LoadLifter 5000™

Kit 57257
Dodge 1500
2-Wheel Drive

AIR LIFT®

INSTALLATION GUIDE

For maximum effectiveness and safety, please read these instructions completely before proceeding with installation.

Failure to read these instructions can result in an incorrect installation.

MN-924 • (022403) • ECR 9989

Protect your Air Lift Purchase by Completing your Warranty Registration

Thank you for purchasing an Air Lift load support product!

Take a photo of your sales receipt and then scan the QR code to complete your online warranty registration.

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Introduction

The purpose of this publication is to assist with the installation, maintenance and troubleshooting of the LoadLifter 5000 air spring kit. LoadLifter 5000 utilizes sturdy, reinforced, commercial grade single or double, depending on the kit, convolute bellows. The bellows are manufactured like a tire with layers of rubber and cords that control growth. LoadLifter 5000 kits are recommended for most 3/4 and 1-ton pickups and SUVs with leaf springs and provide up to 5,000 lbs. of load-leveling support with air adjustability from 5-100 PSI. The kits are also used in motor home rear kits and some motor home fronts where leaf springs are used.

It is important to read and understand the entire installation guide before beginning installation or performing any maintenance, service or repair. The information here includes a hardware list, tool list, step-by-step installation information, maintenance guidelines and operating tips.

Air Lift Company reserves the right to make changes and improvements to its products and publications at any time. For the latest version of this manual, contact Air Lift Company at (800) 248-0892 or visit our website at www.airliftcompany.com.

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

The installation of this kit does not alter the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) or payload of the vehicle. Check your vehicle's owner's manual and do not exceed the maximum load listed for your vehicle.

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating: The maximum allowable weight of the fully-loaded vehicle (including passengers and cargo). This number — along with other weight limits, as well as tire, rim size and inflation pressure data — is shown on the vehicle's Safety Compliance Certification Label.

Payload: The combined maximum allowable weight of cargo and passengers that the truck is designed to carry. Payload is GVWR minus the Base Curb Weight.

NOTATION EXPLANATION

Hazard notations appear in various locations in this publication. Information which is highlighted by one of these notations must be observed to help minimize risk of personal injury or possible improper installation which may render the vehicle unsafe. Notes are used to help emphasize areas of procedural importance and provide helpful suggestions. The following definitions explain the use of these notations as they appear throughout this guide.

⚠ DANGER INDICATES IMMEDIATE HAZARDS WHICH WILL RESULT IN SEVERE PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.

⚠ WARNING INDICATES HAZARDS OR UNSAFE PRACTICES WHICH COULD RESULT IN SEVERE PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.

⚠ CAUTION INDICATES HAZARDS OR UNSAFE PRACTICES WHICH COULD RESULT IN DAMAGE TO THE MACHINE OR MINOR PERSONAL INJURY.

