Air Cooled Type 1 VW Rear Suspension Types (US Models)

**THERE ARE TWO BASIC TYPES OF VINTAGE AIR COOLED VW TYPE 1 REAR SUSPENSIONS**

1. Swing Axle ......................................1946–1968
2. IRS (Independent Rear Suspension) ......1969–1979 (1968 auto stick used IRS)
   b. Single spring plate type ..............1973–1979

**SWING AXLE REAR SUSPENSION (SA)**


*Torsion bar extends 3” on each side


*Torsion bar is not visible

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**VIEW A**
1946–1959
Swing Axle
Extends 3” on both sides

**VIEW B**
1960–1968
Swing Axle
Flush on both sides
**IRS REAR SUSPENSION (INDEPENDENT REAR SUSPENSION)**

Starting in 1969* all models used the IRS suspension. IRS Spring Plates have a variation in that 1969–1972 used twin plates and the 1973–1979 used single plates. (*1968 Beetles equipped with the new Auto Stick used 1969 style IRS suspension)

**VIEW B: 1973–1979 – IRS Single Spring Plates**

*1969–1979: 26–9/16” Torsion Bars (Torsion bar extends out about 5.5” on each side)

**FAQ: WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES OF SWING AXLES VERSUS IRS INDEPENDENT REAR SUSPENSION?**
The difference between a swing axle suspension and the IRS Suspension is that swing axle suspensions use the axle as a suspension component whereas IRS use the combination of the spring plate and control arm as the pivoting suspension components and the only function of the axle is to deliver power.

**NOTES**
Thing Type 18 were all IRS and used 24–11/16” length torsion bars.
Type 3 used 24–11/16” length torsion bars up to 1968.