

Installing the HoodLift® Jeep® JK TailGate Prop



Here it is installed just like yours will be in a few minutes. Note that the gas spring tilts downward with the big end up. That is because the spring is filled with nitrogen to supply the opening pressure plus a small amount of oil. The oil lubricates the seal and also causes the spring to come to a dampened stop when it gets to the end of the stroke. Mounting the spring straight or upside down will allow the nitrogen to leak out of the un-lubricated seal plus the tailgate won't come to the smooth stop that yours will when you install it this way.

So here we go. (Tools needed and material list on pg 4)

1. First, using a sharp knife, cut a slit in your beloved Jeep's carpet (gulp!) from the top of the small cutout to the speaker, if you have one. The slit should be slanted downward so the end of it is about 3/8" lower at the end of the cut in the front (away from the tailgate) than it was where you started. This angle is to accommodate the tilted bracket you will be installing. I have also shown that bracket already in there for illustration. If you don't have a speaker make the cut about 1 3/4 inches long.



2. If you have the large speaker in the rear, remove the (3) 15mm nuts holding it on and set it aside. You don't have to disconnect it, just get it out of the way.



3. For fitment, place the large bracket in the slit so you get the location and angle right, then carefully pull the carpet back and mark the location of the bracket. The rear edge of the bracket should just touch the rubber tail gate seal.



4. Get your trusty drill motor and drive in the supplied self-tapping screws. Use a star washer on each screw. Be sure not to over-torque them with a powerful plug-in drill motor. I like to use an adjustable speed battery-powered one and set the adjustable clutch so it clicks when the screw gets tight. You can final-set them with a 5/16" socket, wrist tight. If you do happen to strip them, you can drill out the holes with a #10 or a 13/64" drill and use 3/16" short pop rivets. You can find the rivets in the electrical section, oddly enough, of Lowes Hardware and other places.



5. Snap on the small end of the gas spring. Open the tailgate all the way to the stop so you can position the small bracket. You will be installing that bracket so the spring pushes the tailgate all the way to the Jeep's stop.

If you ever have to remove a gas spring, you can do so by slipping a small screwdriver under the small spring-clip on the end and pulling it up to release it. The spring will just snap back on to the ball stud when your reinstall it.



6. With the tailgate pushed (by you) against the Jeep's stop, mark the location of the outer (small) bracket. The outermost screw should be 2 ¼ inches from the top of the tail gate. The other screw should be about 3/8" lower. The one you see here is only ¼" lower. You will be able to easily see where it goes by putting in the outer screw first, then aligning the bracket with the slanted spring.



Go ahead and drive in both screws, using the supplied star washers.



7. Snap on your gas spring if you took it off to drill and see how nicely everything works. Then reinstall the speaker if you have one and tuck the carpet in behind the rubber door seal.

Enjoy your HoodLift® TailGate Prop! Be sure to call or email me if you have any suggestions on how to improve it or the instructions. Your fellow four wheelers and I will appreciate it!

Jim Piatt.

1-800-579-3024

www.hoodlift.com

Tools you will need

Drill motor
Sharp knife
Marking pen
Measuring tape
5/16" nut driver
15mm socket or combo end wrench (or adjustable wrench)
Socket driver and extension
5/16" socket wrench or 5/16" combo end wrench

Materials included

1 Gas Spring
5 #10 self driving screws
5 star lockwashers
1 large bracket
1 small bracket

Do you have a HoodLift®? Go to www.hoodlift.com and check them out!

No more fooling with that awkward and dangerous prop rod. Your hood opens as easily as your tailgate will with the HoodLift® TailGate Prop.

