

Installation #1053

97-03 Ford Light Duty – 88-01 Chevy Old Style

WARNING: During the installation of the hitch do not damage any brake lines, fuel lines, etc. Check inside frame for hidden obstacles. Check under bed floor before cutting. This hitch should be installed by a qualified technician. Standard unit rating at 35,000 lbs GTW. Tall ball unit rating at 30,000 lbs GTW. Bed liner unit rating at 30,000 lbs GTW. Tall ball with a bed liner unit rating at 25,000 lbs GTW.

Diagram 1



Diagram 2



Diagram 3



Diagram 4



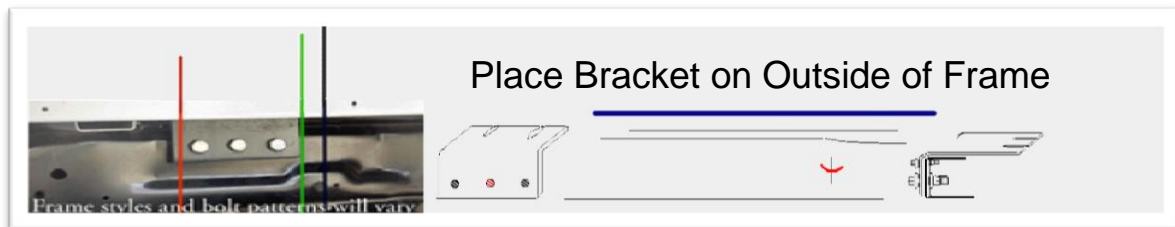
Bolt Package "A"
6 bolts & nuts



Bolt Package "B"
4 bolts & nuts



2 Chain Hooks



Before you start:

1. Remove spare tire.
2. Remove or alter heat deflector shield.

Tools Needed:

- 3/4" Socket
- Center punch
- Drill
- Plasma, air chisel, or jig saw/sawzall

Step 1: Place side bracket (diagram 1) to the outside of frame and up tight to bottom side of bed approx 1/4" to 1" in front of bed support (diagram 2). Ball center should be approximately 4 1/2" in front of axle center for a long bed or 2" for short beds.

Step 2: Mark the bottom of the center hole found in bracket.

Step 3: Draw a vertical line down through the mark making a cross (+).

Step 4: Drill this mark out to 1/2" then attach bracket to outside of frame. (Tip: Use a pry bar against tire for pressure on drill. An air drill or other slow drill works best.) This will lower the bracket by 1/4". Do the same for the other side. Insert 1/2" bolts in center hole first. Snug, but not tight. Put others in later. Use package "a"

Step 5: Using bolt package "b" place the 4 carriage bolts in square holes in template or center plate. (Tip: Put tape on top of bolts to hold in place diagram 3.) Attach flat washers, locking washers & nuts to bottom side of bolt.

Step 6: Hang center plate or template under bed and top side of brackets. For **long bed trucks** face sticker on template or center plate towards the back of the cab. For **short bed trucks and Chevy HD Dually trucks**, turn center plate or template around placing sticker towards the bumper. (This will give you 3/4" more clearance from cab.)

Step 7: Center the plate or template on the side brackets aligning all holes. Snug down all bolts.

Step 8: Mark the inside 4 corners of the center box with punch. Drill from top down on the bed floor.

Step 9: Remove the center plate or template. Square up the outside of the holes to form a rectangle. Enlarge the rectangle by 3/8" and cut out bed floor. Cut a rectangle, connecting the 4 holes. (diagram 4)

Step 10: Place center plate back under the bed and above the side brackets. Drill out any additional holes found in the pre-punched brackets. Add bolts, washer, and nuts. Make sure ball is centered. (Tap left or right, if needed. Tighten all bolts and nuts securely. At this point Chevy short bed models may require a shim between the bracket and frame. Use a 1/2" washer to shim).

Step 11: Use a small amount of silicone sealant to seal around the rectangular box. This keeps the dust from coming up through the bed.

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