



# BASEPLATE KIT INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

**KIT# 524465-5**

02/18/22  
KS

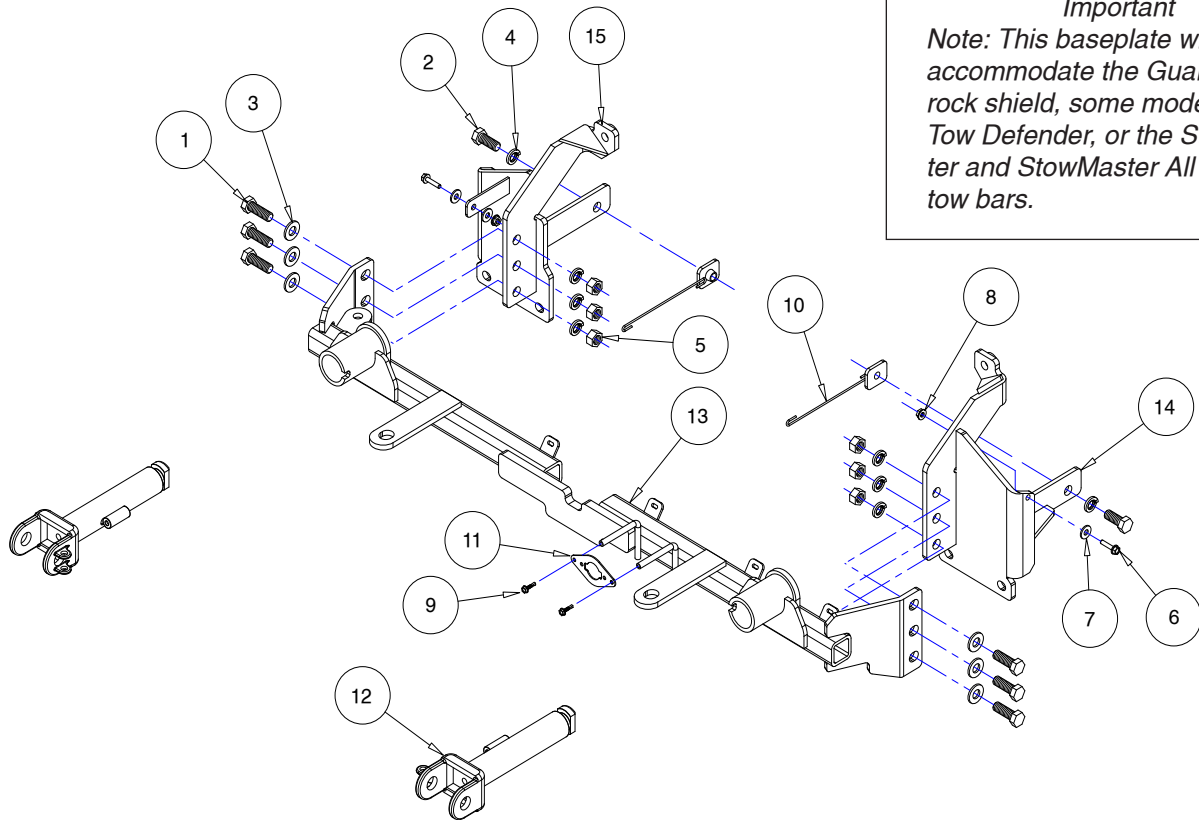
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Ratchets  
7, 8, 10, 13 and 15mm sockets  
3/4" and 3/8" sockets  
11mm, 3/8", 3/4" wrenches  
T30 driver  
Drill

## What You'll Need

Panel tool  
Small flathead  
screwdriver

2 1/4" hole saw  
Reciprocating saw  
Permanent or paint marker  
Tape measure  
Torque wrench  
Loctite© Blue or Red



*Important*  
*Note: This baseplate will not accommodate the Guardian rock shield, some models of the Tow Defender, or the StowMaster and StowMaster All Terrain tow bars.*

