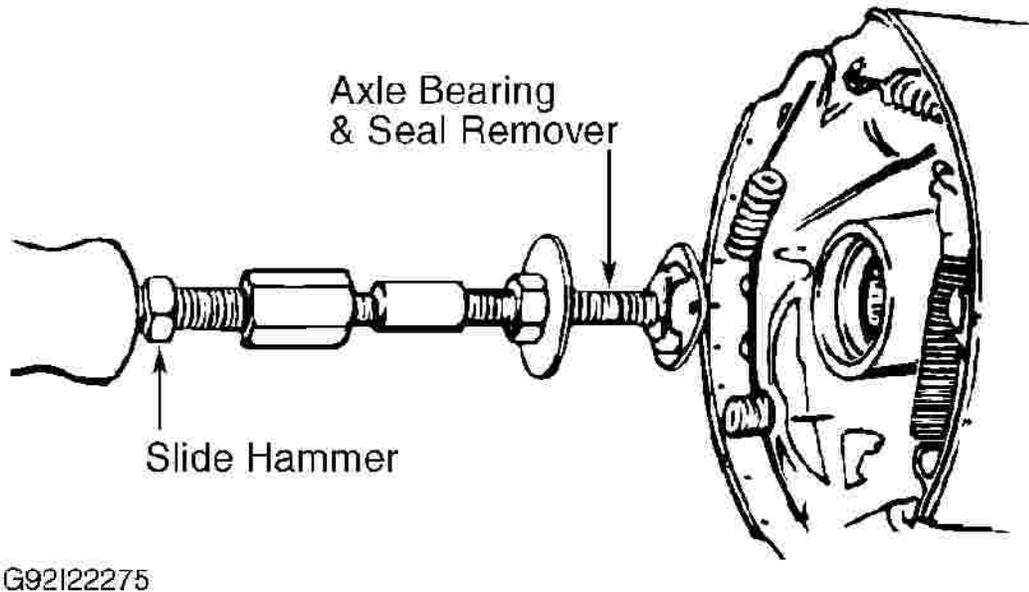


Fig. 3: Removing Axle Bearing & Seal
Courtesy of GENERAL MOTORS CORP.

Installation

1. Lubricate axle shaft cavity using gear oil. Using Bearing Installer (J-8092), install axle shaft bearing into housing until bearing installer bottoms against housing shoulder.
2. Using Seal Installer (J-21128) for 8 1/2 and 8 5/8 or (J-29713) for 9 1/2, install axle shaft seal into housing until seal bottoms against housing shoulder. Install axle shaft and "C" lock. Ensure not to damage seal. On non-locking differential assemblies, install "C" lock on bottom of axle shaft. On locking differential assemblies, install "C" lock so that ends are flush with thrust block. See **Fig. 2**. On all assemblies, pull axle shaft outward to seat "C" lock.
3. Coat pinion shaft lock bolt threads with Loctite 242. Install pinion shaft and pinion shaft lock bolt. Tighten lock bolt to specification. See **TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS** table. To complete installation, reverse removal procedure. Reseal differential cover using gasket or RTV sealant. Tighten differential cover bolts in a crisscross pattern to specification. Fill differential with lubricant.