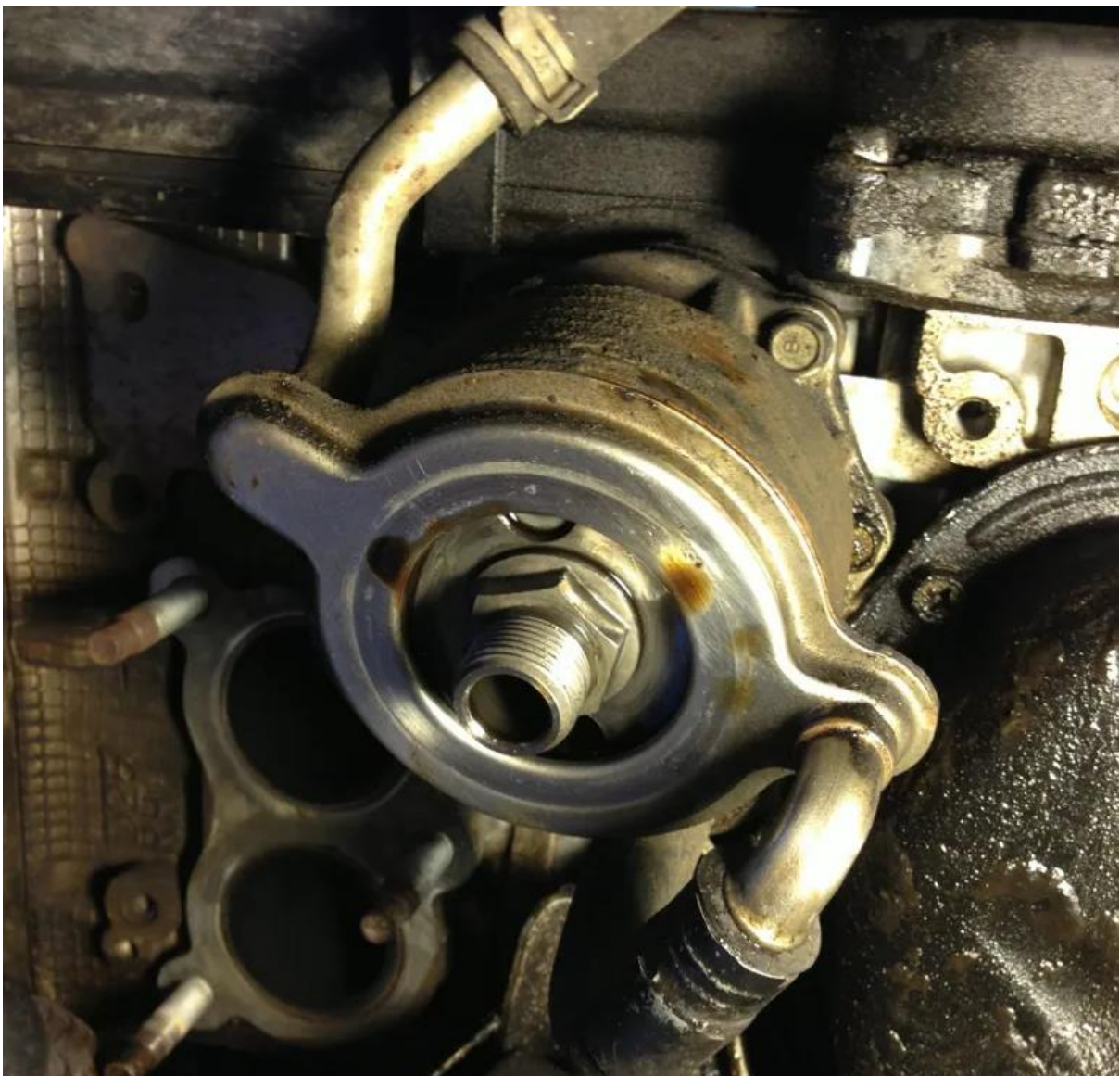


Equal Length Header Installation Notes

2006-2007 WRX/STI and 03-08 Forester XT models do require some additional attention when installing equal length headers. The OEM oil cooler has an additional mounting plate which sits the cooler at an angle. When installing equal length headers the oil cooler and filter will not clear the piping so this needs to be addressed.

