

Installing your HoodLift® on your Jeep® JK



Figure 1



Figure 2

Insulation clip

Congratulations on your purchase of a genuine HoodLift® made by the company who invented the Jeep aftermarket HoodLift® in the mid-1990's. It is made from the finest components available and should give you years of trouble-free service. Here are some photos of how yours will look once you have it installed. That should take less than an hour. Some drilling is required. **Please read the entire instructions through once and then get started. Note, some of the photos for these instructions were done on a different vehicle as we improved the bracketry.**

Tools needed	Supplied Parts
Drill motor. Preferably a cordless drill.	(2) Gas springs (they look like shocks)
5/16" nut driver for the drill motor	(2) Upper Ball Stud Clips with ball stud
5/16" socket wrench and driver, 1/4" drive recommended	(2) Ball Stud Lower Clips
10mm wrench, either socket or end wrench	(2) Ball studs
Masking tape	(2) Nylock nuts for the ball studs
	(6) Star Lock Washers
	(1) Drill bit
	(6) Sheet metal screws

1. Lift the hood and prop it up with the factory prop rod. Remove the rearmost 10mm bolt on each fender and install one of the ball stud brackets on the fender, using the just-removed 10mm bolt. The bracket should be facing inward and the bolt should be through the rear hole, per the photo. Then drill a hole in the fender through the front hole using the supplied drill bit, put a star lock washer on one of the sheet metal screws and drive it into the hole, securing the



Drill here and install screw and star lock washer

Figure 3

lower Ball Stud Bracket to the Jeep. If you use an electric drill and a nut Driver, set it on a low speed and go slowly to almost snug, then hand-tighten with a 5/16" socket and ratchet wrench. Be careful to not break the screw. If it's going in too hard, ream the hole out slightly with the drill.

2. Install a ball stud, facing in, on the Ball Stud Bracket using 1/2" wrenches and the supplied Nylock nut. Just tighten "wrist tight" to avoid breaking the ball stud. The Nylock nut will stay tight.

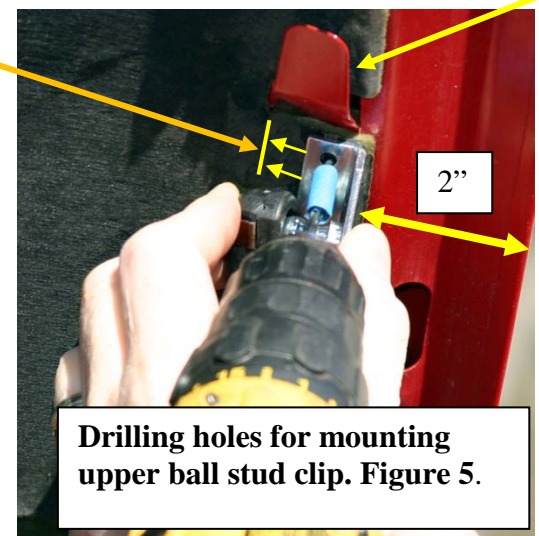
3. Snap the small end of a gas spring onto the **lower** Ball Stud Bracket. The one you just installed. **Don't snap it on the upper one yet.** Using one of the brackets with a ball stud pressed on it, position it per the photo, figure 5, but just use the gas spring as a gauge by lightly setting it against the ball stud **with the ball stud facing inward.** With the hood on the prop rod, and the gas spring lined up with the ball stud, the bracket end should land about 2 inches away from the edge of the hood, about 1/8 inch down from the hood's insulation clip. See figure 5 and figure 7. **The ball stud should face inward. The position of this ball stud clip establishes how far your hood opens when you are finished. It should open approximately the same as it did when the prop rod was holding it open. Don't try to vary the position more than 1/2" since that may prevent the gas spring from closing all the way.**



Install Bracket in a little farther than this photo shows. Install per arrows.

4. Wrap some masking tape around your drill bit per the photo so it will only go approx. 1/4" into the metal. This is to prevent you from denting the hood from the inside. Make sure the tape is wrapped tight and that it goes all the way to where the bit is clamped into the drill motor so it won't slip. I recommend using more tape than the photo shows in Figure 6. Some use a couple of sockets as a drill-stop.

