



BULL DAWG SUV HARDTOPS
The Perfect Companion for your Sport SUV
Another quality company by McLaughlin Manufacturing.
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INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

1997 to 2006 TJ 1-PC JEEP HARDTOP

To Enjoy Your “BULL DAWG” Hardtop for many years to come, proper installation is critical. Read all instructions carefully before beginning the installation process.

Warning: This product is only designed for the Jeep Wrangler TJ built from 1997 to 2006. This product is NOT to be installed on other vehicles. It is designed only to enhance the appearance of the vehicle and to protect against some undesirable weather conditions. It is not designed to hold occupants inside the vehicle, or to protect against foreign objects, or as protection in the event of an accident. **Occupants should always wear seatbelts at all times.**

Improper use of this product could cause serious injury to the vehicle occupants and damage to the Hardtop.

Parts List and Hardware Identification

| Part Name | Quantity | Use |
|--|-----------------|---|
| 1 ½” Knob Bolts With 1 ¼ “ Flat Washers And Nuts | 6 sets | Secures The Inside Side Rails To The Vehicle Tub. |
| 8” Foam Adhesive Backed Strips | 2 | To Cover Holes In The Tub On Either Side Of The Tailgate And Provide A Seal Against Moisture. |
| Top Trim Gasket(w/Adhesive Backing) | 2 | Assures Tight Fit At Upper Forward Corners Of The Hardtop And Windshield Frame |
| J-Hook Keeper | 1 | Attachment Point For Middle Camlock |
| Screws | 2 | Used To Attach J-Hook Keeper |



Figure 1 – Picture of Parts

Installation Instructions

Measure Windshield Distance

In most cases the windshield will not require adjusting for your Bull Dawg Hardtop to fit correctly. The following instructions apply to Jeeps whose doors and body are properly aligned within factory specifications. The alignment of the windshield angle is critical to proper Hardtop fit (see Figure 2). Before installing your new Hardtop check the windshield measurement. The distance from the top lid of the windshield to the top outer edge of the tub must be **75 1/8"** on both sides of the vehicle. If the angle needs to be adjusted only an authorized mechanic using special tools should perform this adjustment.

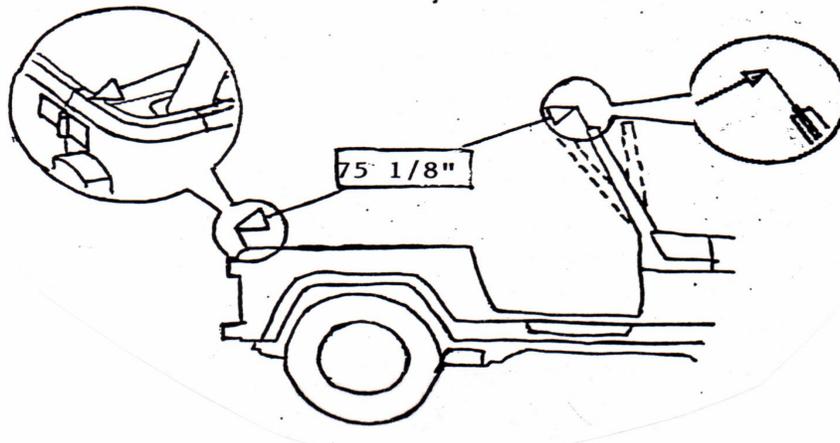


Figure 2 – Windshield distance

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Completely remove all soft-top hardware. However, do not remove the factory installed windshield gasket. Position the two 8” Foam Adhesive Backed Strips on each side of the tailgate as shown in the diagram. They should be placed on the slanted portion of the tub not the flat top portion of the tub. The Foam Strip should be placed at the beginning of the rear hatch opening and continue 8” toward the outside of the vehicle. The foam strips will cover the holes that were exposed when removing the metal soft-top bracket. It may be necessary to cut this foam strip down to a shorter length if your model wrangler requires a shorter piece. (see Figure 2).

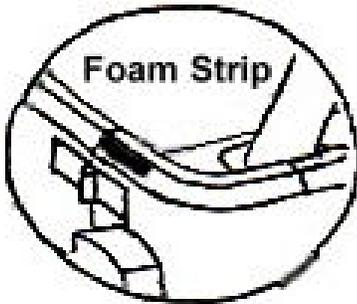


Figure 2
Foam Strip Placement



Figure 3
Top to A-Pillar Gasket



Figure 4
Bent A-Pillar

2. Figure four (3) shows the proper location of the installed Top to A-Pillar gasket(Note: these are driver and passenger side specific). This piece located at the top corner where the door closes against the windshield frame fills in a small gap between the hard top and the windshield frame. Simply peel the paper backing from the gasket and stick it to the end of the plastic doorstop frame. If by chance the gasket will not stick or falls off, a small amount of super glue can be used to assure proper adhesion. Once the hardtop is installed and tightened down, trim off(using sharp razor blade) any of the excess gasket which may be sticking out to insure a smooth transition between the plastic A-Pillar frame and the hardtop.

Important: Check for bent A-Pillar Moldings. Due to the age of the TJ's many of the A-Pillar molding's we see are bent. Bent Pillar Molding's must be replaced to achieve a water tight seal with the hardtop.

3. Remove the hardtop from the shipping pallet by unscrewing the six (6) screws holding it down.
4. Using at least two people, lift the hardtop from the sides and place on the vehicle.

DO NOT TIGHTEN AT THIS TIME.

