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BASEPLATE KIT INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

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KIT# 279-3 08/28/17

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Important

Note: this bracket will not accommodate the Guardian rock shield, some models of the Tow Defender, Stowaway or the StowMaster and StowMaster All Terrain tow bars.

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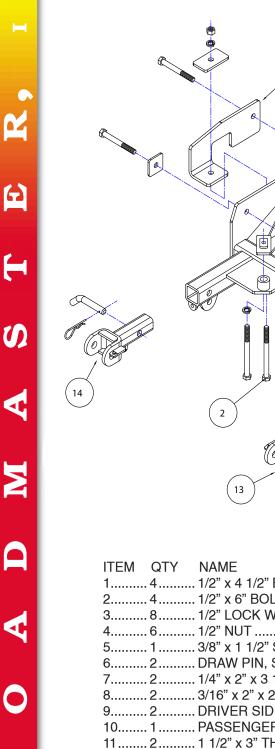
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ITEM	QTY		PART #
		. 1/2" x 4 1/2" BOLT	
2	. 4	. 1/2" x 6" BOLT	350109-00
3	. 8	. 1/2" LOCK WASHER	350309-00
4	. 6	. 1/2" NUT	350258-00
		. 3/8" x 1 1/2" SELF TAPPING SCREW	
		DRAW PIN, SPRING PIN	
7	. 2	. 1/4" x 2" x 3 1/2" BACKING PLATE	A-000165
		. 3/16" x 2" x 2" BACKING PLATE	
		DRIVER SIDE SIDE BRACE	
		PASSENGER SIDE SIDE BRACE	
		. 1 1/2" x 3" THREADED BACKING PLATE	
		MAIN RECEIVER BRACE	
13	. 1	DRIVER SIDE ARM	C-001278
14	. 1	PASSENGER SIDE ARM	C-001279



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This is one of our direct-connect brackets, which allows the visible front portion of the bracket to be easily removed from the front of the vehicle (Fig.A and Fig.B). The bracket consists of a main receiver brace, two removable front braces and a hardware pack.

The main receiver brace mounts to the frame rails. The removable front braces install in the main receiver brace.

Before starting the installation, lay out the kit components in order, as they will be used. This will give you a visual idea of how the components work, and will also confirm that everything is present and accounted for.





IMPORTANT: All baseplates **must** be assembled with all the bolts left loose for final adjustment and positioning (before tightening) unless otherwise instructed. All bolts **must** be torqued for proper strength. If more than one bolt is used per fastening point, the diagram may only show one. Use flat washers over all slotted holes and lock washers on all fasteners.

\Lambda WARNING

Failure to heed these warnings or follow the installation instructions may result in a voided warranty, loss of towed vehicle, personal injury or death.

- Do not weld or modify this baseplate or its components. Welding or modification will void the warranty.
- Do not use this document as a basis to design/fabricate a baseplate, as it may not show all parts or structural components.
- We strongly recommend professional installation.
- If the towed vehicle has been in an accident, it must be properly repaired before attaching the baseplate. Do not install the baseplate if any structural frame damage is found.
- The installer must use all bolts and parts supplied. If running changes were made by the vehicle manufacturer after this kit was designed, some bolts or other fasteners may no longer be the correct size. It is the installer's responsibility to verify this kit is securely fastened to the vehicle.
- Use Loctite® Red on all bolts used to secure this baseplate. Torque all bolts to the specifications found at the end of these instructions. Do not over-torque the bolts or failure may occur.
- The installer must inspect the baseplate to ensure adequate clearance, particularly around hoses, air conditioner lines, radiators, etc. or non-warranty failure may result.
- Roadmaster manufactures many styles of baseplates. If your baseplate has removable arms, they must be removed before driving the vehicle, unless the arms can be pinned or padlocked in place. If not secured, the arms could vibrate out.
- Some motorhome chassis have such a tight turning radius that you can damage your motorhome, towed vehicle, tow bar or baseplate while turning sharply. Before getting on the road, test your turning radius in an empty parking lot. Turning too sharply could

result in non-warranty damage to your towing system, motorhome and/or towed vehicle.

