



BX1118

1997-02 Jeep Wrangler Installation Instructions

Please read **BOTH** these Installation Instructions and the General Towing Instructions before attempting to install or operate this equipment.

- Blue Ox® towing products and accessories are intended to be installed by Blue Ox® Dealers who are familiar with our products and have the equipment and knowledge to do “fit work”.
- Many Blue Ox® Baseplates are designed to use existing holes and hardware to mount the baseplate to the towed vehicle. Even though bolts are there, do not assume they are adequate for baseplate mounting. Always use hardware supplied in the hardware kit or existing hardware specified in the Baseplate Towing Installation Instructions.

Attachment Tab Height: 15”

Attachment Tab Width: 24”

Bolt Torque Specifications

Torque in Foot-Pounds for Metric Bolts

| Bolt Size | Grade 8.8 | Grade 10.9 |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 6MM | 6 | 8 |
| 8MM | 16 | 22 |
| 10MM | 31 | 40 |
| 12MM | 54 | 70 |
| 14MM | 89 | 117 |

Confirm the towability and pre-towing procedures for your vehicle with the owner’s manual or contact the vehicle’s manufacturer for specific towing procedures.

Bolt Torque Specifications

Torque in Foot-Pounds for Inch Bolts

| Bolt Size | Grade 5 | Grade 8 |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| 1/4” | 10 | 14 |
| 5/16” | 19 | 29 |
| 3/8” | 33 | 47 |
| 7/16” | 54 | 78 |
| 1/2” | 78 | 119 |
| 5/8” | 154 | 230 |



WARNING

Failure to read and follow these instructions could result in separation of the towed vehicle from the tow bar, causing property damage, loss of towed vehicle, personal injury or death.

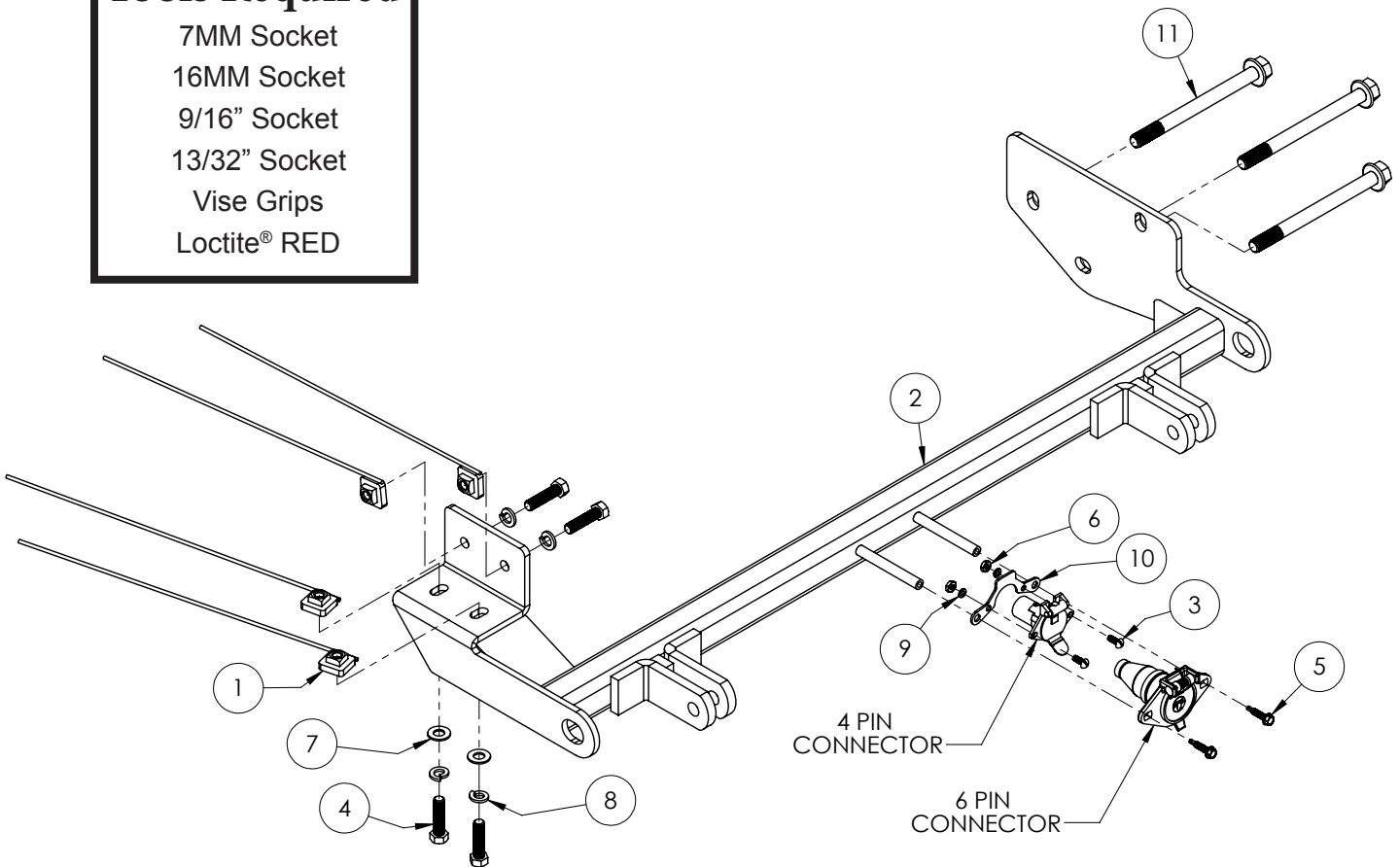
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Parts List