Insulation Clip, Driver's Side



5. Using the clip as a template, mark and drill two holes with the tape-wrapped drill for the two sheet metal screws. See Figure 5.

6. Put one of the star lock washers on a sheet metal screw and drive it into the hole you just drilled using your drill motor and a 5/16" nut driver. You can also just use a 5/16" socket wrench; however it's easier with a drill motor. If you use a corded electric drill, be extremely careful to set it on very slow speed and go only to **almost** snug or you will strip the screw. We recommend using a battery powered drill with a clutch set on a light setting. Then finish tightening the screw with a socket and ratchet, only to wrist tight. See figure 7. Go carefully and don't strip the threads. Then drill the other hole and install that lock washer and screw.

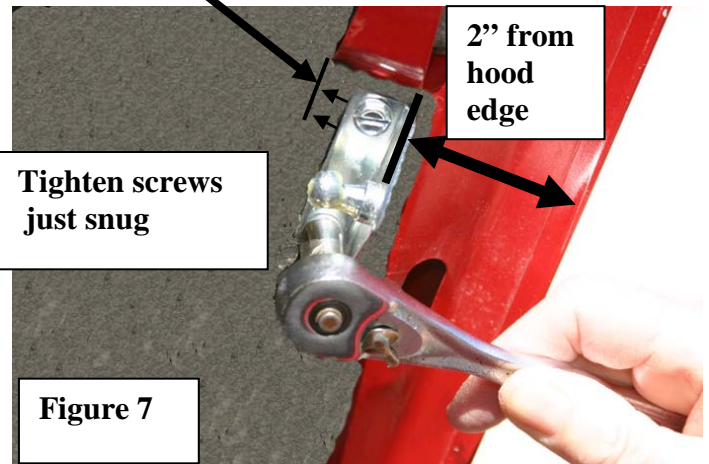
Masking tape on drill bit. Figure 6



7. Repeat steps 1-6 for the other side.

8. Now, **remove the prop rod** and hold up the hood with your hand. *Then* snap the gas springs onto the Ball Stud Brackets, carefully not letting go of the hood until both are snapped on. If you snap the gas springs on before taking the manual hood prop off, you may have a hard time removing it without slicing the insulation (if yours has it.) Your hood will remain up. Now, **check for any tools, beverage containers, small children or whatever left in the engine compartment. Then** you can lower it and lift it up and let it go. Go ahead, do it a few times and see how it works for you. It should rise from the neutral point about a foot from closed and come to a smooth, dampened stop. If it doesn't have that dampened stop, you may have installed your gas springs upside down. See the photo, figure 2. The large part of the gas spring should be up. Upside-down gas springs also have a shorter life than properly installed ones.

Upper bracket near insulation clip. Install bracket in a little farther than this photo shows. Install per arrows.



Tighten screws just snug

Figure 7

If you ever have to remove a gas spring (or strut...they look like shocks) slip a small screwdriver under the small semi-circular spring near the end and lift it up to release it from the ball stud it is capturing. To replace a gas spring, just snap it on the ball stud.

Lastly, we took off the coiled spring in the front center of the hood. This was used by the factory to prevent the hood from landing too hard when shutting when there were no gas springs on the hood. Not a necessary part of installing this kit, but we liked the result.

If you have any suggestions on how to make the HoodLift or improve these instructions, please share them with me. Your fellow Jeepers and I will really appreciate it.

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Email me for 2 free decals. Just include your name, address and the word “decals” and they will be on their way



Now that you have a HoodLift®, take a look at the HoodLift TailGate Prop. It holds that tailgate open on 2007 through 2010 JKs instead of it hitting you in the buns when you least expect it. The sloped mounting system allows the tail gate to glide open with a dampened stop from the oil inside the gas spring lubricating the seal. We have improved our custom-made gas spring with metal ends and use all custom-made heavy-duty, black powdercoated brackets. Lifetime warranty!



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