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Inner Tire Carrier Reinforcement Bracket Install Instructions

'18–present Jeep Wrangler JL & Wrangler Unlimited JL



This bracket bolts to the inside of the tailgate between the hinges and the tire carrier bracket, tying them together to take load off the tailgate. The factory plastic tailgate cover snaps back on over it, so the install is completely hidden. It works on its own, and our hinges and tire carrier bracket are recommended but not required.

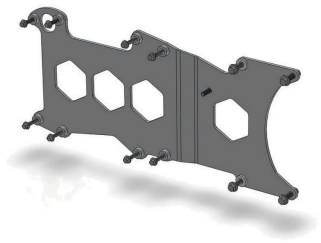
Included: the bracket (1/4" 6061-T651 aluminum), (8) 3/8" spacers, (2) 3/16" spacers, (6) M8 x 60, (2) M8 x 55 and (1) M8 x 30 bolts, (8) M8 flange nuts, (9) M8 washers, (2) M10 x 55 and (2) M10 x 50 bolts, and (4) M10 flange nuts. It ships raw, with no finish.

You'll need: a body trim tool, metric sockets and wrenches, and a torque wrench.

> **No drilling:** every hole lines up with a factory nut in the tailgate or a hole that goes through to the outside.
>
> **Which bolts go where:** the M10 bolts go at the hinges and the M8 bolts go at the tire carrier bracket. The longest M8 bolts go where the tire carrier bolts through the tailgate into the new bracket.
>
> **Spacers:** the eight 3/8" spacers go toward the center of the tailgate, right behind the tire carrier, between the bracket and the tailgate. The two 3/16" spacers go at the holes where the inner hinge attaches.

Before you begin

Park on level ground, set the parking brake, and put an automatic transmission in Park or a manual transmission in gear. Read these instructions all the way through before you start, and call us with any questions. Under Cover Fabworks assumes no liability for accidents from the use (proper or improper) of these instructions.



The back side of the bracket, with the spacers in place.



Installed, with the nuts on the inside of the tailgate.

Installation

1. Remove the spare tire and wheel. Leave the tire carrier bracket on the tailgate.
2. Open the tailgate and pop off the inner plastic cover. It comes off with some pressure; use a body trim tool to get it started.
3. Set the bracket on the inside of the tailgate, with the 3/8" spacers between the bracket and the tailgate toward the center (behind the tire carrier) and the 3/16" spacers at the inner hinge holes.
4. **Work one bolt at a time.** Remove one factory tire carrier bolt and replace it with one of the longer M8 kit bolts from the outside, through the tailgate, the spacer and the bracket, with a flange nut on the inside. Snug it, then move to the next bolt. Use the M8 x 55 bolts in the other bracket holes the same way.
5. Do the same at the hinges with the M10 bolts. Leave the hinges installed and change one bolt at a time: remove a factory hinge bolt and install an M10 bolt in its place from the outside, with the nut on the inside.
6. The short M8 x 30 bolt goes in the hole by itself, just inboard of the hinge holes, and goes the other way: install it from the inside with a washer. It threads into a threaded hole in the tailgate, so it doesn't take a nut.
7. Tighten the M8 bolts to 18 ft-lb and the M10 bolts to 35 ft-lb.
8. Snap the inner plastic cover back into place. It fits over the bracket without any interference.
9. Reinstall the spare tire and wheel, and check that the tailgate opens, closes and latches normally.

That's it. Thanks for choosing Under Cover Fabworks. Call or email us with any questions.