| Ref. No. | Qty. | Part # | Description |
|----------|------|----------|--|
| 1 | 4 | 61-5208 | Weldment, 3/8-16, Nutplate, with 14" Wire |
| 2 | 1 | 61-5624 | Weldment, Baseplate, BX1118 |
| 3 | 2 | 201-0192 | #10-32 x 1/2" Slot, Rd. Hd. Screw |
| 4 | 4 | 201-0440 | 3/8-16 x 1 1/2" Hex Bolt, Grd. 5, ZP |
| 5 | 2 | 201-0979 | #12-14 x 1" Self Drilling Screw, ZP |
| 6 | 2 | 202-0047 | #10-32 Hex Nut |
| 7 | 2 | 203-0003 | 3/8" Flat Washer, ZP |
| 8 | 4 | 203-0010 | 3/8" Lock Washer, ZP |
| 9 | 2 | 203-0054 | #10 Lock Washer |
| 10 | 1 | 299-0685 | Electrical Bracket, ZP |
| 11 | 3 | Existing | Bolts |
| 12 | 2 | 226-0046 | Baseplate Safety Cable, 36" CL III (Not Shown) |
| 13 | 2 | 229-0359 | Quicklink, 3/8, ZP (Not Shown) |

Tools Required

7MM Socket
16MM Socket
9/16" Socket
13/32" Socket
Vise Grips
Loctite® RED



Important:

Use only genuine factory replacement parts on your baseplate. Do **NOT** substitute homemade or non-typical parts. If a bolt is lost or in need of replacement, for your safety and the preservation of your baseplate, be sure to use a replacement bolt of the same grade (In most cases it will be Grade 5, please reference the parts list above). Replacement parts may be ordered through your nearest Blue Ox® Dealer or Distributor.

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Standard Tabs:

To use certain adapters or a RangeFinder II tow bar in conjunction with standard tab baseplates an additional 5/16" hole must be drilled in the attachment tabs. The Ambassador tow bar will require an adapter for attachment tabs that are not 24" wide. The Adventurer tow bar will require an adapter for attachment tabs that are less than 24" wide. The Acclaim tow bar will not fold and store without the use of an adapter on vehicles with attachment tabs less than 24" wide.

Instructions:

Drilling is required.

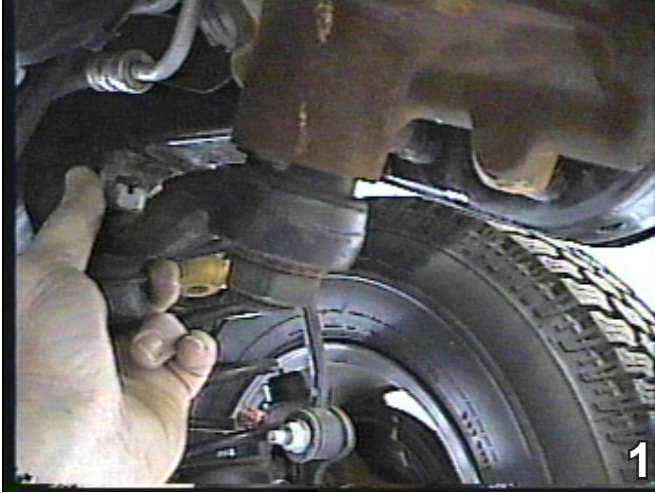
The dimensional variations between otherwise identical vehicles can be considerable. While the baseplate was designed for easy installation, it may be necessary to tailor the baseplate slightly to compensate for auto manufacturer's tolerances. These minor adjustments may include filing a hole slightly, bending electrical rods, and/ or bending end plates.

