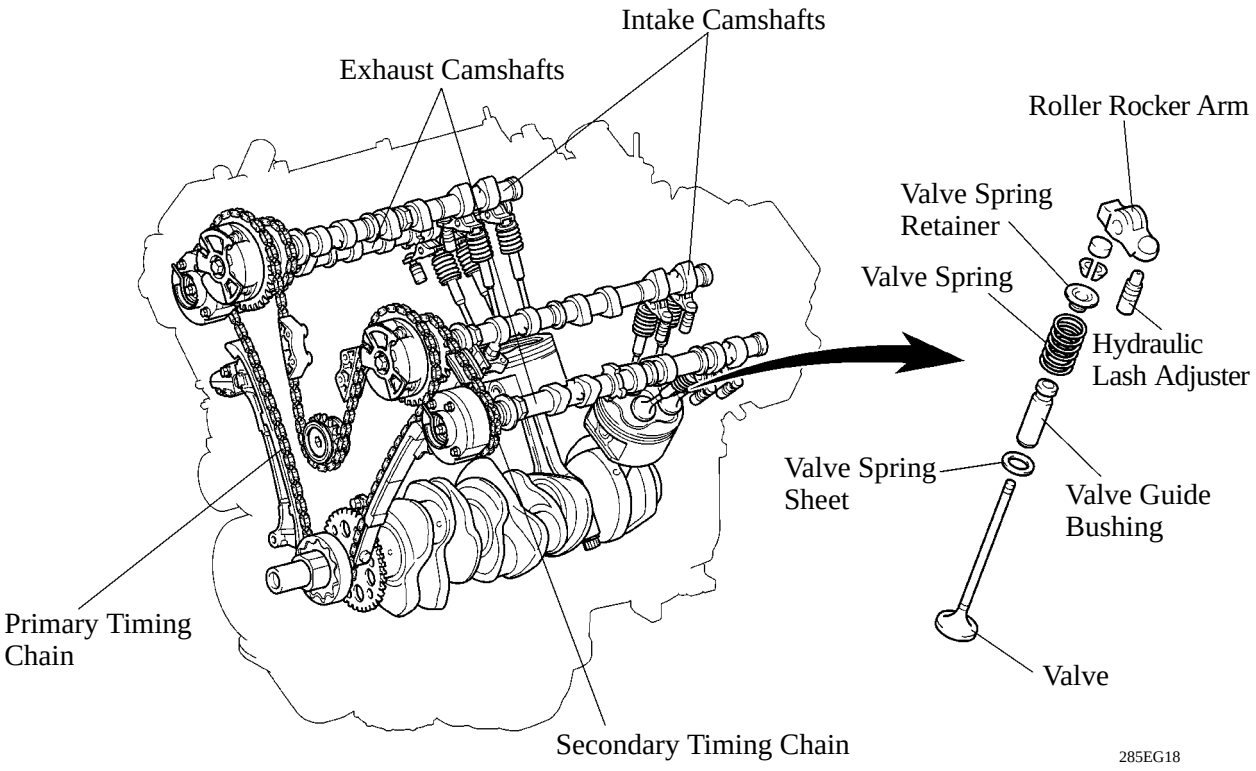
■VALVE MECHANISM

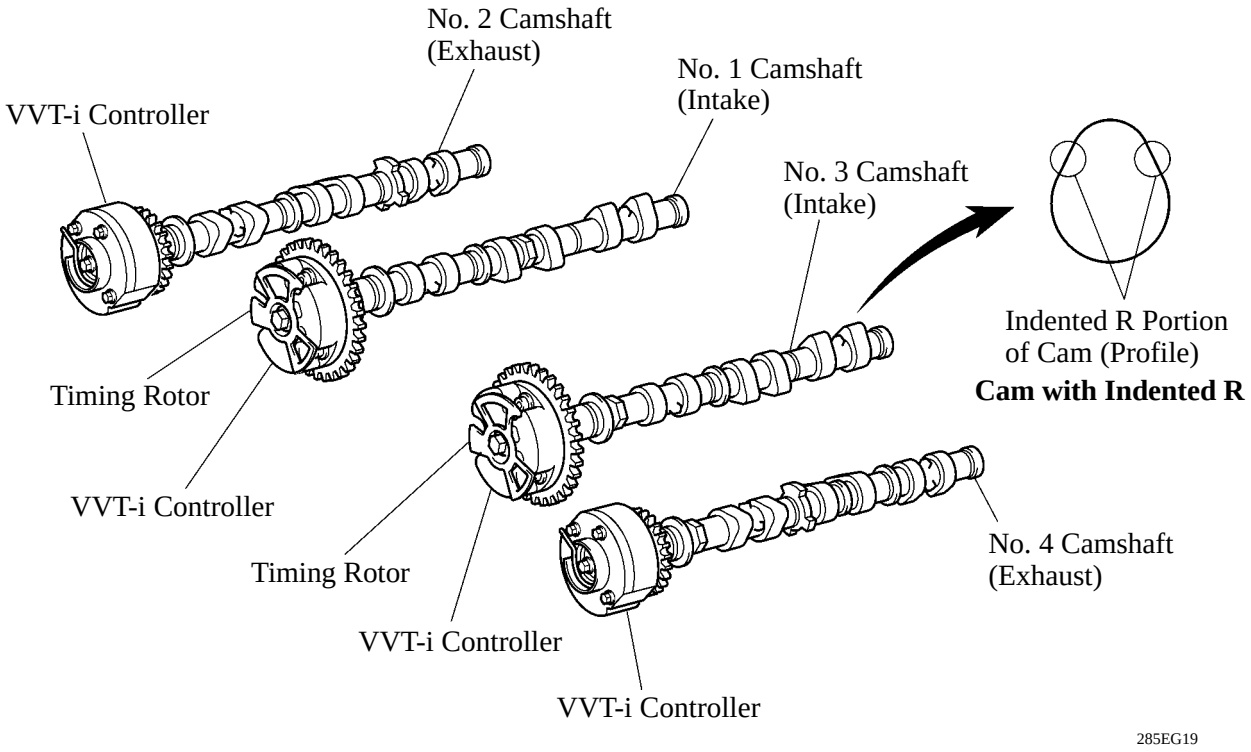
1. General

- Each cylinder of this engine has 2 intake valves and 2 exhaust valves. Intake and exhaust efficiency is increased due to the larger total port areas.
- This engine uses roller rocker arms with built-in needle bearings. This reduces the friction that occurs between the cams and the areas (roller rocker arms) that push the valves down, thus improving fuel economy.
- A hydraulic lash adjuster, which maintains a constant zero valve clearance through the use of oil pressure and spring force, is used.
- The intake camshafts are driven by the crankshaft via the primary timing chain. The exhaust camshafts are driven by the intake camshaft of the respective bank via the secondary timing chain.
- This engine uses a Dual VVT-i (Variable Valve Timing-intelligent) system, which controls the intake and exhaust camshafts to provide optimal valve timing according to driving conditions. With this adoption, lower fuel consumption, higher engine performance, and fewer exhaust emissions have been achieved. For details of Dual VVT-i control, see page 71.



