



## Product Update: Front Balancer Shaft Oil Seal (Supersedes 00-073, dated October 6, 2000)

### BACKGROUND

The front balancer shaft oil seal may back out of the oil pump housing over time. If this happens, the oil can be rapidly pumped out of the engine without warning, causing serious engine damage if you continue to drive.

### VEHICLES AFFECTED

#### Accord L4 2-door:

1994-96 – ALL

1997 – From VIN 1HGCD7...VA000001 thru 1HGCD7...VA027988

#### Accord L4 4-door:

1994-96 – ALL

1997 – From VIN 1HGCD5...VA000001 thru 1HGCD5...VA179728

1997 – All Japan-built LX models with A/T (VIN begins with JHM)

#### Accord L4 5-door:

1994-96 – ALL

1997 – From VIN 1HGCE1...VA000001 thru 1HGCE1...VA008642

#### Prelude:

1994-96 – ALL

1997 – From VIN JHMBB6...VC000001 thru JHMBB6...VC008074

#### Odyssey:

1995-96 – ALL

1997 – From VIN JHMRA1...VC000001 thru JHMRA1...VC011628

### CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION

All owners of affected vehicles will be mailed a notification of this product update campaign. An example of the customer notification is at the end of this service bulletin.

### CORRECTIVE ACTION

Install an oil seal retainer to keep the oil seal from backing out.

### PARTS INFORMATION

Front Balancer Shaft Oil Seal Retainer Kit:

P/N 06923-P0A-306, H/C 6627707  
(Kit contains a retainer and an O-ring.)

NOTE: Early production kits also include a set of installation instructions. These instructions are *incorrect*, do *not* use them. Use *only* the procedure in this service bulletin to install the kit.

### REQUIRED SPECIAL TOOLS

Accord/Odyssey/SOHC Prelude:

Holder Attachment, 50 mm offset:  
T/N 07MAB-PY3010A

DOHC Prelude:

Holder Attachment, 50 mm offset:  
T/N 07NAB-001040A

ALL:

Holder Handle: T/N 07JAB-001020A  
Belt Tension Gauge: T/N 07JGG-001010A or 07TGG-001000A

### WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

NOTE: This campaign ends January 1, 2003. After that date, warranty claims for installation of a retainer, or repairs required due to a failed oil seal, will *not* be accepted.

Refer to the Warranty Claim Filing Instructions that follow.

OP#	Description	FRT
111008	See Instruction A	0.3
111108	See Instruction B	0.6
111124	See Instruction C (requires DSM approval)	
111008/ 111099	See Instruction D (requires DSM approval)	

Failed Part: P/N 06923-P0A-306  
H/C 6627707

Defect Code: 747

Contention Code: L02

Skill Level: Repair Technician

## Warranty Claim Filing Instructions

- A. If the technician found that an oil seal retainer had already been installed, file a warranty claim with operation number 111008.
- B. If the technician installed an oil seal retainer, file a warranty claim with operation number 111108.
- C. If the technician replaced the oil seal because it was cocked or backed out, file a warranty claim with operation number 111124. This includes replacing the timing belt and balancer belt if they are contaminated with oil. *This repair requires DSM approval.*

### Flat Rate Time

Accord - 2.5 hours  
Odyssey - 2.5 hours  
1994-96 Prelude - 2.5 hours  
1997 Prelude - 2.7 hours

