



HITCH, 2" Receiver, Subaru Forester

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

READ ALL WARNINGS AND INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE INSTALLATION

⚠ WARNING: The manufacturer of your vehicle may specify towing capacities lower than the capacities noted below. Never exceed the vehicle manufacturer's recommended towing capacity. Consult your vehicle's owner's manual for the manufacturer's recommended towing capacity for your specific vehicle.

NOTICE:

- Always use proper tools and safety equipment to ensure a safe and quality installation.
- Inspection of the trailer hitch should be performed before and after each use to ensure all mounting hardware is tight and related hitch components are secure.

⚠ WARNING: Before you begin installation, read all instructions thoroughly.

⚠ WARNING: Safety glasses should be worn at all times while installing this product.

⚠ WARNING: Failure to adhere to exact torque specifications when securing hardware during the installation process can result in damage to the product or your vehicle. This will void the hitch warranty.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: EASY

Installation difficulty levels are based on the time and effort required. They will vary depending on the installer's expertise. Vehicle condition could be a factor in the level of difficulty for a proper installation.

| WEIGHT CARRYING CAPACITY | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Gross Trailer Weight (GTWR) | 4,500 LBS |
| Tongue Weight (TW) | 675 LBS |

| WEIGHT DISTRIBUTING CAPACITY |
|---|
| THIS HITCH IS NOT RATED FOR USE AS A WEIGHT DISTRIBUTING HITCH. |

| TOOLS REQUIRED | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| SAFETY GLASSES | RATCHET | 10mm SOCKET | 3/4" SOCKET |
| PRYBAR | DRILL W/ STEP DRILL BIT | 6" or 8" EXTENSION | TORQUE WRENCH |

INSTALLATION:

1. Lower the underbody panel directly behind the driver's side rear tire by removing the two hex head fasteners securing it to the bottom surface of the frame rail using a ratchet and 10mm socket.

2. Lower the exhaust by removing the three rear-most rubber exhaust hangers using a pry bar or exhaust hanger removal tool. Ensure that the exhaust is supported prior to removing the hangers to prevent damage.

3. Remove the heat shield(s) directly above the muffler(s), by removing the four hex head fasteners securing the heat shield to the underbody of the vehicle using a ratchet and 10mm socket. Drill two (2) 3/4" or larger clearance holes in heat shield as shown in **FIG. 1**. Reinstall heat shield(s) on the vehicle.

4. Remove all four rubber plugs from the bottom surface of each frame rail. The three rear-most plugs on each side won't be reinstalled since these holes will be used for the hitch mounting hardware. The forward-most hole on each side will be the access hole to fishwire hardware into the frame rail.

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5. Fishwire a 1/2" carriage bolt (**ITEM 1**) and a rectangular washer (**ITEM 2**) into each mounting hole, leaving the fishwires attaced. See **FIG. 2** which illustrates the fishwire technique. Reinstall forward most rubber plugs.
6. Lift hitch into position making sure the hitch mounting flange on the driver's side is between the plastic underbody panel and the frame rail. As the hitch is lifted, feed the six fishwires and then the 1/2" carriage bolts through their respective mounting holes.
7. Thread a 1/2" serrated flange nut (**ITEM 3**) onto each protruding carriage bolt after removing the fishwire from the fastener. Care must be taken when removing the fishwire to prevent the fastener from coming out of position and being pushed inside the frame rail.
8. Torque all 1/2" fasteners to 110 ft-lb with the torque wrench and 3/4" socket.
9. Lift the exhaust back into its correct position and reattach the three rear-most exhaust hangers. Resecure the plastic underbody panel behind the driver's side rear wheel with the two fasteners removed in step 1.

| ITEM | DESCRIPTION | QTY |
|------|----------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | 1/2-13 UNC x 1-3/4 CARRIAGE BOLT | 6 |
| 2 | SQUARE HOLE SPACER, 1/2" | 6 |
| 3 | 1/2-13 UNC SERRATED FLANGE NUT | 6 |
| 4 | 1/2" FISHWIRE | 6 |