NOTE *Indicates a procedure, practice or hint which is important to highlight.*

Installation Diagram

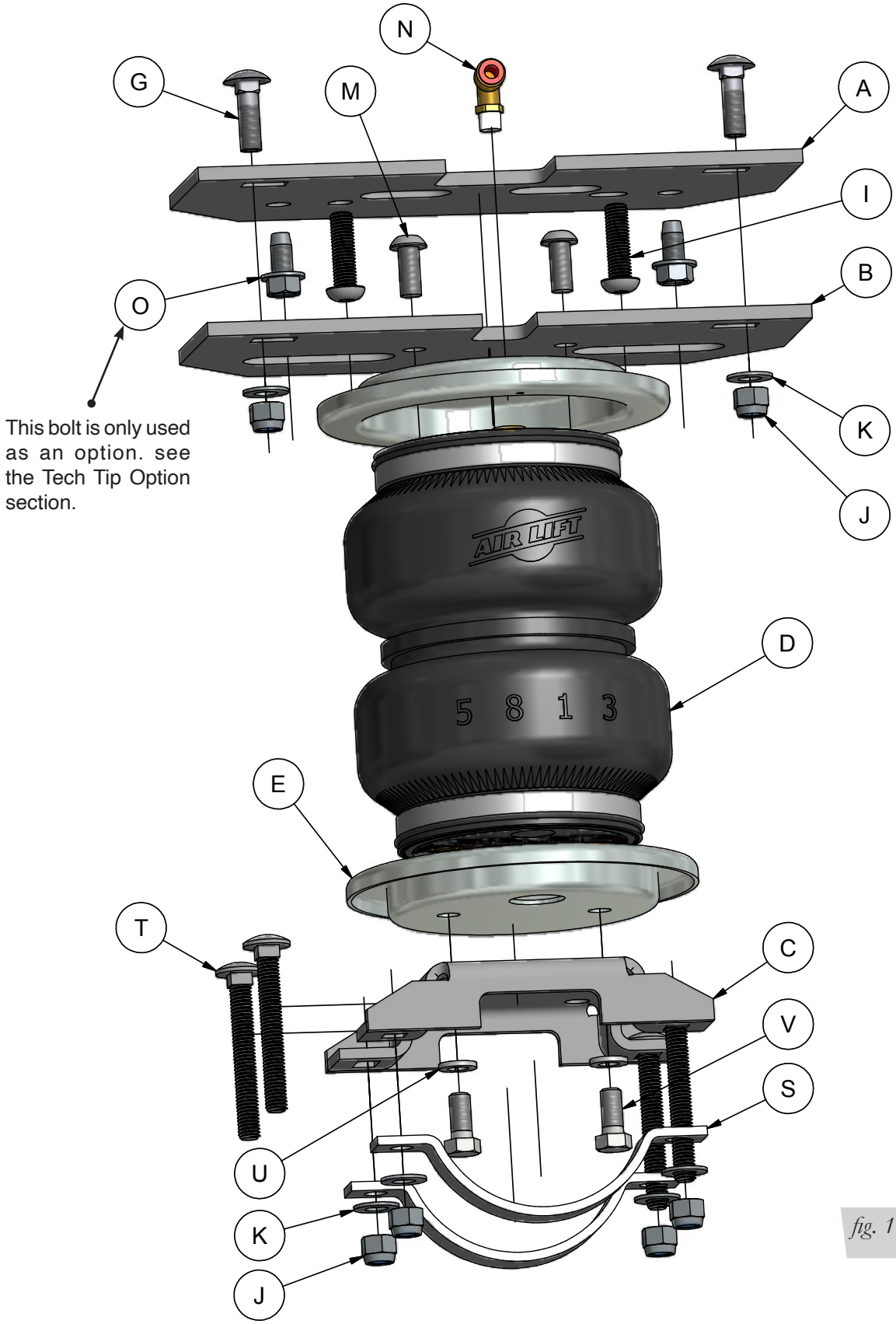


fig. 1

Hardware and Tools Lists

HARDWARE LIST

Item	Part #	Description	QTY
A	07057	Upper Frame Bracket	2
B	07058	Upper Air spring Bracket	2
C	03230	Lower Bracket	2
D	58437	Air Spring	2
E	11951	Roll Plate	4
G	17361	3/8-16 X 1.25" Carriage Bolt	4
I	17366	M10-1.5 X 35 Button Head Screw	4
J	18435	3/8" Nylon lock Nut	12
K	18444	3/8" Flat Washer	12
M	17527	3/8-24 X 3/4" Button Head Screw	4
N	21837	90-degree Swivel Fitting	2
O	17151	3/8" X 3/4" Self Tapping Bolt	4
S	10451	Axle Strap	4
T	17277	3/8-16 X 3" Carriage Bolt	8
U	18427	3/8" Lock Washer	4
V	17203	3/8-12 X 7/8" Hex Bolt	4
W	33107	Heat Shield Kit	1
AA	20086	Air Line Assembly	1
BB	10466	Zip Ties	6
CC	21230	Valve Cap	2
DD	18501	5/16" Flat Washer	2
EE	21234	Rubber Washer	2
FF	18411	Star Washer	2
GG	21233	5/16" Hex Nut	4

TOOLS LIST

Description	QTY
Hoist or Floor Jacks	1
Safety Stands	2
Safety Glasses	1
Torque Wrench	1
Standard Open-end Combo Wrenches	1
Ratchet	1
Metric and Standard Sockets	1
#6 Metric Allen Wrench (socket if available)	1
7/32 Allen Wrench (socket if available)	1
5/16 Drill Bit (very sharp)	1
Heavy Duty Drill	1
Hose Cutter, Razor Blade or Sharp Knife	1
Air Compressor or Compressed Air Source	1
Spray Bottle with Dish Soap/Water Solution	1

STOP! Missing or damaged parts? Call Air Lift customer service at (800) 248-0892 for a replacement part.

Installing the LoadLifter 5000 System

GETTING STARTED

1. Raise the vehicle and support the axle with safety stands, setting the safety stands as wide as possible on the axle (fig. 2)

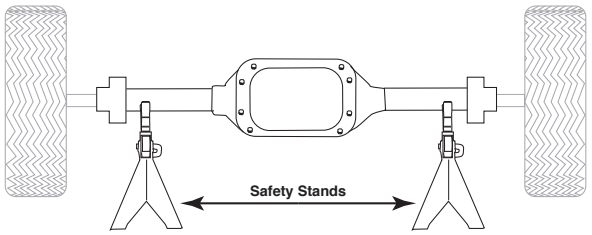


fig. 2

2. Drop the axle or raise the frame up to make room for the assemblies to be put into position between the frame and axle.
3. Remove the Jounce Bumper from under the frame rail (fig. 3).