ITEM	QTY	NAME	MATERIAL
1.....6.....	1/2" x 1 1/2" BOLT.....	350095-00	
2.....2.....	1/2" x 1 1/4" BOLT.....	350094-00	
3.....6.....	1/2" FLAT WASHER SAE .....	350308-20	
4.....8.....	1/2" LOCK WASHER .....	350309-00	
5.....6.....	1/2" HEX NUT .....	350258-00	
6.....2.....	1/4" x 1" WHIZ BOLT .....	350400-20	
7.....3.....	1/4" FLAT WASHER .....	350300-00	
8.....2.....	1/4" WHIZ NUT .....	350251-20	
9.....2.....	#10 x 3/4" SELF DRILLING SCREW.....	350247-35	
10.....2.....	1 1/4" x 1 1/2" THREADED BACKING PLATE W/ 6" ROD.....	C002077	
11.....1.....	WIRE PLUG PLATE .....	A003801	
12.....2.....	ARM.....	C002383	
13.....1.....	MAIN RECEIVER .....	C003513	
14.....1.....	DRIVER SIDE BRACE .....	C003514	
15.....1.....	PASSENGER SIDE BRACE.....	C003515	
16.....1.....	#14 x 3/4" SELF DRILLING SCREW (NOT SHOWN).....	357250-00	



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This is one of our direct-connect series, which allows the visible front portion of the baseplate to be easily removed from the front of the vehicle (Fig.A and Fig.B). This kit consists of two side braces, a crossbar, two removable front braces, and a hardware pack.

The braces mount to the frame and the crossbar. 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.

## **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.

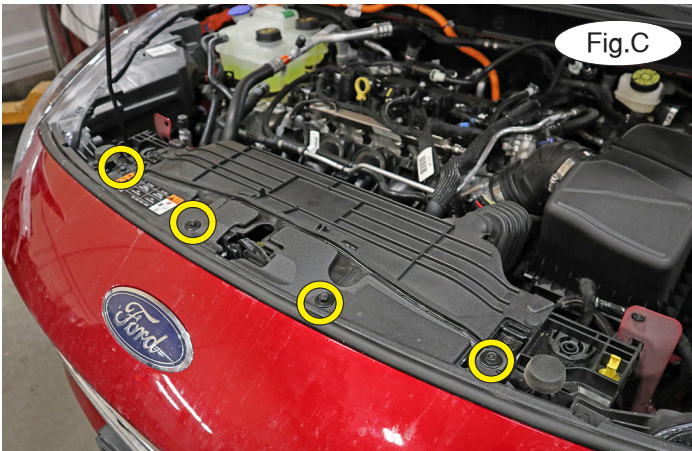


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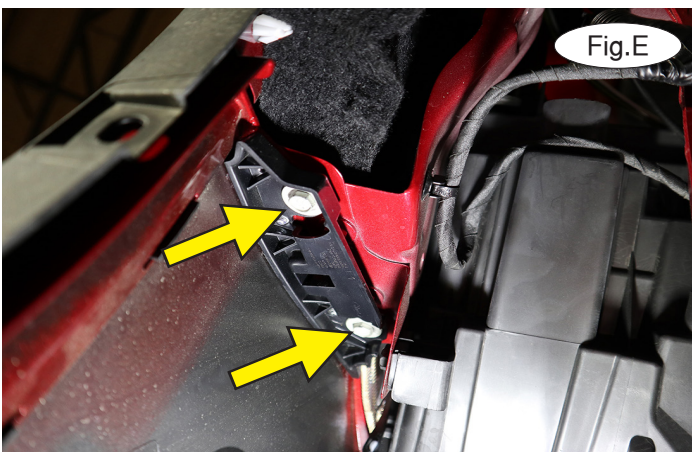
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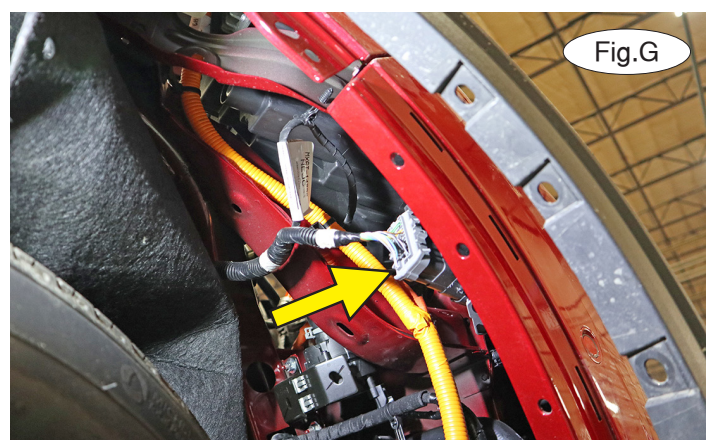


**Important:** please use all supplied bolts and parts and read all instructions carefully before beginning this installation. The majority of questions you may have can be answered within the text, and proper installation will ensure safe and secure travel.

