Pro's Pick
Custom Pickup Beds & Parts
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07/2009

HIDDEN LATCH KIT

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for purchasing the Pro's Pick Hidden Latch Kit for Stock Tailgates. This latch system has been constructed with the highest quality materials available and should give you many years of trouble-free service. Our customers are important to us, so we thought a little background information would be in order. When we designed this kit, we felt it had to meet the following criteria:

- Anyone could handle the installation.
- No rattling as you drive down the road.
- Materials used in kit should be rust-free.
- The tailgate had to shut firmly with one hand.
- Must have nylon check straps that would not damage paint.
- The installation must be easy and look modern yet vintage.

KIT CONTENTS:

Please examine your kit closely to make sure it contains all of the components listed below. Please contact us if you are missing anything: 519-848-5252 or info@pros-pick.com.

- 2 tailgate striker brackets
- 2 spring latch assemblies
- 2 tailgate check straps
- 6 ¼" nutserts
- 6 ¼" x ½" bolts
- 4 1/8" countersunk pop rivets
- 2 ¼" x 5/8" bolts
- 2 ¼" nylock nuts
- 1 transfer punch
- 2 length's of foam rubber

TOOLS REQUIRED:

- 1/8" drill bit
- 3/8" drill bit
- masking tape
- blue "loctite"
- ¾" drill bit or hole-saw
- nutsert tool
- pop rivet tool
- hand drill
- allen wrenches
- hammer
- a helper

1. Mount tailgate – ensure it is square and even in the opening.
2. Copy the profile of the top tailgate roll or taper to the end of the tailgate with masking tape – determine a position for the mounting holes that will allow enough depth to accommodate the nutsert without interfering with the outer tailgate skin. Figure 1.
3. Apply masking tape to the tailgate inner panel in the area where the tailgate latch bracket will be. Draw a line square @ 90 degrees to the edge of the tailgate as shown in Figure 2.

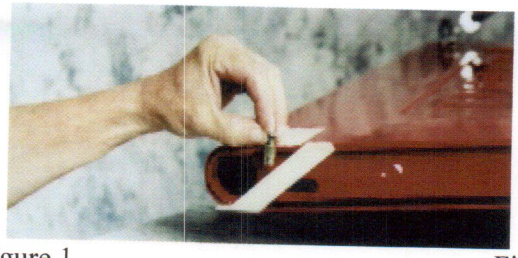
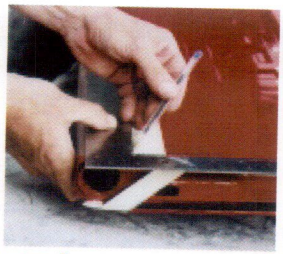


Figure 1.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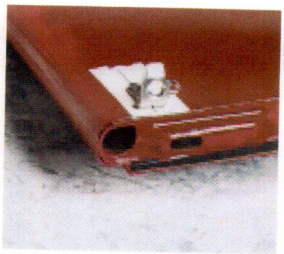
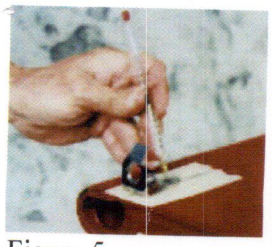


Figure 3.

Figure 4.

4. Hold the tailgate striker bracket to the gate in position on the line drawn in the previous step, Figure 3. Close the gate and ensure the striker bracket will be positioned 3/8" away from the bedside, Figure 4. Ensure that there are no obstructions that will contact the striker bracket as the tailgate opens and closes. The striker bracket may be moved up or down to suit, as long as there is enough depth inside the tailgate at that position to accept the nutsert without interfering with the outer tailgate skin. When satisfied, mark the outermost hole for drilling, Figure 5. NOTE: ALWAYS CHECK TWICE BEFORE DRILLING!!!
5. Drill the outermost hole first with a 1/8", then with a 3/8" drill for the nutsert as shown in Figure 6. Install the nutsert as shown in Figure 7 and bolt the striker bracket in place, square to the tailgate edge. Mark the second hole and drill a 3/8" hole for the nutsert, and install. Bolt the striker bracket to the tailgate as shown in Figure 8.
6. Repeat steps 3 to 6 to install the striker bracket on the opposite side of the tailgate. BE SURE that both brackets are the same distance from the top edge of the tailgate.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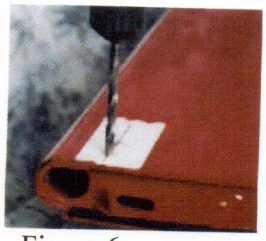
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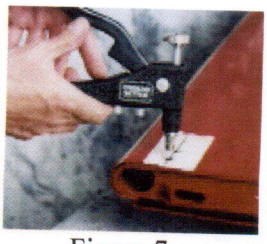
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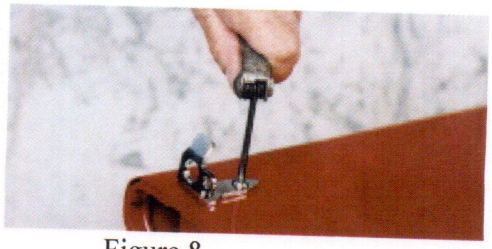
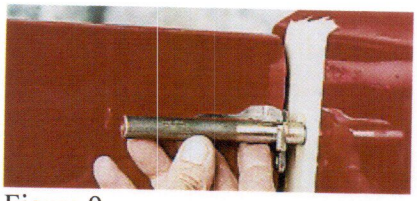


Figure 8.