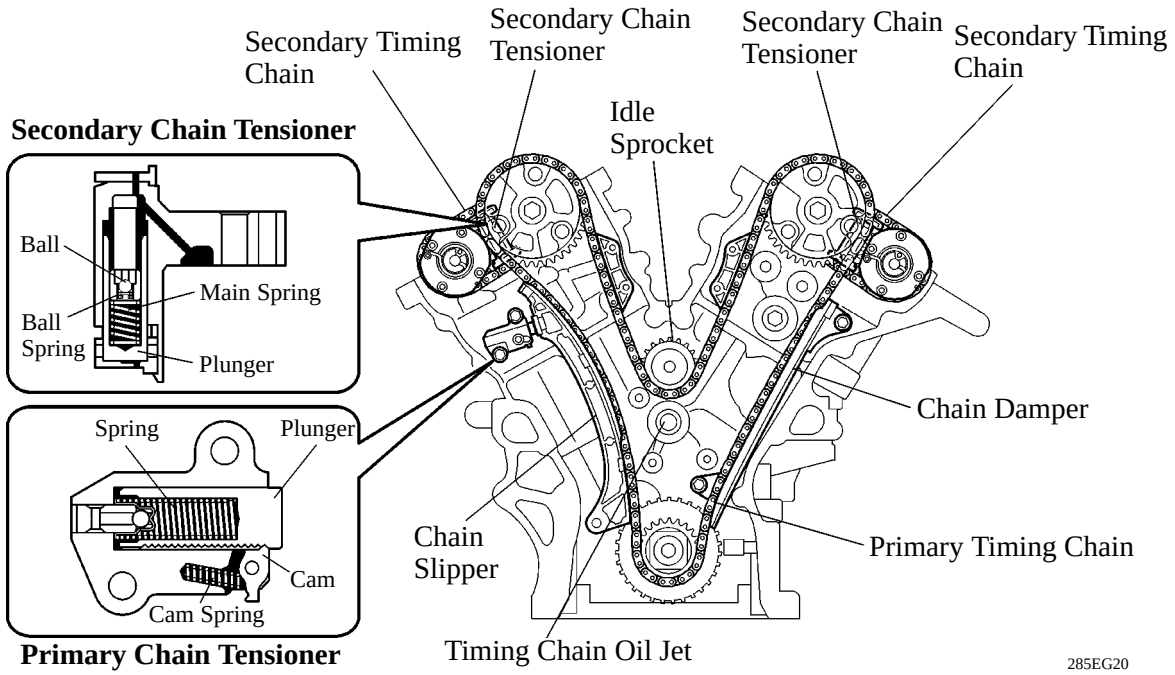
2. Camshaft

- The camshafts are made of cast iron alloy.
- An oil passage is provided on the intake and exhaust camshafts in order to supply engine oil to the VVT-i system.
- A VVT-i controller has been installed on the front of the intake and exhaust camshafts to vary the timing of the intake and exhaust valves.
- Together with the use of the roller rocker arm, the cam profile has been designed with an indented R (radius). This results in increased valve lift when the valve begins to open and finishes closing, helping to achieve enhanced output performance.



