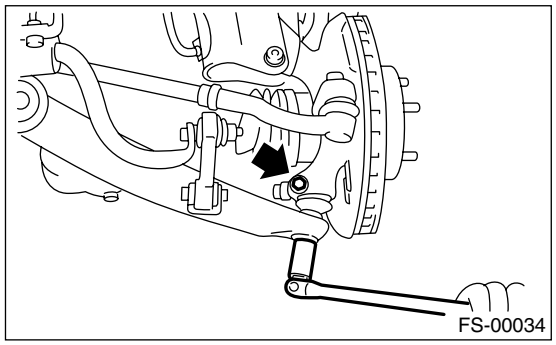
4. Front Ball Joint

A: REMOVAL

1) Remove the wheel.
2) Pull out the cotter pin from ball stud, remove the castle nut, and extract the ball stud from transverse link.
3) Remove the bolt securing ball joint to housing.



4) Extract the ball joint from housing.

B: INSTALLATION

1) Install the ball joint onto housing.

Tightening torque (Bolt):
50 N·m (5.1 kgf-m, 37 ft-lb)

CAUTION:
Do not apply grease to tapered portion of ball stud.

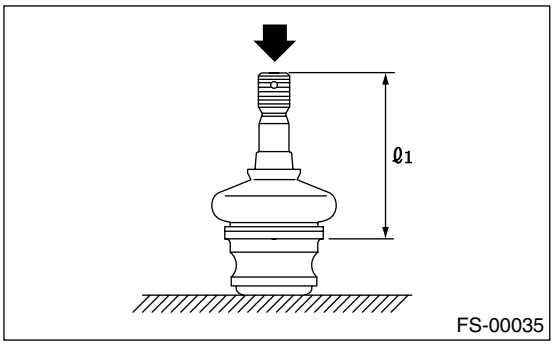
2) Connect the ball joint to transverse link.

Tightening torque (Castle nut):
STi model:
30 N·m (3.1 kgf-m, 22 ft-lb)
Except STi model:
40 N·m (4.1 kgf-m, 30 ft-lb)

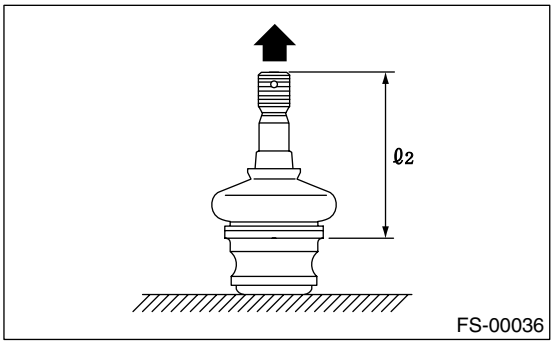
3) Retighten the castle nut further within 60° until a slot in castle nut is aligned with the hole in ball stud end, then insert a new cotter pin and bend it around castle nut.
4) Install the front wheel.

C: INSPECTION

1) Measure the play of ball joint by the following procedures. Replace with a new one when the play exceeds specified value.
(1) With 686 N (70 kgf, 154 lb) loaded in direction shown in the figure, measure the dimension ℓ_1.



(2) With 686 N (70 kgf, 154 lb) loaded in opposite direction shown in the figure, measure the dimension ℓ_2.



(3) Calculate plays from the following formula. $S = \ell_2 - \ell_1$
(4) When plays are larger than the following value, replace with a new one.

FRONT BALL JOINT
Specified play for replacement: S
Less than 0.3 mm (0.012 in)

2) When the play is smaller than specified value, visually inspect the dust cover.
3) The ball joint and cover that have been removed must be checked for wear, damage or cracks, and any defective part must be replaced.
4) If the dust cover is damaged, replace with a new ball joint.