1. Remove four 10mm bolts attaching the top of the fascia to the radiator housing (Fig.C).
2. On each side, remove four large, four medium and one small plastic fastener attaching the fender well and fender trim to the fascia (Fig.D). *Note:* It would be helpful to note placements for proper reinstallation later on.



3. On each side, pull down the fender liner and remove two 10mm bolts attaching the fascia to the fender (Fig.E).
4. On each side, peel back the fender trim about halfway and use a soft rag to prop it away from the vehicle (Fig.F). Then, on the passenger side only, disconnect the large wiring harness (Fig.G). **IMPORTANT! Under no circumstances should you unplug any of the orange-taped, high voltage harnesses.**



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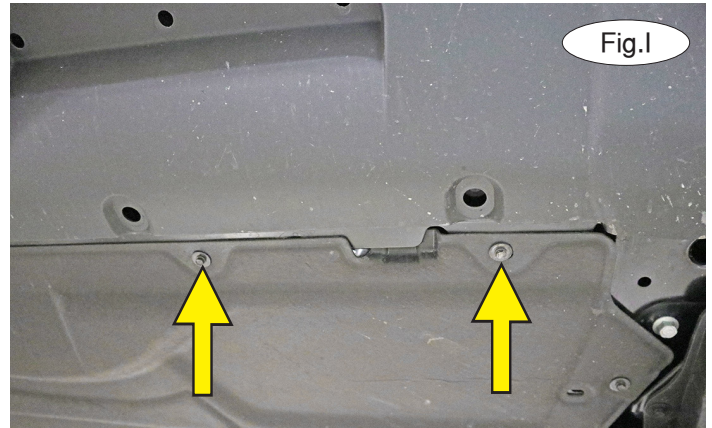


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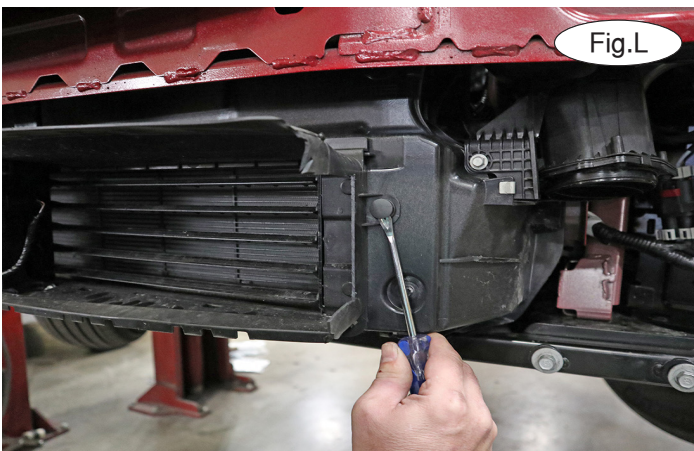


5. On each side, remove five T30 torx screws attaching the lower splash shield to the subframe (Fig.H). Then, remove two 7mm bolts attaching the splash shield to the fascia (Fig.I).

6. On each side, apply downward pressure to the fascia to open the seam and then very carefully use a small flathead screwdriver to release the clips (Fig.J) and then pull down to release the fascia at the seam (Fig.K). Set the fascia aside for now.



7. On each side, remove one plastic fastener attaching the air deflector to the radiator housing (Fig.L). Around the deflector, release eight clips as shown (Fig.M) and set the housing aside to be trimmed later.



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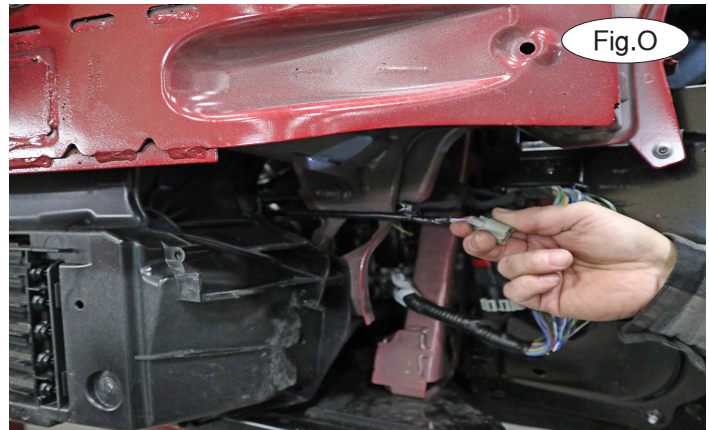
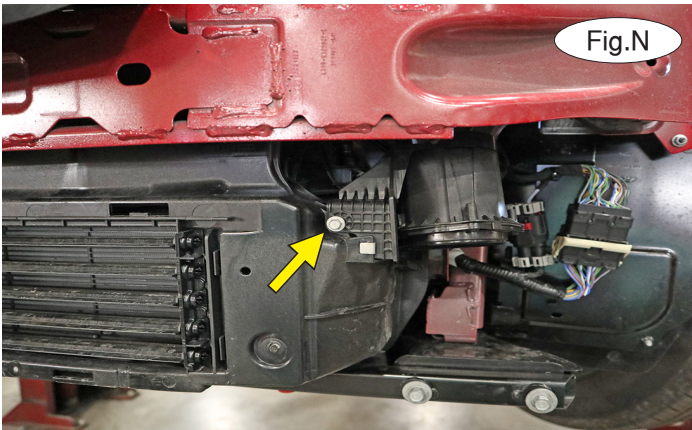