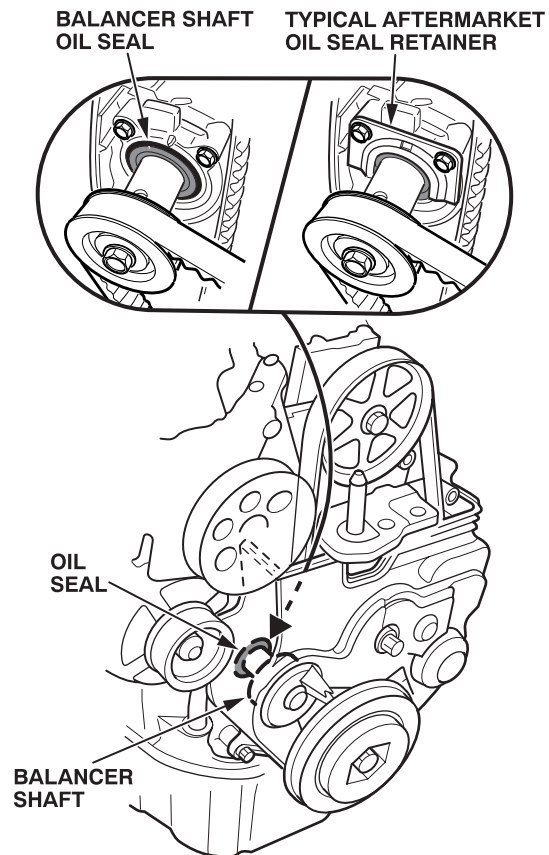
- D. If the technician replaced the engine because there was significant internal engine damage due to extended driving after a complete loss of oil, file a warranty claim with operation number 111008 as the primary operation and 111099 as the secondary operation. Show actual repair time as the FRT with 111099, and list all parts used. *This repair requires DSM approval.*

NOTE: If a vehicle with engine damage has high mileage, the DSM may authorize the installation of a reconditioned engine from an outside supplier rather than a new engine from Honda. In that case, refer to section 6.4.1, *Reimbursement for Non-Honda Parts*, in the Service Operations Manual for claim submission and credit guidelines.

## REPAIR PROCEDURE

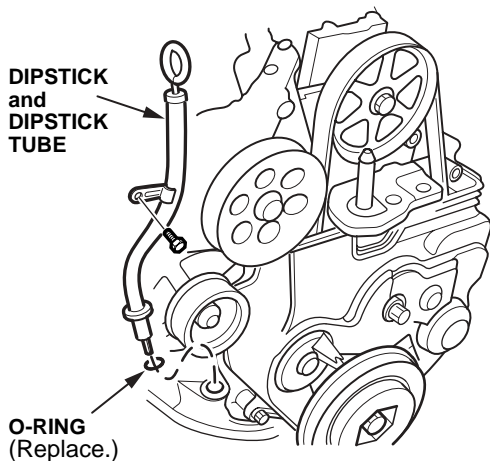
1. Make sure you have the audio system anti-theft code, if needed. Write down your customer's radio station presets.
2. Disconnect the negative cable from the battery.
3. Remove the cylinder head cover. Remove the middle cover (DOHC Prelude) or the upper cover (all other affected models).

4. Use a flashlight to look inside the lower cover at the front balancer shaft oil seal. Look for an oil seal retainer above it bolted to the oil pump housing.
  - If you see an oil seal retainer, go to step 23.
  - If you do *not* see an oil seal retainer, go to step 5.
  - If the seal is cocked or backed out, replace the seal. Replace the timing belt and balancer belt if they are contaminated with oil (refer to section 6 of the appropriate service manual). Then go to step 14. *This repair requires DSM approval.*
  - If the oil seal has backed out, causing internal engine damage from extended driving with a complete loss of oil, contact your DSM.

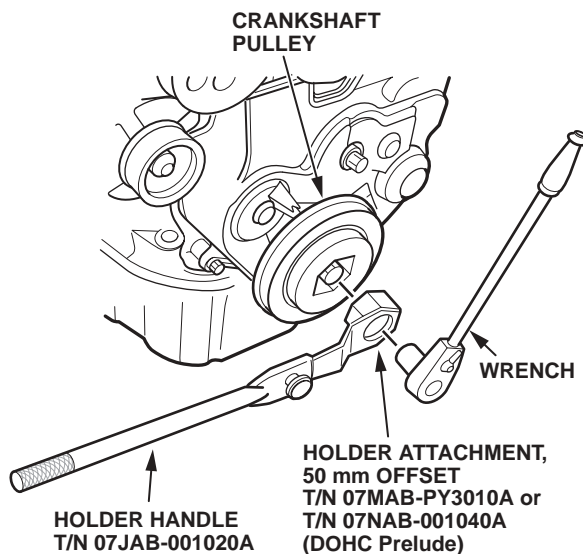


5. Loosen the mounting hardware for the power steering pump and the alternator. Then loosen the adjusting bolts 20 turns (this is for reference during reassembly).
6. Remove the power steering pump belt and the alternator belt.
7. *DOHC Prelude only:* Remove the power steering reservoir and the power steering pump, and set them aside. Do *not* disconnect any power steering fluid lines.