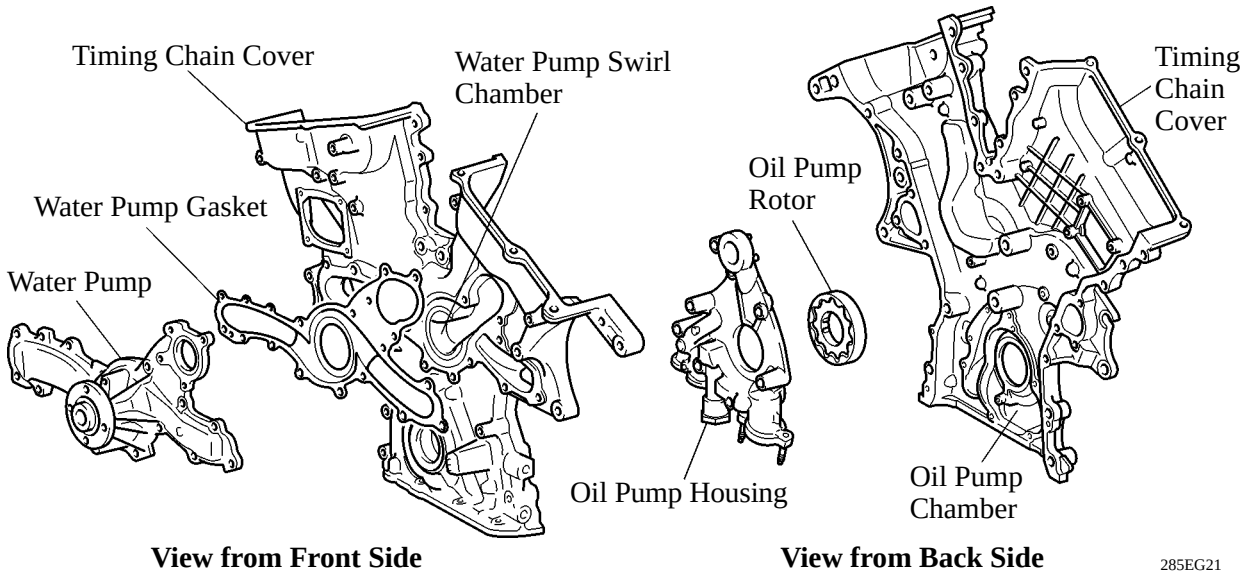
3. Timing Chain and Chain Tensioner

- Both the primary and secondary timing chains use roller chains with a pitch of 9.525 mm (0.375 in.).
- The timing chain is lubricated by an oil jet.
- The primary timing chain uses one chain tensioner and each of the secondary timing chains for the right and left banks uses one chain tensioner.
- Both the primary and secondary chain tensioners use a spring and oil pressure to maintain proper chain tension at all times. They suppress noise generated by the timing chains.
- The primary chain tensioner is the ratchet type with a non-return mechanism.



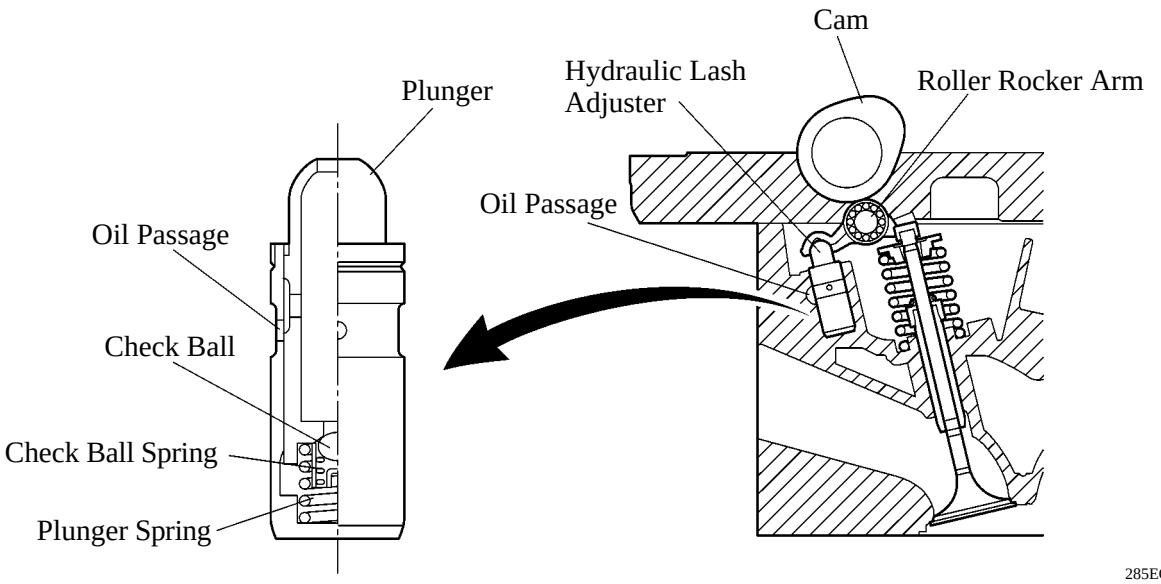
4. Timing Chain Cover

The timing chain cover has an integrated construction consisting of the cooling system (water pump and water passage) and the lubrication system (oil pump and oil passage). Thus, the number of parts has been reduced to reduce weight.



5. Hydraulic Lash Adjuster

- The hydraulic lash adjuster, which is located at the fulcrum of the roller rocker arm, consists primarily of a plunger, plunger spring, check ball, and check ball spring.
- The engine oil that is supplied by the cylinder head and the built-in spring actuate the hydraulic lash adjuster. The oil pressure and the spring force that act on the plunger push the roller rocker arm against the cam, in order to adjust the valve clearance that is created during the opening and closing of the valve. As a result, engine noise is reduced.



Service Tip

Valve clearance adjustment is not necessary because a hydraulic lash adjuster is used in this model.