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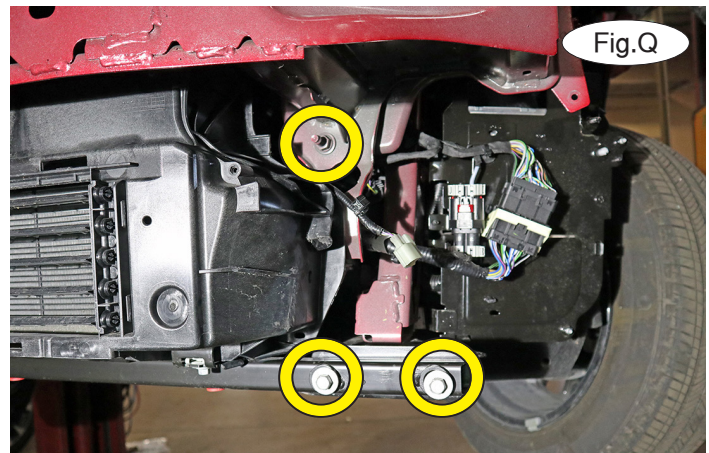
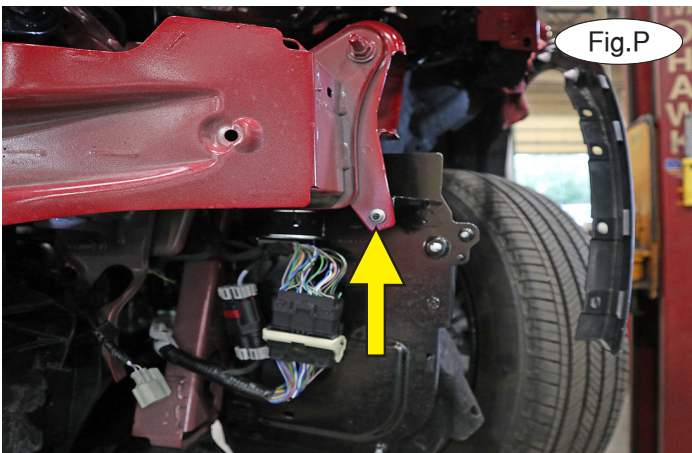
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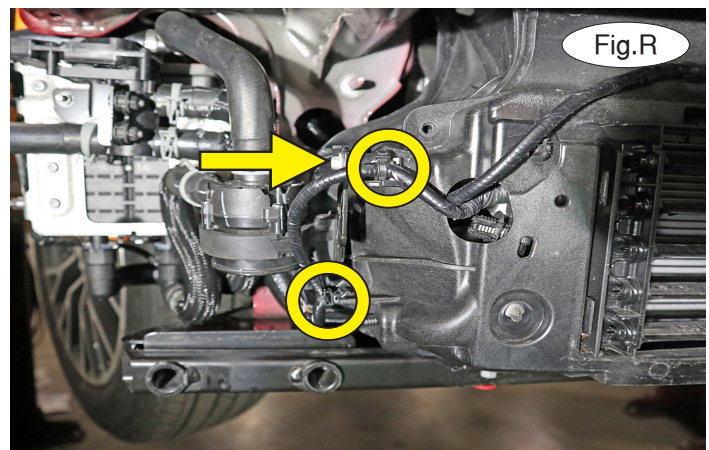
8. **If your vehicle does not have a pedestrian alert device (PAD):** Proceed to the next step. **If your vehicle has a PAD:** On the driver's side only, remove one 8mm screw attaching the PAD. Pull outward to release the retaining clip. Unplug the sensor and set it aside for now (Fig.N). Then, unclip the PAD harness from behind the radiator housing to extend its length for a future step (Fig.O).