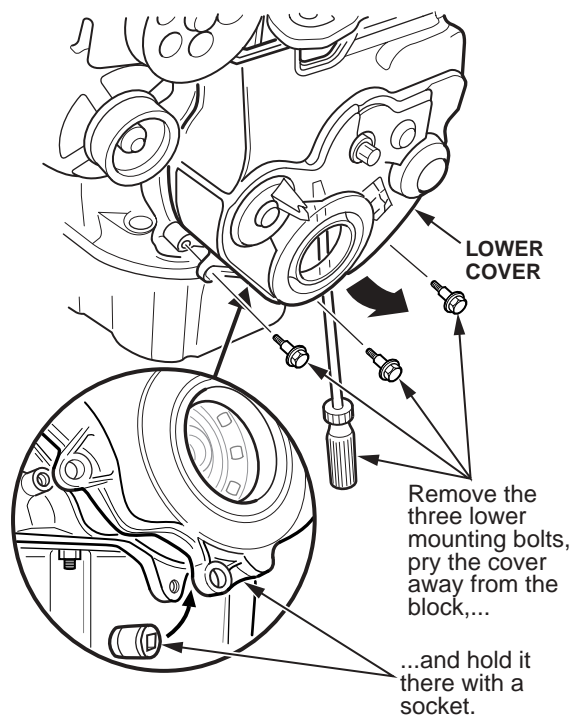
- Remove the dipstick and the dipstick tube. Make sure you cover the hole to keep debris out of the oil pan.



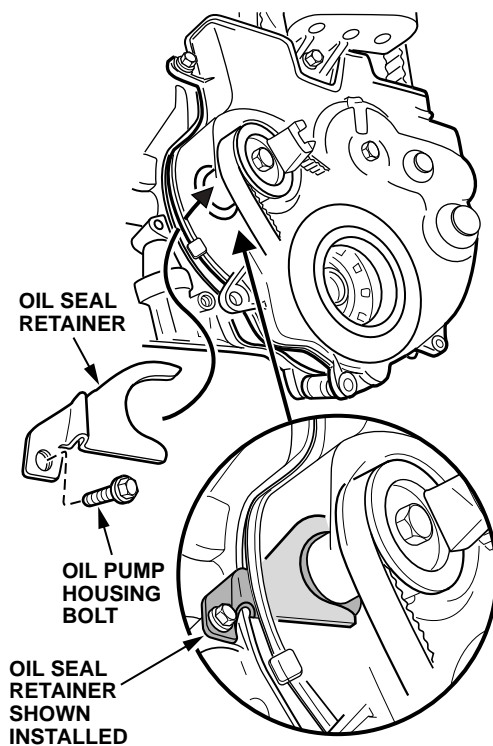
- Raise the vehicle, and remove the left front wheel.
- Remove the mounting bolts from the driver's side half of the splash shield. Pull back the splash shield, and secure it so you can access the crankshaft pulley.
- Use the special tools and a wrench to remove the crankshaft pulley bolt, then remove the pulley.



- Remove the three mounting bolts from the lower cover. Pry the bottom of the cover away from the block about an inch, and use a socket or similar tool to hold it there.



- Remove the oil pump housing bolt to the left and below the front balancer shaft.



- Install the oil seal retainer from the kit on the pump housing with the bolt you just removed. Torque the bolt to 12 N·m (8.7 lb-ft).