- Do not back up with the towed vehicle attached or non-warranty damage will occur to your towing system or vehicles.
- The safety cables must connect the towing vehicle to the towed vehicle frame to frame, with the cables crossed, with enough slack for sharp turns. See cable instructions for proper routing. Failure to do so will result in non-warranty damage and/or the loss of the towed vehicle.
- This kit is designed for use with ROADMASTER tow bars and ROADMASTER adapters only. Using this kit with other brands, without an approved ROADMASTER adapter, may result in nonwarranty damage or injury.
- Receiver extensions and out-of-level towing situations of 3 inches or more. This can cause the system to swing much higher and lower, causing excessive strain on the tow bar, baseplate and frame. That can cause the towing system to fail, causing property damage, personal injury or even death. If you must use a receiver extension or drop hitch to tow, it will reduce your receiver's weight capacity by 1/3 to avoid damaging your system. Never use more than one extension and/or drop hitch, as this will void your warranty.
- Every 3,000 miles, the owner must inspect all mounting points for cracks or fatigue, and check the fasteners for proper torque, according to the bolt torque requirements chart on the last page of these instructions.
- The owner must follow the vehicle manufacturer's instructions to prepare the vehicle for towing. Failure to do so may cause severe damage to the vehicle.
- This baseplate is only warranteed for the original installation. Installing a used baseplate on another vehicle is not recommended and will void the warranty.





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1. *Important:* please use all supplied bolts and parts and read all instructions carefully before beginning this installation. The majority of questions you may have can be answered within the text, and proper installation will ensure safe and secure travel. Now, begin the installation. Start by removing two T20 Torx screws from the license plate holder (Fig.C).

2. Then, remove two plastic fasteners from the bottom of the license plate holder (Fig.D).

3. Remove the ambient air sensor (Fig.E) – by pulling forward on the center of the plastic clip, the sensor will release from the housing.

- 4. Remove two 13mm (head) bolts from the center of the fascia (Fig.F).
- 5. Remove two plastic fasteners on the fascia (one on each side, Fig.G).
- 6. Now, remove the fascia by pulling forward on each side (Fig.H).





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7. If the vehicle is equipped with an optional muffler for an auxiliary heating system on the driver's side, remove it by removing a 10mm nut (Fig.I).

8. Lift the main receiver brace into position between the frame rails. The main receiver brace must fit flush against the inside of the frame rails and the bumper core. Clamp the bracket in place on each side (Fig.J).

9. Using the pre-drilled hole at the front of the main receiver brace as a template, drill a ½" hole through both sides of the frame rail (Fig.K). *Note:* before drilling, check to make sure all hoses, fittings and other engine components are out of the way. Repeat for the other side.

10. Using the two holes you just drilled, attach the main receiver brace to the frame rails. Use a $\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ " bolt, a $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 2" x 2" backing plate (with a 9/16" hole), and a lock washer and nut at each end (Fig.L). Tighten the two bolts to the torque specifications at the bottom of these instructions.

11. Using the pre-drilled hole at the bottom of the main receiver brace as a template, drill a $\frac{1}{2}$ " hole into the top



of the frame rail (Fig.M). This hole will align with a pre-existing hole at the bottom of the frame rail. *Note*: before drilling, check to make sure all hoses, fittings and other engine components are out of the way. Repeat for the other side.





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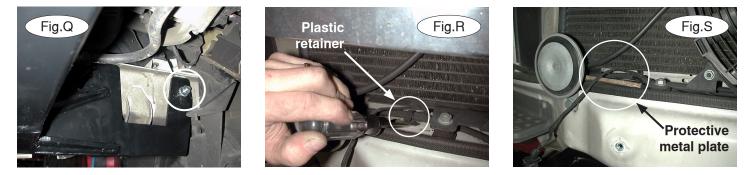
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12. Set one of the supplied side plates in place, with the lower flange between the main receiver brace and the frame rail (Fig.N). From the bottom, bolt through the main receiver brace, the side brace, and the top and bottom of the frame rail with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 6" bolt. Then, use a $1\frac{1}{4}$ " x 2" x $3\frac{1}{2}$ " backing plate and a lock washer and nut to secure the side plate. *Note:* position the backing plate across the top of the frame rail (perpendicular to the frame rail), so that the ends of the backing plate align to both sides of the frame rail (Fig.O). Repeat for the other side, then tighten both bolts to the torque specifications at the bottom of these instructions.