9. Remove one 10mm nut attaching the computer box to the frame (Fig.P) and then push rearward to temporarily move it out of the way.



10. On each side, remove two 13mm bolts and one 15mm nut attaching the lower radiator support to the subframe (Fig.Q).

11. **If your vehicle is not a plug-in:** Proceed to the next step. **If your vehicle is a Plug-in Hybrid:** On the passenger side only, unplug the air switch pump and unclip the harness from the shutter housing. Then, remove one 8mm screw attaching the air pump to the shutter housing and pull out to release it (Fig.R). Let it hang down for now.



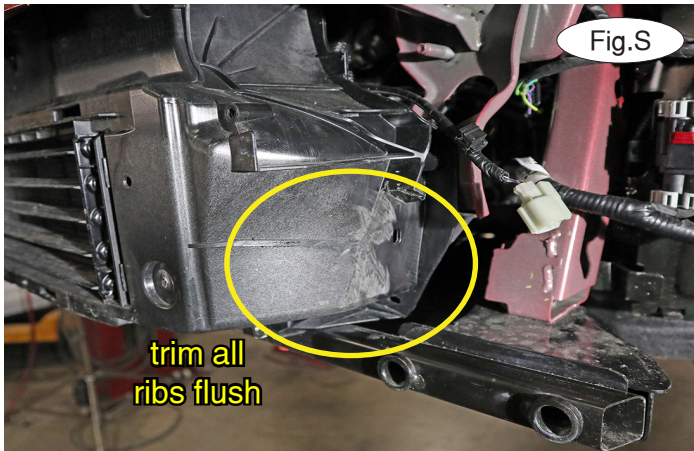


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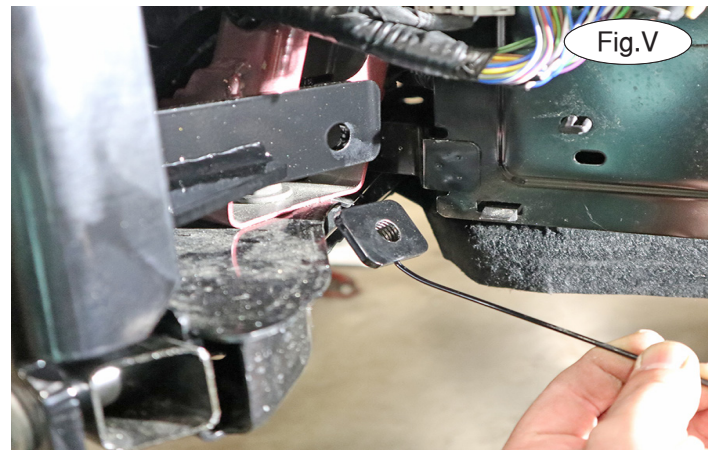
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12. On each side, trim the shutter housing flush as shown to allow clearance for the main receiver brace (Fig.S).

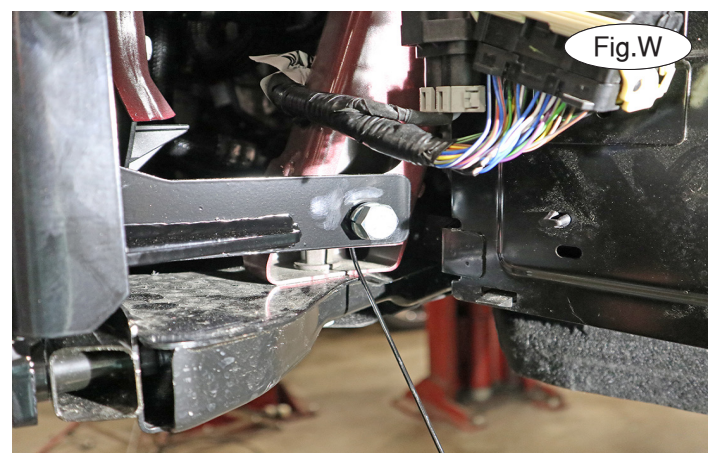
13. Working on one side at a time, use the drawing on page 1 to locate the driver's side-specific main receiver brace. Place the brace over the mounts you exposed in step 10 and replace the 15mm nut and two 13mm bolts (Fig.T). *Note:* Use Loctite on the nut and bolts.



14. Push the brace to the outside of the vehicle as far as possible and tighten the hardware you installed in step 13 to the factory specifications.