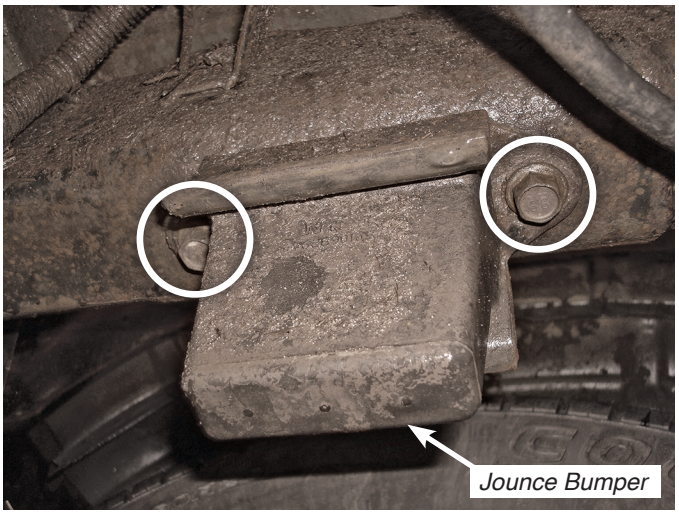


fig. 3

4. Attach the Upper Frame Bracket (A) to the frame using the two M10-1.5 X 35 Button Head Screws (I). Torque to 30 lb.-ft.

NOTE *The slot in the frame goes inboard towards the inside of the vehicle (fig. 4). Repeat on the opposite side.*

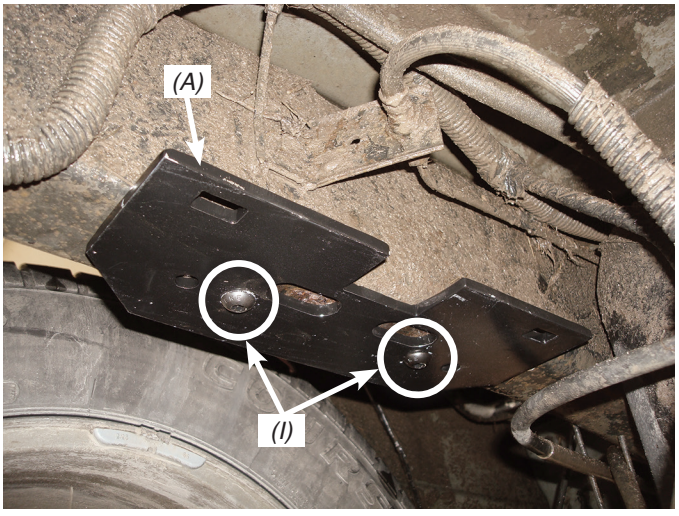


fig. 4

TECH TIP OPTION

If by chance one of the jounce bumper bolts broke upon removal, bolt the bracket to the frame as noted above using the Jounce Bumper mounting hole the other bolt was removed from to align the bracket.

1. Line up the hole in the upper bracket over the broken bolt (as if being bolted as stated above).
2. Center punch and drill a 5/16" hole in the center of the outside hole next to the broken bolt hole (fig. 5).

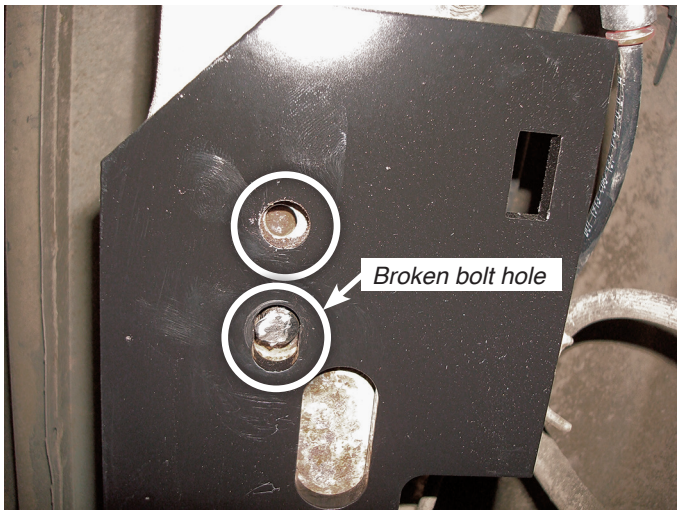


fig. 5

3. Insert and tighten a self-tapping bolt (O) into the hole drilled. Torque the bolt to 15 lb.-ft. (fig. 6).

NOTE

Figure 6 shows the upper bracket installed to the frame using the supplied M10 bolt (I) that was removed and a self-tapping bolt. ***Use these only if the existing jounce bumper bolts break!***

