

REPLACING OF BRAKE SHOES

The removal of the brake shoes is similar for the front and rear brakes. On the new Fiat 126, however, it is no longer necessary to remove the hub with the drum. The drum is retained by two screws and can be pulled off. In both cases jack up the car and remove the wheel. Release the handbrake lever for the rear brakes.

Remove the front drum together with the wheel hub as described in Section 5.2.2.2. or take out the retaining screws and pull off the drum from the hub. The rear brake drum can be removed after loosening the securing screws. With the brake drum removed, measure the thickness of the remaining lining material, which should be no less than 1.5 mm (0.06 in.). The linings are bonded to the brake shoes and in case of excessive wear, the complete brake shoes must be replaced. Always replace all brake shoes of one axle.

Before removing the brake shoes retain the pistons in the wheel cylinder with a rubber band to prevent them from coming out. On pre-December 1976 models, unhook the brake shoe return springs with a pair of pliers and lift the two shoes from the backplate pins. On the new 126 turn the flange to the best position for the shoes to be removed and take out the anchor pins and springs.

Checking the Self-adjusting Mechanism

Fig. 8.3. shows the components of the mechanism. To dismantle the adjuster (to replace the brake shoe), use a G-clamp and compress the spring so that the circlip (1) is still accessible. Remove the circlip, slowly release the spring tension and take off the components.

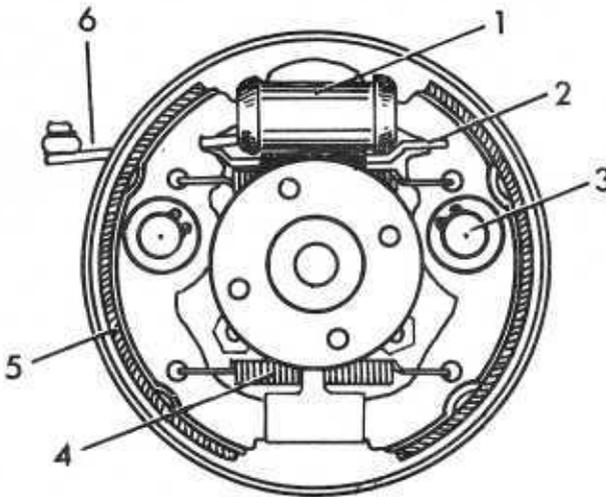


Fig. 8.2. — View of the assembled rear brakes. Shown is the version fitted to models prior to December 1976. The brake shoes of the new Fiat 126 are attached with steady pins, springs and washers to the brake back plate and the hub has cut-outs to facilitate the removal of the shoes.

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| 1. Wheel brake cylinder | 4. Lower return spring |
| 2. Operating strut | 5. Brake shoe |
| 3. Self-adjusting mechanism | 6. Handbrake operating lever |

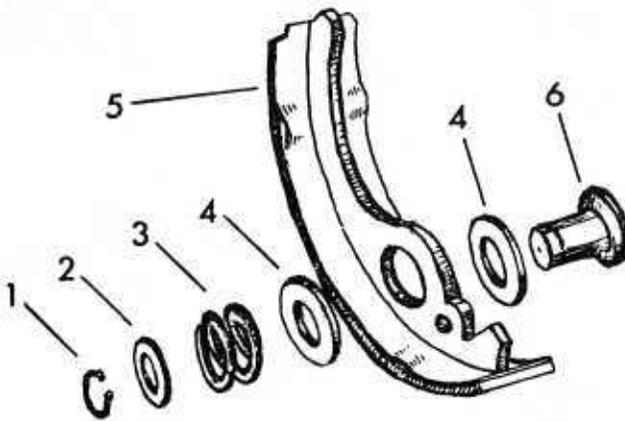


Fig. 8.3. — View of a brake shoe (front or rear) with the parts of the self-adjusting mechanism removed.

1. Circlip
2. Plain washer
3. Coil spring
4. Friction washers
5. Brake shoe with lining
6. Hollow pin

Check all parts for general wear. Even slightly worn parts must be replaced. Check the serviceability of the coil spring (3). To do this, compress it under a press with a load of 46 ± 4.2 kg (101 ± 9.3 lb.) and measure its height which should be 9.5 mm (0.37 in.). A weak spring should be replaced.

To assemble the brake shoe, insert the hollow pin (6) through the brake shoe, from the side normally facing the backplate, with the friction washer (4) over the pin. From the other side fit the second friction washer (4), the spring (3) and the plain washer (2). Compress the spring with a G-clamp and fit the circlip (1), making sure it locates in its groove.

Installation of Brake Shoes.

After checking the brake drums, and if necessary the wheel brake cylinders as described below, refit the brake shoes in reverse to the removal procedure. The return springs should be fitted with a pair of pliers. After installation of the shoes, tap them inwards against the action of the adjusting mechanism, in order to refit the brake drums. Refit the anchor pins on the new 126.

Refer to Section 5.2.2.3. for installation of the front drum/hub assembly and adjust the wheel bearing play.

Operate the brake pedal several times to bring the shoes into contact with the brake drums.