15. Repeat steps 13 and 14 for the passenger side. **If your vehicle is not a plug-in:** Proceed to the next step. **If your vehicle is a Plug-in Hybrid:** Ensure that the air pump is to the outside of the mount so it can be attached to the welded mount on the main receiver brace (Fig.U).

16. Prepare two  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " bolts with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " lock washers and Loctite. Then, locate the two  $\frac{3}{16}$ " x  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " x  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " threaded backing plate and bend the rods as shown (Fig.V). On each side, place it up into the frame member behind the rear mounting hole of the brace. Then, bolt through the brace and into the backing plate and tighten it to specifications (Fig.W). Bend the rod backward or snap it off with pliers.



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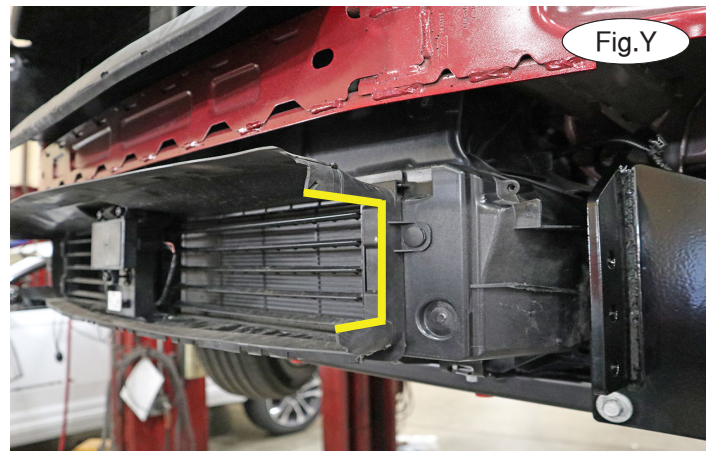
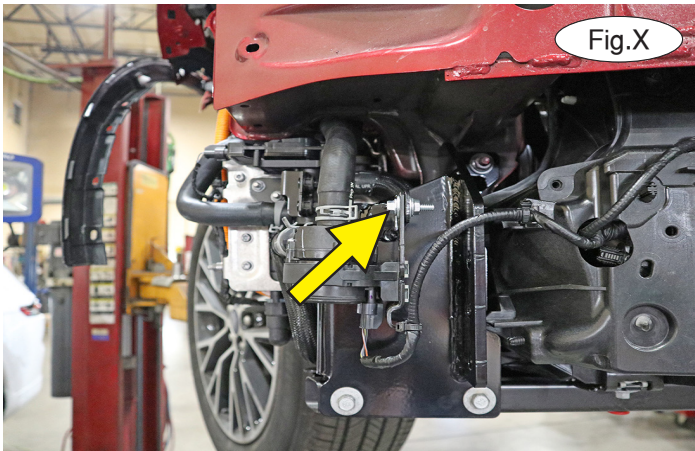


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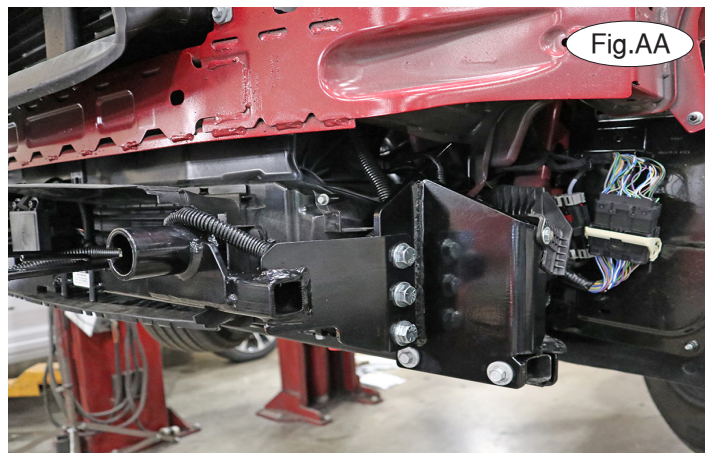
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17. **If your vehicle is not a plug-in:** Proceed to the next step. **If your vehicle is a Plug-in Hybrid:** On the passenger side only, place a 6mm washer over a ¼" x 1" bolt. Pass the bolt through the air pump mount and through the included tab on the brace. Finish with a 6mm washer and ¼" whiz nut (Fig.X).