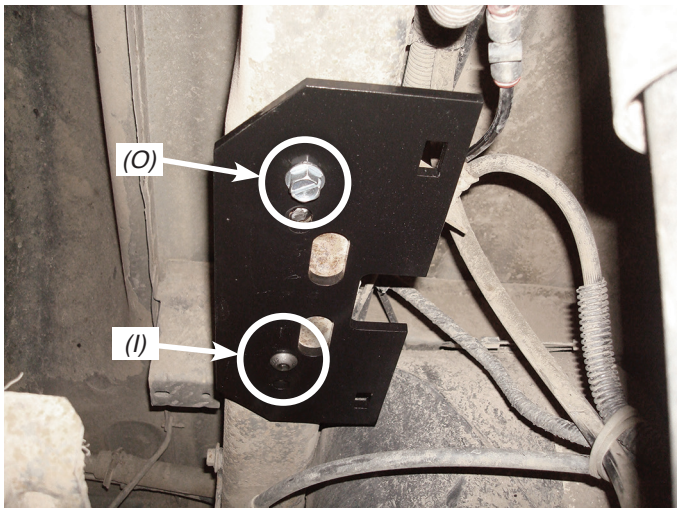


fig. 6

ASSEMBLING THE AIR SPRING ASSEMBLIES

1. Set a roll plate (E) over the top of each air spring (D).

NOTE

The radiused (rounded) edge of the roll plate (E) will be towards the air spring so that the air spring is seated inside both roll plates.

2. Install the Swivel Fitting (N) into the top of the Air Spring finger-tight plus one and a half turns (fig. 7).

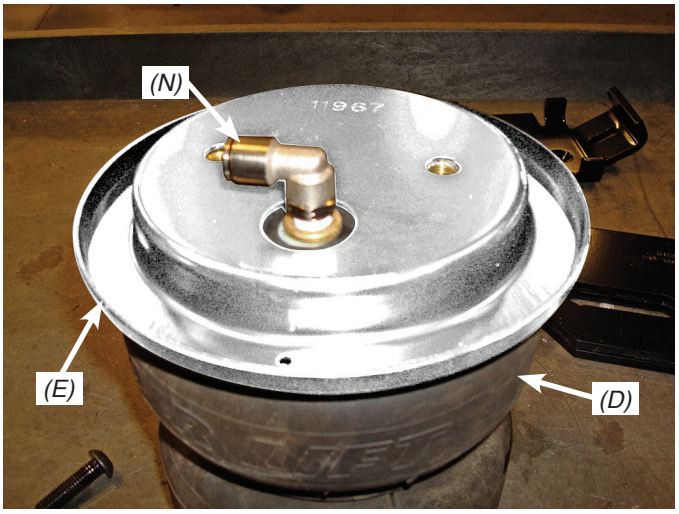


fig. 7

3. Install the Air Spring bracket (B) onto the Air Spring and attach using the 3/8 -24 X 3/4" Button Head Screws (M) (fig. 8). Torque to no more than 20 lb.-ft.

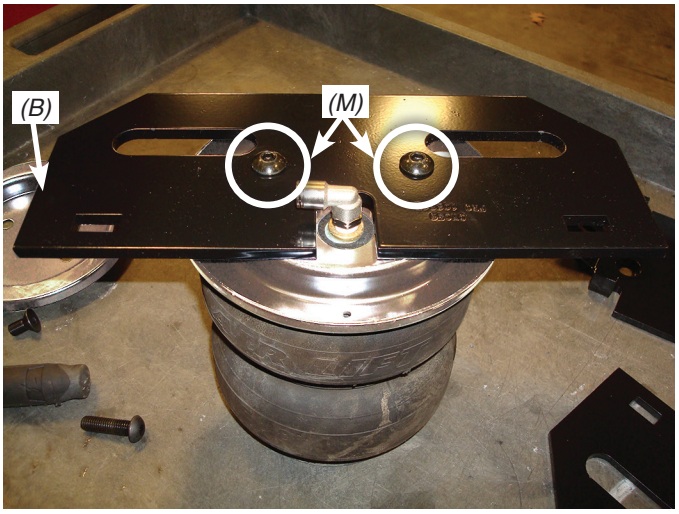


fig. 8

4. Repeat for the other assembly.

5. Flip the assemblies over; set a Roll Plate (E) onto the bottom of the Air Spring assembly (fig. 9).
6. Insert two 3/8-16 X 3" Carriage Bolts (T) into the lower bracket as shown and set the Lower Bracket (C) using holes “A” (fig. 10) so that the lower bracket is offset from the fitting (on the opposite (top) end of the assembly) (fig. 9). Attach the lower bracket with 3/8" Lock Washers (U) and two 3/8-24 X 3/4" Hex Bolts (V). Torque to no more than 20 lb.-ft.