You will need to drain the engine coolant, engine oil and remove the oil filter, oil cooler and the oil cooler mounting plate. The oil cooler itself will need to be modified as well but all that is required is some slight bending of the water pipes. Have a fresh engine service kit (coolant, oil, filter, plug gasket etc.) ready.

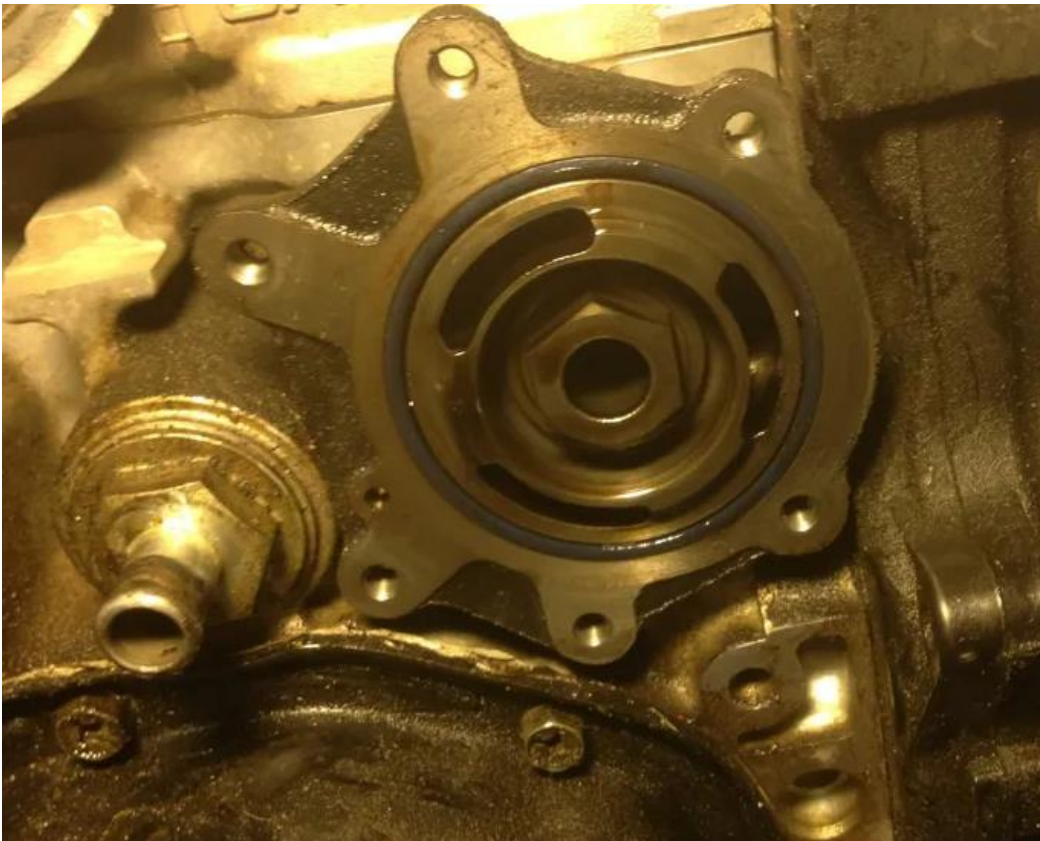
Oil cooler in factory configuration:



You will need to remove the clamps and disconnect the coolant hoses. Then remove the centre bolt holding the oil cooler on and remove the cooler assembly. You will be left with this:



Remove the 6 bolts holding this plate to the engine and remove the plate. You will now have this bracket attached to the engine:



This bracket will also need to be removed so take out the large centre bolt which holds it to the engine and you can then remove the bracket.

With the oil cooler removed you will need to bend the hoses so that they now clear the timing belt cover. As there is no longer an angled plate underneath the cooler the hoses will be too far up and will not clear the cover. You may need to hold the cooler to the engine to see how far you need to bend the pipes. Here is an example of how it may need to be bent:



You can then reattach the oil cooler to the block using the same bolt that was used to attach the oil cooler to the mounting plate originally. Now you can reattach the coolant hoses (these may need to be trimmed):



You can now proceed with installation of the headers but it is important to check clearance between the headers and coolant hoses to the oil cooler. Here is an example of how close these may be:



It may be necessary to modify the pipes further to allow adequate clearance between the headers. If not possible you may need to provide additional heat protection in the form of header wrap, pipe heat shield etc. to ensure the coolant hoses aren't affected by the exhaust heat.