18. Remount the computer box by bending it back into place and then replacing the 10mm nut.

19. Trim both sides of the air dam as shown, using the yellow lines as a reference, and then replace it (Fig.Y).



20. Trim off the gusset on the back of the PAD mount, using the yellow lines in Figure Z as a guide. Then, reinstall the PAD by running its wiring through the gap between the frame and the baseplate. Bolt it into place on the side brace using a supplied ¼" x 1" whiz bolt and ¼" flat washer. Then finish with ¼" whiz nut.

21. Place six ½" small flat washers over six ½" x 1½" bolts. With the assistance of a second person, place the crossbar around the side-specific brace mounts and then bolt it to the side-specific brace on each side using three of the 1½" bolts. Finish the bolts with ½" lock washers and ½" nuts (Fig.AA). **Note: If the vehicle is so equipped, ensure that the lower mount of the ACC sensor is nestled into the cutout on the baseplate. Under no circumstances should it be touching the baseplate.**



22. If you are using a Brakeaway switch, pre-drill into the crossbar using a 3/16" drill bit. Then, bend the Brakeaway switch mounting tab 90 degrees and attach it to the front of the crossbar using the supplied self-tapping screw as shown in Fig.BB.

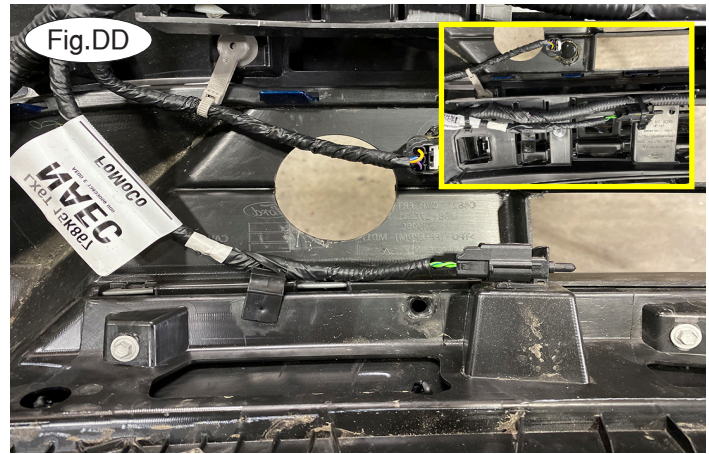
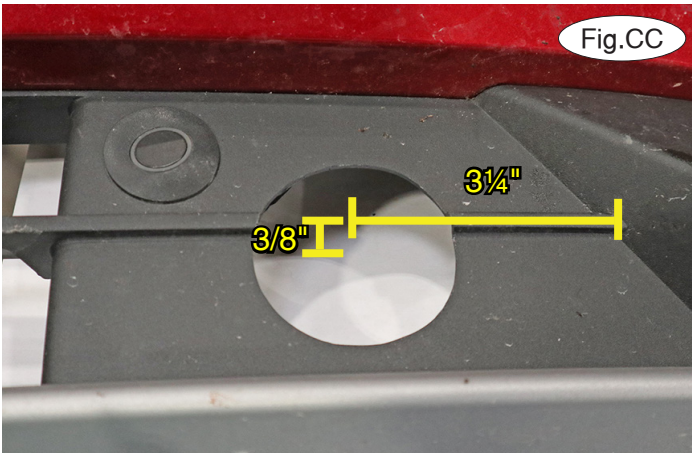


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23. On each side of the lower fascia opening, measure over approximately 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the outer edge and down 3/8" and drill a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " pilot hole. Use a 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " hole saw to trim it (Fig.CC). *Note:* Additional trimming may be needed to allow clearance for the main receiver brace.

24. On the passenger side, remove the ambient temperature sensor and its harness, and zip tie it to the harness above it (Fig.DD and Fig.DD – inset).

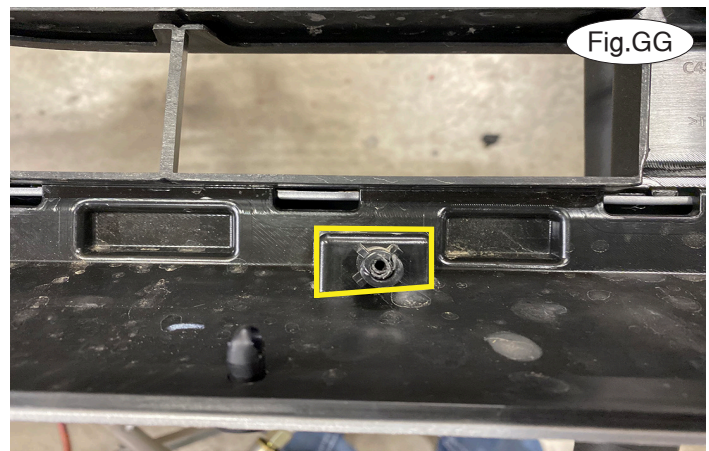


25. On each side, remove the outermost 8mm screw and trim the backside of the fascia using the yellow lines as guides in Figure EE (passenger side) and Figure FF (driver's side).