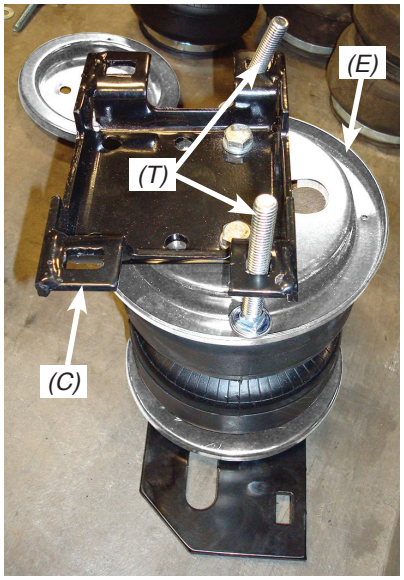


fig. 9

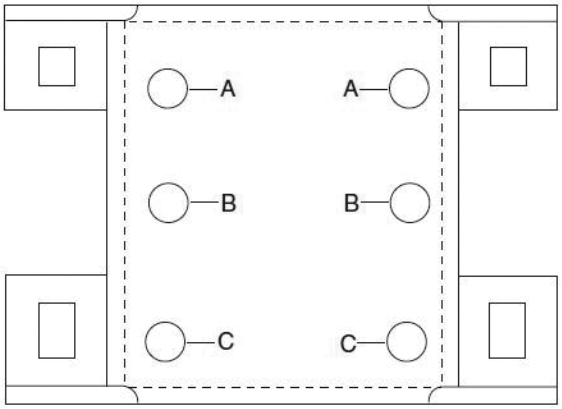


fig. 10

7. Figure 11 shows the finished assemblies.

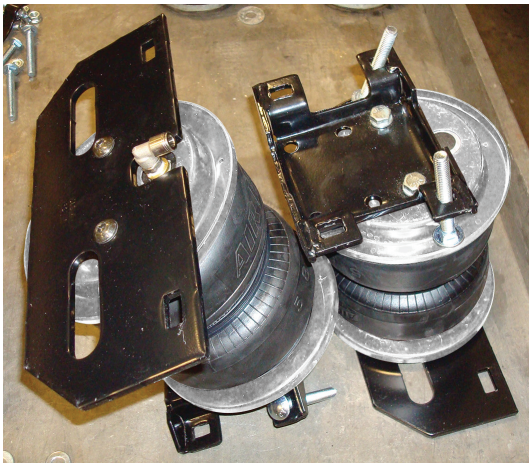


fig. 11

ATTACHING THE UPPER BRACKETS

1. Set the assemblies onto the axle with the fittings to the inside of the frame (fig. 12). Align the upper Air Spring and Frame bracket (A) (that was previously installed) slots and attach using two 3/8-16 X 1 1/4" Carriage Bolts (G), two Flat Washers (K) and two Nylon lock Nuts (J). Repeat for the opposite side and leave hardware loose at this time.

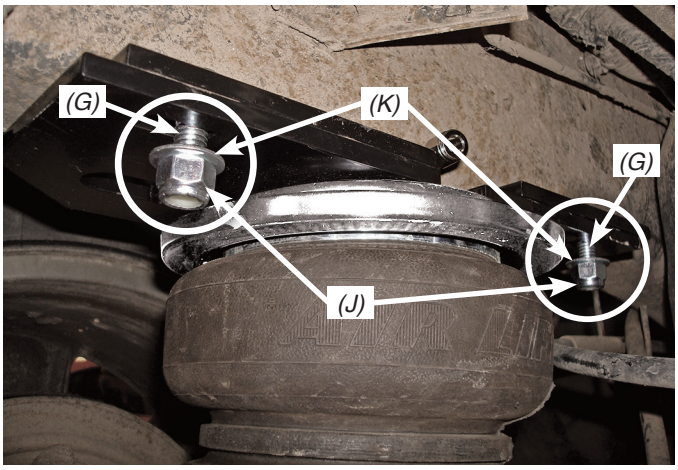


fig. 12

ATTACHING THE LOWER BRACKETS

1. Raise the axle or lower the frame until the lower brackets touch the axle (figs.13 & 14).

⚠ CAUTION

MAKE SURE THE CARRIAGE BOLTS (T) PREVIOUSLY INSTALLED IN THE LOWER BRACKET GO UNDER THE BRAKE LINE BEHIND THE AXLE ON THE LEFT SIDE (DRIVER SIDE) AND GO REARWARD OF THE BRAKE LINE ON THE RIGHT SIDE (PASSENGER).

