

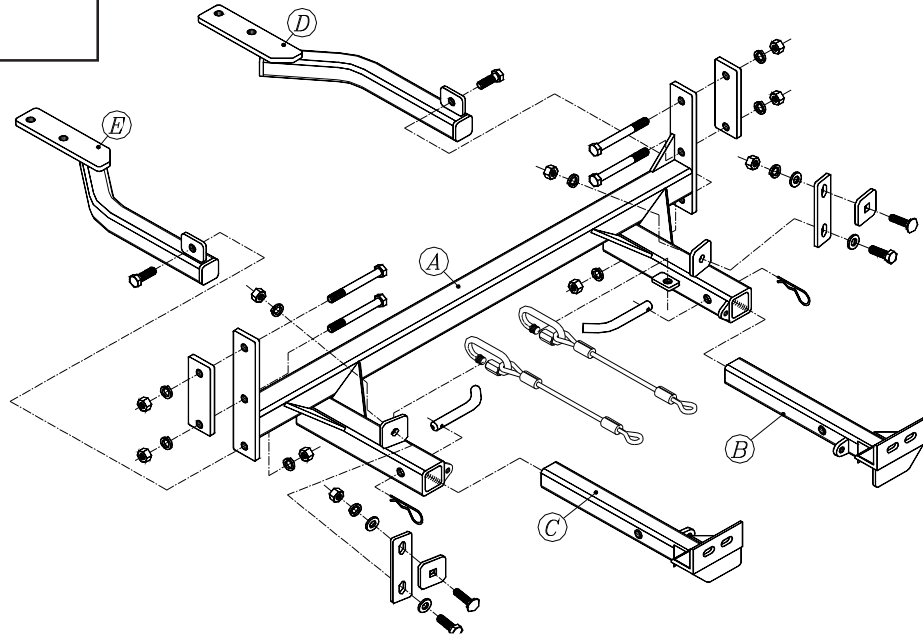
# BASEPLATE KIT INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

KIT# 455-2  
07/03/97

ROADMASTER, Inc. 6110 NE 127th Ave. Vancouver, WA 98682 1-800-669-9690 fax 360-735-9300 www.roadmasterinc.com

## PARTS LIST:

- 1-LOWER RECEIVER (A)-Passenger side
- 1-LOWER RECEIVER (B)-Driver's side
- 1-FRONT BRACE (C)-Passenger side
- 1-FRONT BRACE (D)-Driver's side
- 1-CROSS BRACE (E)



**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.

## 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 non-warranty 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 warranted 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. This bracket kit is one of our XL Series and consists of five main parts, two front braces, a main receiver brace and two small rear braces. The main brace mounts between the frame rails in front of the radiator. The tubular rear braces bolt to the bottom of the frame and stabilize the main brace. The front braces extend through the front air slot underneath the bumper and are removable. Begin by removing the plastic splash panels from beneath the front of the car and radiator. Remove the four 7/32" screws holding the air dam supports. This will provide the needed access.
2. Insert the main brace from underneath the car between the frame rails and in front of the radiator but behind the front frame cross rail. Mount the brace in place using a 3/8" x 2" x 5 1/2" two hole backing plate, two 1/2" x 4 1/2" bolts, lock washers and nuts to sandwich each frame side rail. Tighten finger tight.
3. Now, bolt the front of the receivers to two existing bumper holes using two 1/4" x 1 1/2" x 5 1/8" mounting plates, two 1/2" x 1 1/2" bolts, four 1/2" flat washers, two 1/4" x 2" x 2" backing plates, two 1/2" x 1 1/2" carriage bolts, lock washers and nuts. Use the carriage bolts to bolt through the existing bumper holes using the backing plates inside the bumper. Use the 1/2" bolts to bolt to the receiver brace.
4. Remove the stabilizer bar mounts from each side of the frame. Sandwich the rear tubular braces between the stabilizer bar mounts and the frame, then bolt the stabilizer bar in place. Now, bolt the rear braces to the main receiver brace on each side using two 1/2" x 1 1/2" bolts, lock washers and nuts.
5. Align the main receiver brace and tighten all bolts to the torque specifications below.
6. Reverse step 1 to reinstall the lower splash panels and plastic.
7. Insert the front braces into the receiver tubes and pin using the supplied 5/8" draw pins and 1/8" spring pins. The front air dam plastic may have to be trimmed slightly for access to the draw pins.
8. Install the tow bar according to the manufacturers instructions and torque all bolts to the specifications below.
9. Connect the included 13" safety cables to the lower receivers using the supplied quick links. The other end of the safety cables should be connected to the tow vehicle's safety cables.

**HARDWARE LIST:**

- 4-1/2" X 1 1/2" BOLTS
- 4-1/2" X 4 1/2" BOLTS
- 2-1/2" X 1 1/2" CARRIAGE BOLTS
- 10-1/2" NUTS
- 10-1/2" LOCK WASHERS
- 4-1/2" FLAT WASHERS

- 2-1/4" X 2 X 2" SQ. HOLED BACKING PLATE
- 2-3/8" X 2" X 5 1/2" BACKING PLATE
- 2-1/4" X 1 1/2" X 5 1/8" MOUNTING PLATES
- 2-13" SAFETY CABLES
- 2-CABLE CONNECTORS
- 2-5/8" DRAW PINS
- 2-1/8" SPRING PINS

### 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 |       |                       | METRIC BOLTS |       |                        |
|----------------|-------|-------------|--------------|-------|-----------------------|--------------|-------|------------------------|
| Thread Size    | Grade | Torque      | Thread Size  | Grade | Plated/Unplated       | Thread Size  | Grade | Plated/Unplated        |
| 5/16           | 5     | 13 ft./lb.  | 8mm-1.0      | 8.8   | 20 ft./lb. 18 ft./lb. | 12mm-1.25    | 8.8   | 70 ft./lb. 65 ft./lb.  |
| 3/8            | 5     | 23 ft./lb.  | 8mm-1.25     | 8.8   | 19 ft./lb. 18 ft./lb. | 12mm-1.5     | 8.8   | 66 ft./lb. 61 ft./lb.  |
| 7/16           | 5     | 37 ft./lb.  | 10mm-1.25    | 8.8   | 38 ft./lb. 36 ft./lb. | 12mm-1.75    | 8.8   | 65 ft./lb. 60 ft./lb.  |
| 1/2            | 5     | 56 ft./lb.  | 10mm-1.5     | 8.8   | 37 ft./lb. 35 ft./lb. | 14mm-2.0     | 8.8   | 104 ft./lb. 97 ft./lb. |
| 5/8            | 5     | 150 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.