



PRO'S PICK SMOOTH TAILGATE

REVISED FEBRUARY 2008

REQUIRED TOOLS

Electric or battery drill
Drill bits – 1/8 – 25/64 – 7/16
Mig welder
Wrenches – 9/16
Allen wrenches – 1/8 – 3/16
Nutsert installation tool – available at hardware / NAPA or you could purchase them from us for \$43.00
Tape measure
Felt tip marker

STEP 1 UNPACKING

Check the contents to make sure it's all here!

Description	Qty
Tailgate panel	1
Rear cross member	1
Hardware package -check label	1

IF INSTALLING ON AN EXISTING BED, START HERE. IF INSTALLING ON A PRO'S PICK BED, SKIP TO STEP 2.

When installing on any other bed than one made by Pro's Pick, remove the rear crossmember. From 16-gauge metal, cut a piece the correct size to cover the now exposed area of the stake pocket that was previously occupied by the rear crossmember and weld it in place.

Typically, the rear of the bedside had a notched-out area to accommodate the stock tailgate hinges. This area will also need to be filled; in some cases, it is a double thickness.

Clamp the Pro's Pick rear crossmember in place so that it is flush with the rear of the filled bedside and even with the bottom of the bedside. Mark the two bolt hole locations on each end of the crossmember to the previously patched area on the bedsides. Remove the rear crossmember and drill 7/16" holes in the marked locations.

Clamp the rear crossmember back into position. From the bottom, slide the two supplied plates up into the stake pockets.

Using the 3/8" bolts provided, bolt the rear crossmember, through the previously drilled holes and into the threaded plates provided. Assuring that the rear crossmember is still properly aligned, weld the threaded plates to the inside of the stake pockets from the bottom. Hereafter the rear crossmember will be able to be bolted in and out.

To recap the above: you removed the existing rear crossmember; filled the exposed area with a 16-gauge piece of metal; filled the notched area where the hinges used to be; drilled 4 holes for the rear crossmember to bolt through; bolted the crossmember through the patched area and into the threaded plates; and welded the plates to the bedside. **Proceed to Step 2**

TAILGATE INSTALLATION

STEP 2 INSTALL HINGES

Install hinges to rear crossmember before installing the crossmember to the bed sides. There are right and left hinges. The proper installation is with the flanged head of the bronze hinge pin bushing facing the center of the vehicle. Tap the hinge pin in until the head of the pin is flush to the pin sleeve. The hinge pin may now be protruding from the side mounting surface of the crossmember, if so cut the pin off flush with a hacksaw. The crossmember may now be installed as per step 2.

STEP 3 INSTALL REAR CROSS MEMBER

The rear crossmember bolts to the bedsides with two 3/8 x 1" bolts on each side. The rear crossmember will sit on the bottom bedside lip and be flush with the rear of the lower bedside panel.

2/2008

STEP 4 INSTALL GATE

Point the hinges toward the rear of the vehicle in a horizontal position. With a helper, slide the tailgate over the hinges until the gate is about 1/4" from touching the rear crossmember. We like to use a spacer (like wood or cardboard) between the gate and the crossmember. Have the other person install the four 3/8 x 1 button head bolts in the side of the gate. Close the gate to check adjustment, the top of the tailgate should be even with the bend on the bedside. Adjust as necessary.

Install the springs into the latch bolt pockets, then the nylon latch bolts into the tailgate. Screw the latch bolt knobs into the latch bolts.

With the tailgate held in the closed position slide one of the stainless striker plates down behind the nylon latch bolt. You are now determining the position of the striker plate. Later, after the bed is painted, you will be installing a foam strip between the tailgate and the end of the bedside. I like to temporarily attach the foam tape in place as it will affect the operation of the latch. Tension the striker plate towards the front of the vehicle in order to remove any slack in the latch assembly.

Mark the striker attachment hole locations on the bedside, be sure that you are happy with the fit of the latch with the striker plate and that the striker is centered vertically on the latch bolt as once you drill the holes it is too late. With the striker plates installed the tailgate should only require a light push to close and should have very little movement when latched. Drill 1/8" holes for the striker plate attachment screws. Use a hex head sheet metal screw provided as a tap to thread the holes (the heads of the Philips screws will strip if you use them). Install the Philips screws.

STEP 5 INSTALL CHECK STRAPS

You will now install the check straps. The strap buckles are bent so that the strap material does not drag on the paint. Apply blue loctite to the threads and fasten the check strap to the gate with a 1/4" button head bolt. Leave the bolt loose enough so that the strap will rotate freely on the bolt. Install opposite side.

Support the tailgate about 3/16" above the horizontal position. (The straps will stretch slightly with the weight of the tailgate)

Mark the hole location for the other end of the straps using the buckle as a locator, be sure that this hole is centered on the stake pocket as the pocket will be used to hide the fastener. Drill a 1/8" hole then a 25/64" hole, install the 1/4" NC nutserts provided. Apply blue loctite to threads and install strap ends leaving bolts loose enough so that the buckle rotates freely on the bolt.

We hope this has been a pleasurable experience for you and once again thank you for purchasing our product. If you have any comments as to how we may improve our product line, or ideas for new product you think would be valuable, please drop us a line.

TAILGATE STRAP ON
PRO'S PICK
SMOOTHIE TAILGATE