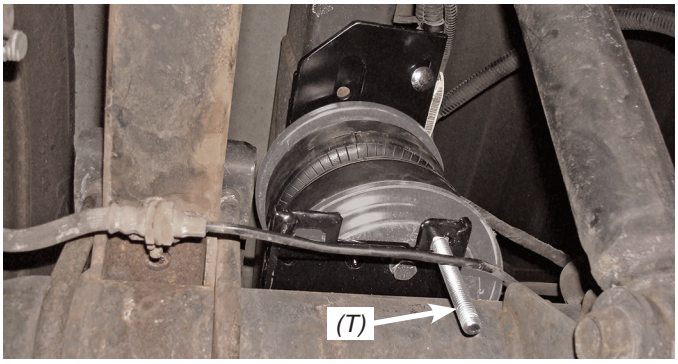


fig. 13

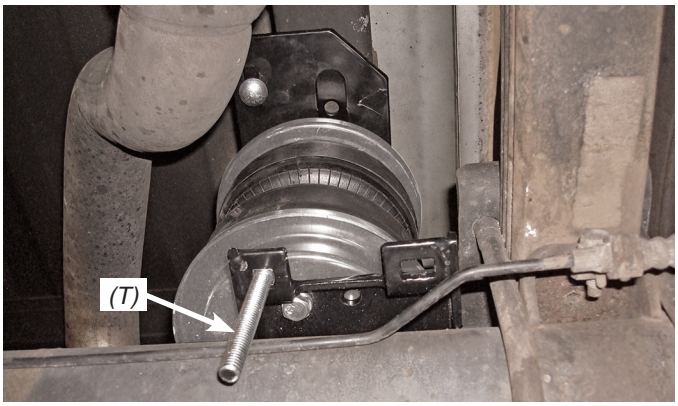
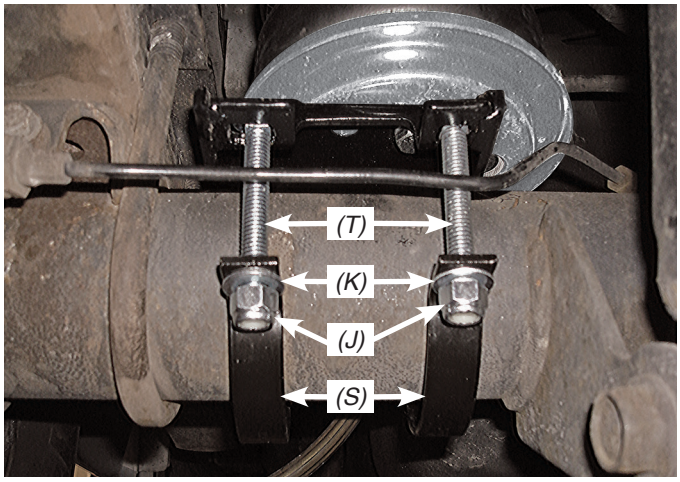


fig. 14

2. Insert the remaining 3/8-16 X 3" Carriage Bolts (T) into both lower brackets.

NOTE

The remaining bolts (behind the axle) will go between the brake lines and the axle (figs. 15 &16).

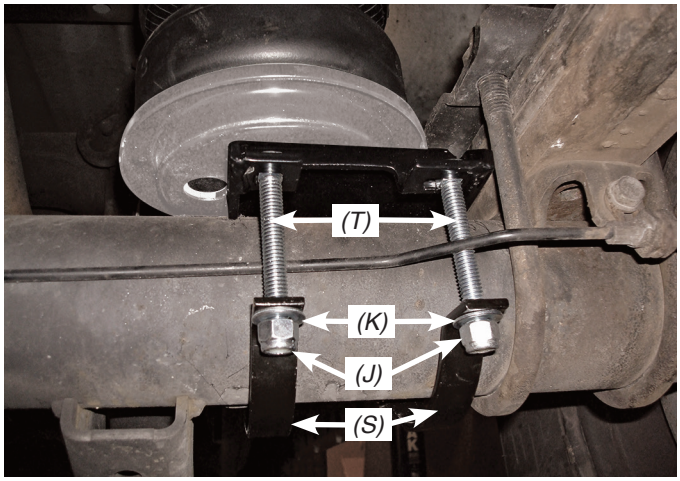


Left (driver) side lower bracket attachment shown.

Install axle straps (S) and cap with Flat Washers (K) and Nylon Lock Nuts (J).

Align upper and lower brackets before torquing.

fig. 15



Right (passenger) side lower bracket attachment shown.

The inside bolt goes behind the brake line, and the outside bolt goes between the brake line and axle (as shown).

fig. 16

3. Set the Axle Straps (S) over the Carriage bolts and cap with 3/8” Flat Washers (K) and 3/8” Nylon lock Nuts (J).
4. With the axle raised all the way up, align the upper and lower brackets by pushing the upper bracket forward or backward. Torque the upper bracket hardware to 16 lb.-ft.
5. Evenly torque the lower bracket hardware to 10 lb.-ft.

⚠ CAUTION

IF THE BRAKE LINES HIT OR RUB ON THE CARRIAGE BOLTS WHEN TORQUED DOWN. SLIGHTLY ADJUST THE LINES SO THAT THERE IS A LITTLE CLEARANCE BETWEEN BOTH.

HEAT SHIELD INSTALLATION

NOTE

The heat shield is installed on the exhaust pipe at the closest point to the air spring to protect the unit from the radiant heat of the exhaust system.