5. Make an alignment check to see that the front of the Hardtop is seated in the factory windshield gasket. Also, ensure that the side and rear of Hardtop are aligned properly with the tub of the vehicle.
6. Insert the 2 front camlock hooks into the factory slots on either side of the windshield frame. Adjust the camlocks as necessary so that only moderate pressure is achieved, DO NOT OVER TIGHTEN. Close the camlocks.

UPDATE: Beginning in September of 2016 we started including a 3rd (middle) camlock.. Although using this 3rd camlock is not absolutely necessary we have found that because of the ever increasing age of these vehicles this middle camlock has proven helpful in certain circumstances. Most models of the TJ's will accept this third camlock via the same operation as the other two, but in some cases there is something called a Footman's Loop which will need to be removed and a Keeper put in its place. Slight modifications to the surrounding plastic windshield cover may be needed. If you choose not to use this middle camlock you may simply unscrew it from the Jeep top and just use the two outer ones on either side.

7. Center Camlock Attachment

- a) Remove the plastic windshield trim that covers the center Footman's Loop.
- b) Remove the factory Footman's Loop. If it is fastened using rivets, simply drill them out using the appropriate size of drill bit.(Figures 1 & 2 below).
- c) With the Camlock closed and in the locked position place the black "J-Hook Keeper" in the Camlock and against the windshield frame. Pre-mark the two holes to be drilled in the windshield. Drill the two pilot holes using an 1/8" drill bit.
- d) Fasten the J-Hook Keeper to the windshield frame using the two sheet metal screws included(Figure 3 below).
- e) Adjust the camlock as necessary and tighten the center camlock(Figure 4 below).
- f) Before re-installing the windshield trim, carefully cut away the plastic to allow room for the camlock. Reinstall the plastic trim and you are done!!



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

8. When placing the hardtop on the vehicle, align the pre-drilled holes in the hardtop side rails with the 3 receiver holes on either side of the Jeep. (Note: different model years have different hole patterns. Your top has holes to accommodate all of these.) Assemble the (6) 1 ½” Knob Bolts, (6) 1 ¼” washers and the (6) square nuts thru the side rails of the jeep and into the receiver holes.
Note: The washers go on top of the side rails.

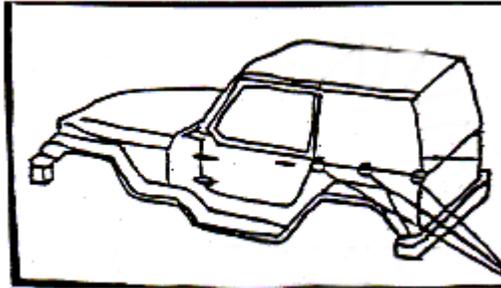


Figure 5 – Side rail location

9. At this time, tighten the six (6) previously installed knob bolts, washers and nuts, there by securing the rear of the Jeep hardtop to the tub of the vehicle.
10. An interior battery operated dome light has been installed on your top just inside of the tailgate area. This light requires two “C” batteries which are not included. To install the batteries simply squeeze the sides of the lens cover inwards and pull down. This will release the small plastic clips holding it onto the base. To reinstall the lens, insert one side of the clips into place. Squeeze inward on the other side and push it’s clips into place!

It is the owner’s responsibility to insure proper installation and perform monthly maintenance checks of fasteners. Doing so will assure safe operation and long life of the Hardtop.

When the Hardtop is off your vehicle, keep it stored upright and do not leave or place heavy objects on it for any extended period of time as it may deform the sides.

FAQ AND HELPFUL HINTS

1. The Keys to the rear window locks can be found attached to the driver’s side rear window gas strut.
2. The rear window is meant to close against the tailgate. Because of the spare tire and third brake light, the tailgate and rear window must be closed in a simultaneously motion with the rear window resting against the top of the tailgate. Be sure that the rubber rain flap is lying smoothly against the tailgate and is not being pinched between the two.
3. Make sure that the small gaskets installed on each of the windshield frames does not protrude out from the edge of the top but rather makes a smooth seamless transition from the edge of the windshield frame to the edge of the hardtop. If it is not even you run the risk of a water leak at this area. You can correct this problem by cutting of the excess gasket and making the transition smooth and flush.
4. What if the gaskets come loose? Clean both surfaces then apply a small amount of super glue and reapply the gasket.

5. How do I maintain and protect my new Hardtop? Wash and clean using a soft cloth and a non-abrasive soap and water. About once a month wash, dry and coat the top with Top Dawg UV Sealer Glaze found under parts on the web site. Using the sealer will bring back the shine and cause water to bead like new.

Bull Dawg Top/Door UV Sealer Glaze 12 oz



Although the surface of your Jeep Doors/Jeep Hardtop are/is made with a durable gelcoat finish, it still needs to be protected with some kind of a special conditioner periodically. Neglected gelcoat finishes tend to dry out and fade over time from the sun's harmful UV rays. In order to prevent this, we recommend using our own brand of special UV sealer that is especially designed to protect and beautify your Jeep Door's/Jeep Hardtop's gelcoat finish for years to come. It's quick and easy to use formula shines and protects in one easy to apply step. Just wipe it on and leave it on, no buffing required.

DO NOT use automotive liquid or paste wax on your Bull Dawg Hardtop

6. What if my Hardtop leaks or seems misaligned? Bull Dawg Tops are designed to fit Jeep bodies that are to factory specification. Please be aware that if the vehicle has been in a wreck, had bodywork performed or has a twisted frame it may not be possible to prevent all leaks.

Customer Service or Technical Questions

If you have any questions please contact your dealer or Bull Dawg's customer service department at 800-784-6478. Bull Dawg's hours of operation are Monday through Friday 8am to 4pm Eastern Standard Time. You may also find additional information or you may contact us electronically from our website at www.bulldawgmfg.com .