15. Reinstall the lower cover bolts, making sure the rubber seal seats properly in the cover. Torque the bolts to 12 N·m (8.7 lb-ft).
16. Reinstall the crankshaft pulley. Use the special tools and a torque wrench to torque the pulley bolt to 245 N·m (181 lb-ft). Make sure you use a torque wrench; do *not* use an impact wrench.
17. Reinstall the splash shield mounting bolts. Torque the bolts to 12 N·m (8.7 lb-ft).
18. Reinstall the left front wheel. Torque the wheel nuts to 108 N·m (80 lb-ft).
19. Reinstall the dipstick tube with the new O-ring from the kit. Torque the bolt to 12 N·m (8.7 lb-ft). Reinstall the dipstick.
20. *DOHC Prelude only:* Reinstall the power steering reservoir and the power steering pump.
21. Reinstall the alternator belt and the power steering pump belt.
22. Tighten the adjusting bolts for the alternator and the power steering pump 20 turns, then torque the mounting hardware as specified in the appropriate service manual. Use belt tension gauge T/N 07JGG-001010A or TGG-001000A to check for proper belt tension.  
NOTE: An over-tensioned belt *will* cause crankshaft failure, usually within a few thousand miles. Make sure the belt tension is correct before releasing the vehicle to your customer.  
*Accord without A/C:*  
Alternator belt – 294 to 441 N (30 to 45 kg)  
Power steering pump belt – 390 to 540 N (40 to 55 kg)  
*Accord with A/C:*  
Alternator belt – 441 to 588 N (45 to 60 kg)  
Power steering pump belt – 390 to 540 N (40 to 55 kg)  
*Odyssey:*  
Alternator belt – 441 to 588 N (45 to 60 kg)  
Power steering pump belt – 390 to 540 N (40 to 55 kg)  
*SOHC Prelude without A/C*  
Alternator belt – 300 to 450 N (31 to 46 kg)  
Power steering pump belt – 350 to 500 N (36 to 51 kg)  
*SOHC Prelude with A/C:*  
Alternator belt – 294 to 441 N (30 to 45 kg)  
Power steering pump belt – 350 to 500 N (36 to 51 kg)  
*DOHC Prelude:*  
Alternator belt – 390 to 540 N (40 to 55 kg)  
Power steering pump belt – 390 to 540 N (40 to 55 kg)
23. Reinstall the upper or middle cover. Torque the bolts to 12 N·m (8.7 lb-ft).

24. Reinstall the cylinder head cover. Torque the mounting hardware sequentially in two or three steps as specified in the appropriate service manual.
25. Reconnect the negative cable to the battery.
26. Enter the audio system anti-theft code, then enter your customer's radio station presets. Set the clock.
27. Center-punch a completion mark above the last character of the engine compartment VIN.

Center-punch here.

1HGCDXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**Example of Customer Letter**

October 2000

**Product Update Campaign: Engine Oil Leak**

Dear Honda Owner:

We have sent this letter to notify you of a potential problem with your Honda vehicle.

**What is the problem?**

The balancer shaft oil seal, located in the front of the engine, may back out over time. If this happens, the oil can be rapidly pumped out of the engine without warning, causing serious engine damage if you continue to drive.

**What should you do?**

Call any authorized Honda dealer, and make an appointment to have your vehicle repaired. They will install a retainer that prevents the seal from backing out. *This repair will be done free of charge.* This applies until January 1, 2003. After that date, installation of a retainer or repairs required due to a failed oil seal are at your own expense.

**What if you had this repaired previously?**

Even if you are certain you had a balancer shaft oil seal replaced sometime in the past, contact an authorized Honda dealer, and make an appointment. They will inspect your vehicle, and install a retainer if one has not already been installed. You are also eligible for reimbursement for the cost of the previous oil seal replacement. Refer to the enclosed *Request for Reimbursement* form for the requirements.

**What to do if you feel this notice is in error.**

Our records show that you are the current owner of a Honda vehicle involved in this campaign. If this is not the case, or the name/address information is incorrect, please fill out and return the enclosed, postage-paid *Information Change Card*. We will then update our records.

**If you have questions.**

If you have any questions about this notice, or need assistance with contacting a Honda dealer, please call the Honda Consumer Affairs Department at **(800) 999-1009**.

Thank you for your cooperation. We regret any inconvenience this may cause you.

Sincerely,

**AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.**  
**Honda Automobile Division**