13. Remove the clamps used in step 8.

14. In order to drill the next two attachment points, turn the front wheels completely to one side, and then to the other. Using the pre-drilled hole at the rear of one of the side plates as a template, drill through both sides of the frame rail (Fig.P). Then, slide a $\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ " bolt through the hole you just drilled, and secure it in place with a lock washer and nut (Fig.Q). Repeat for the other side.



15. Before drilling the two center attachment points in the core support, remove the two plastic retainer clips holding the wiring harness. The clips are located on both the passenger and driver side, on top of the core support and below the radiator (Fig.R).

16. Before drilling the two center attachment points, place a metal plate between the core support and the radiator (Fig.S), in order to protect the radiator from possible damage.



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17. Using the pre-drilled hole in the main receiver brace as a template, drill a $\frac{1}{2}$ " hole from the bottom of the main receiver brace through both the bottom and top of the core support. Bolt through the main receiver brace and the core support with a 1/2" x 6" bolt. Attach a lock washer to the bolt, and then secure the bolt in place with a 1/4" x 11/2" x 3" nutted backing plate. The nutted backing plate will rest on top of the bumper core, below the radiator (Fig.T).

18. Ensure that all bolts are tightened to the torque specifications at the bottom of these instructions.

19. In order to accommodate the two removable front braces, an area at the bottom of the fascia, on both sides, will need to be trimmed (Fig.U). Before reinstalling it, test-fit the fascia and mark the area to be trimmed. Trim a small section and test-fit the fascia, then repeat, if necessary, until you have trimmed enough.

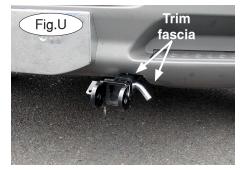
20. Reinstall the fascia and the optional auxiliary heating system muffler (if the vehicle is so equipped), reversing steps 1 through 6. *Note:* reattach the auxiliary heating system muffler at a slightly higher location. Use a 3/8" x 11/2" self-tapping screw.

21. Fit the front bracket arms into the front receiver braces, and secure them in place with the supplied 5/8" draw pins and spring pins (Fig.U).

22. Install the tow bar to the mounting bracket according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Note: this bracket requires 10,000-pound rated safety cables to be attached to the main receiver brace of the towing vehicle.





BOLT TORQUE REQUIREMENTS

Note: The torque values represented below are intended as general guidelines. Torque requirements for specific applications may vary. Roadmaster does not warrant this information to be accurate for all applications and disclaims all liability for any claims or damages which may result from its use.

STANDARD BOLTS

METRIC BOLTS					
Thread Size	Grade	Plated / Unplated			
8mm-1.0	8.8	20 ft./lb. 18 ft./lb.			
8mm-1.25	8.8	19 ft./lb. 18 ft./lb.			
10mm-1.25	8.8	38 ft./lb. 36 ft./lb.			
10mm-1.5	8.8	37 ft./lb. 35 ft./lb.			

METRIC BOLTS

Thread Size	Grade	Plated / Unplated
12mm-1.25	8.8	70 ft./lb. 65 ft./lb.
12mm-1.5	8.8	66 ft./lb. 61 ft./lb.
12mm-1.75	8.8	65 ft./lb. 60 ft./lb.
14mm-2.0	8.8	104 ft./lb. 97 ft./lb.

All illustrations and specifications contained herein are based on the latest information available at the time of publication approval. ROADMASTER, INC. reserves the right to make changes at any time without notice in material, specification and models or to discontinue models