26. On each side, completely remove the outermost screw mount and grind the surface flush (Fig.GG).

27. Reinstall the fascia, reversing steps 1 through 8.

28. On each side, insert the removable front arm into the front receiver 90 degrees from its final towing position, depressing the spring-loaded pin against the receiver. Twist back 90 degrees until the spring-loaded pin snaps into place in the notch on the receiver, locking the arm into place in its final towing position. ***Please note: it is the owner's responsibility to ensure the locking of the pins before towing. Otherwise, failure of the towing system will result.***





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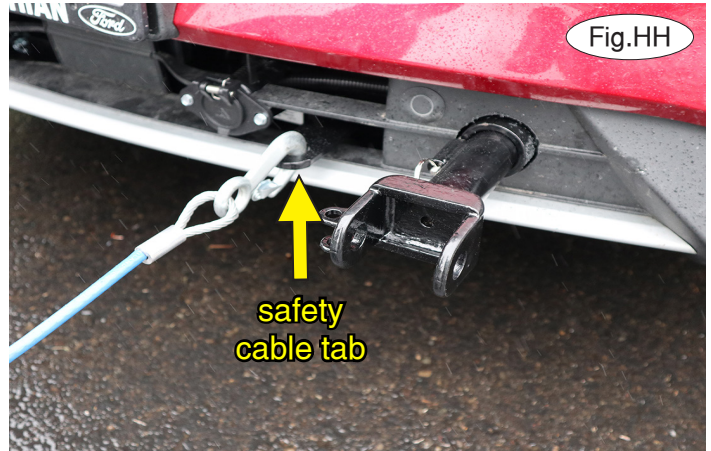
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29. Install the tow bar to the baseplate, according to the manufacturer's instructions.

**IMPORTANT!**

**Safety cables are required by law. When towing, connect safety cables to the safety cable tabs illustrated on the first page and in Figure HH. Make certain there is adequate slack in the cables to allow a full turning radius; otherwise, damage will result. If necessary, longer cables or cable extensions are available.**

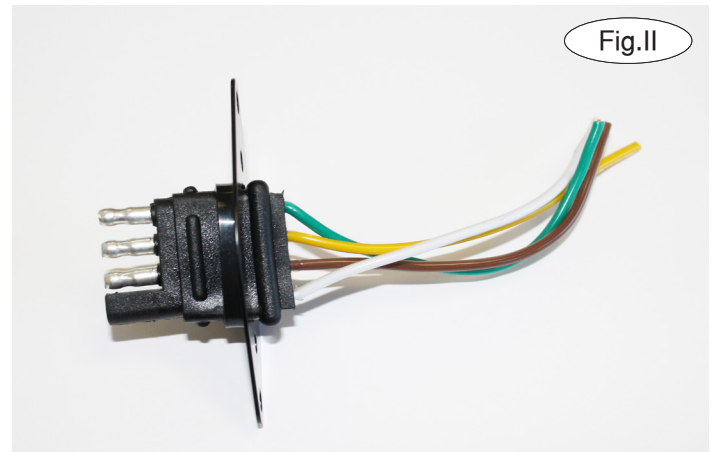


### Three options for attaching the wiring plug to the main receiver brace

**For six-wire plugs:** use the two supplied 3/4" self-tapping screws to attach the electrical plug directly to the rods on the front of the main receiver brace.

**For four-wire round plugs:** attach to the plug mounting plate and then use the two supplied 3/4" self-tapping screws to attach the mounting plate to the rods on the front of the main receiver brace.

**For four-wire flat plugs:** place the plug through the mounting plug plate, and then secure it using the supplied zip tie on the front of the plug (Fig.II). Use the two supplied 3/4" self-tapping screws to attach the mounting plate to the rods on the front of the main receiver brace.



### 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

Thread Size	Grade	Torque
5/16.....	5.....	13 ft./lb.
3/8.....	5.....	23 ft./lb.
7/16.....	5.....	37 ft./lb.
1/2.....	5.....	56 ft./lb.
5/8.....	5.....	150 ft./lb.

#### 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.

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