7. Close the tailgate to determine the approximate location of the spring latches and apply masking tape to the area as shown in Figure 9.
8. Close the tailgate and mark the hole center for the spring latch with a pen or marker.
9. Now, with an approximate location for the spring latch marked, you need to ensure that the spring latch body will be hidden behind the stake pocket. Measure from the rear of the bedside, on the inner side of the proposed spring latch location. Then measure on the outside of the bed to ensure the spring latch will be hidden within the stake pocket.
10. Install the foam rubber strips to the edge of the tailgate skin. This will stop rattling and prevent paint damage.
11. Have your helper hold the tailgate closed and, using the transfer punch, insert it through the latch pin hole, Figure 10, and tap with a hammer. This will center-punch the bedside in the proper location for spring assembly.
12. On the center punch mark, drill a 3/8" hole, then enlarge it to ¾".
13. Insert the spring assembly into the hole and position the rivet holes vertically as shown, Figure 11. With the tailgate closed, adjust the position of the spring assembly so it fits snug in the striker bracket. Mark and drill 1/8" hole for one of the rivets. Rivet the spring assembly to the bed side. Check the fit of the striker and spring assembly. The nylon pin should fit loose enough in the striker plate so that it takes no effort to depress the pin with your finder to release the latch, yet still be tight enough to prevent rattles. Adjust the spring assembly if necessary, by rotating the latch on the rivet that you've already installed. When you're satisfied with the fit, drill and install the second rivet.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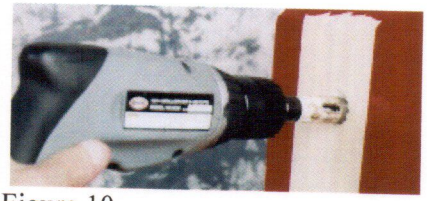
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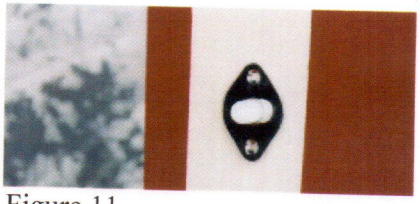
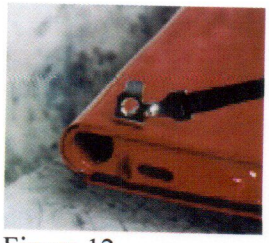


Figure 11.

14. Attach one end of a check strap to the inside edge of the striker plate with a ¼"x5/8" bolt and nyloc nut, shown in Figure 12. Leave the nut loose enough to allow the buckle to rotate freely on the striker.
15. Have your helper hold the tailgate in the open position, while you determine the position of the attachment point of the other end of the check strap, Figure 13. The tailgate should be slightly above horizontal as the check strap will stretch approximately 1/8" with the weight of the tailgate on it. When you're satisfied with the position of the mounting bolt, double check to make sure that the nutsert you are about to install will be hidden within the stake pocket. ALWAYS DOUBLE CHECK!!!
16. Drill a 3/8" hole, install the nutsert and attach the check strap with the ¼"x1/2" bolt. Locktite the threads of the nutsert; this will prevent the bolt from vibrating loose. Leave the bolt loose enough to allow the buckle to rotate freely on bolt. It may be worth knowing that you can have the strap re-adjusted by an auto upholstery shop.
17. Repeat steps 8-16 to install the spring latch assembly and check strap on the opposite side of the bed.
18. The finished product should look like the installation, Figure 14. The first few times you close the tailgate, it may be necessary to guide the check straps into their proper position. After a few weeks of sitting with the tailgate closed the straps will develop a memory and will slip into their appropriate position without assistance.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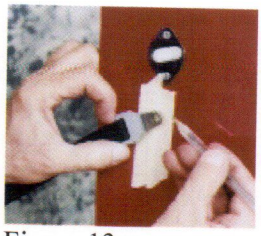
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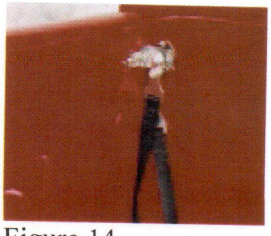
Figure 14.

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING US, WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR NEW PRODUCT.