1. The Hose Heat shield goes on the right side where the hose goes into the fitting on the air spring assembly.
2. Attach radiator clamps loosely around the exhaust pipe nearest to the spring.
3. Bend the heat shield tab out at a 90-degree angle and again half the distance up at a 90-degree angle to form an “L” shape (fig. 17). Repeat on the other tab. Position the heat shield and insert the heat shield tabs beneath the two radiator clamps. Tighten the clamps (Fig. 18).

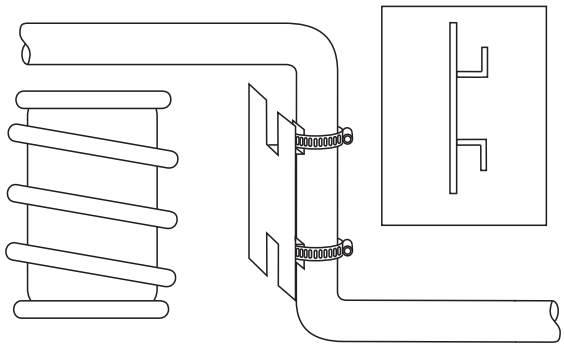


fig. 17

fig. 18

4. Bend the heat shield to form it around the tailpipe. Be sure to maintain a “dead air” space of 1/2" to 1" between the tailpipe and the heat shield (Fig. 19).

NOTE

Make sure installation does not interfere with moving parts, gas lines, etc.

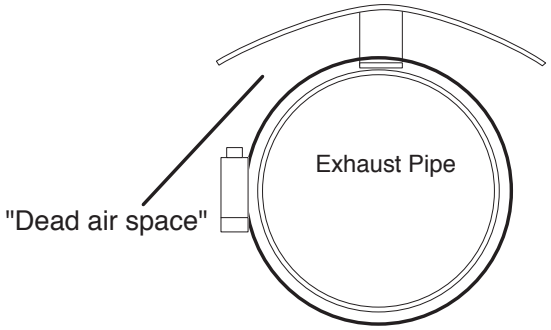


fig. 19

VIEWS OF THE INSTALLED ASSEMBLY

1. Figure 20 shows a front view of the right (passenger) side assembly.

fig. 20

2. Figure 21 shows a rear view of the right (passenger) side.

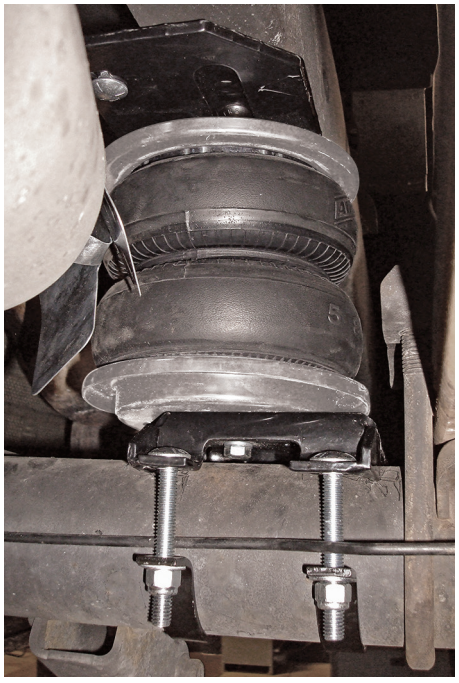


fig. 21

3. Figure 22 shows an inside rear view of the left (driver) side assembly.

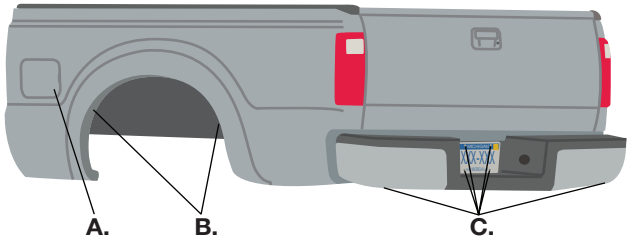
fig. 22

4. Figure 23 shows a rear view of the left (driver) side installation.

fig. 23

Installing the Air Lines

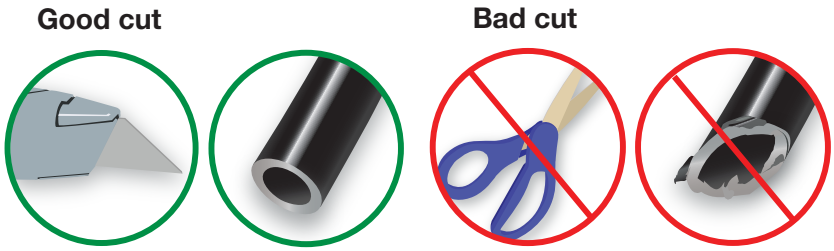
1. Choose the locations for the Schrader valves and drill a 5/16" (8mm) hole, if necessary.



A. Inside fuel tank filler door
B. Inside rear wheel wells
C. License plate or rear bumper area

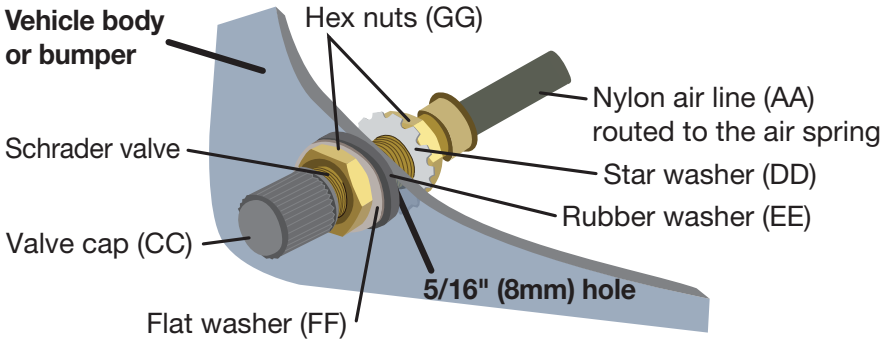
⚠ CAUTION KEEP AT LEAST 6" (152MM) OF CLEARANCE BETWEEN ALL AIR LINES AND THE EXHAUST SYSTEM. AVOID SHARP BENDS AND EDGES.

2. Make clean, square cuts with a razor blade or hose cutter when cutting the air line (AA). Do not use scissors or wire cutters.



3. Use zip ties (BB) to secure the air line to fixed points along the chassis. Do not pinch or kink the air line. Leave at least 2" (51mm) of slack in the air line to allow for any movement that might pull on the air line. The minimum bend radius for the air line is 1" (25mm).

4. Install the Schrader valve in the chosen location.



Before Operating

INSTALLATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Clearance test** — Inflate the air springs to 40-60 PSI (2.8-4.1BAR) and make sure there is at least 1/2" (13mm) clearance from anything that might rub against each sleeve. Be sure to check the tire, brakes, frame, shock absorbers and brake cables.
- ☐ **Leak test before road test** — Inflate the air springs to 40-60 PSI (2.8-4.1BAR) and check all connections for leaks. All leaks must be eliminated before the vehicle is road-tested.
- ☐ **Heat test** — Be sure there is sufficient clearance from heat sources, at least 6" (152mm) for air springs and air lines. If a heat shield was included in the kit, install it. If there is no heat shield, but one is required, call Air Lift customer service at (800) 248-0892.
- ☐ **Fastener test** — After 500 miles (800km), recheck all bolts for proper torque.
- ☐ **Road test** — The vehicle should be road-tested after the initial tests. Inflate the air springs to recommended driving pressures. Drive the vehicle 10 miles (16km) and recheck for clearance, loose fasteners and air leaks.
- ☐ **Operating instructions** — If professionally installed, the installer should review the operating instructions with the owner. Be sure to provide the owner with all of the paperwork that came with the kit.

MAINTENANCE AND USE GUIDELINES

1. Check air pressure weekly.
2. Always maintain normal ride height. Never inflate beyond 100 PSI (7BAR).
3. If the system develops an air leak, use a soapy water solution to check all air line connections and the inflation valve core before deflating and removing the air spring.
4. Upon successful completion of the installation, follow these pressure requirements for the air springs.

⚠ CAUTION

FOR SAFETY AND TO PREVENT POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO THE VEHICLE, DO NOT EXCEED MAXIMUM GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT RATING (GVWR) OR PAYLOAD RATING, AS INDICATED BY THE VEHICLE MANUFACTURER.

ALTHOUGH THE AIR SPRINGS ARE RATED AT A MAXIMUM INFLATION PRESSURE OF 100 PSI (7BAR), THE AIR PRESSURE ACTUALLY NEEDED IS DEPENDENT ON LOAD AND GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT RATING.

Limited Warranty and Return Policy

Air Lift Company provides a Limited Lifetime Warranty* to the original purchaser of its load support products, from the date of original purchase, that the products will be free from defects in workmanship and materials when used on cars and trucks as specified by Air Lift Company and under normal operating conditions, subject to the requirements and exclusions set forth in the full Limited Warranty and Return Policy.

*Full Limited Warranty and Return Policy are available at www.airliftcompany.com/warranty and are subject to change.

WARRANTY REGISTRATION & CLAIMS

- To register your warranty, please visit https://www.airliftcompany.com/support/warranty/register/
- To submit a warranty claim, please visit https://www.airliftcompany.com/support/warranty/submit-claim/

Need Help?

Contact our customer service department by calling (800) 248-0892, Monday through Friday. For calls from outside the USA or Canada, our local number is +1 (517) 322-2144.

Register your warranty online at www.airliftcompany.com/warranty

Thank you for purchasing Air Lift products!

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