The BX8869 Bulb and Socket Wiring Kit is recommended for this vehicle.

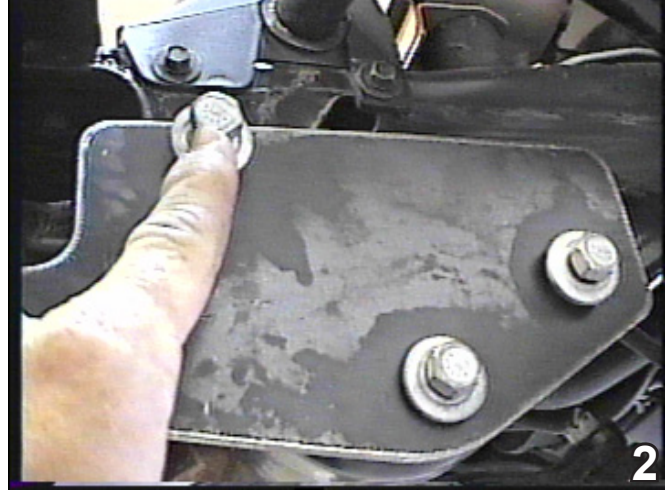
Below are illustrations on how to install the BX8869 Bulb and Socket Wiring Kit.



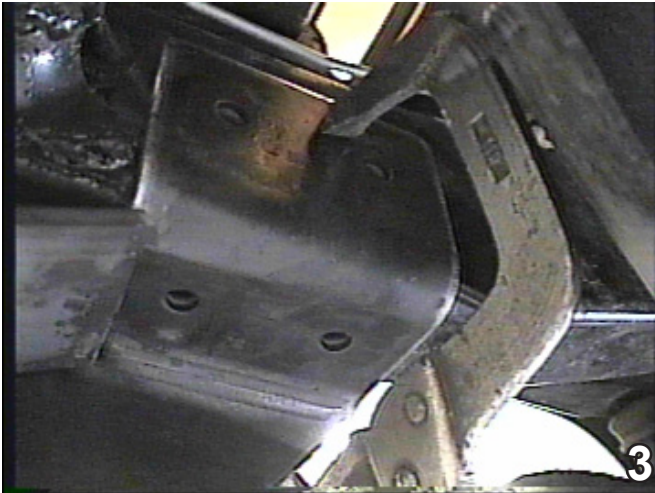
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1. Using a 16MM socket, remove three (3) metric bolts, while having someone hold the gear box and the idler arm. Set the bolts aside to be reinstalled later.



2. Hold the baseplate into place and insert the three (3) existing bolts on the driver's side through the baseplate, frame, gear box, and tighten.



3. Clamp the passenger's side with the large vise grips. Using the baseplate as a template, drill four (4) holes using the 13/32" drill bit.



4. Using the 3/8"-16 x 1-1/2" hex bolts, 3/8" lock washers, and the 3/8"-16 nut plates, insert the nutplate into the frame and align with the holes. Tighten ALL bolts.

Install the tow bar and safety cables according to the instructions included in their packages.

Do **NOT** substitute other devices if the tow bar pin and clip are lost.

BE SURE TO USE LOCTITE® RED ON ALL BOLTS BEFORE TIGHTENING. TIGHTEN ALL BOLTS ACCORDING TO THE TORQUE CHART ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THESE INSTRUCTIONS OR ON PAGE 3 OF THE BASEPLATE TOWING GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS.

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Be sure that **ALL** electrical connections are plugged in properly and functioning **BEFORE** Installing the fascia.

DEALER or INSTALLER:

Be certain the user receives the instruction sheets for their products.



Standard Tab Baseplate

General Information

1. **It is the owner's responsibility to inspect all towing equipment for cracked welds, missing or worn parts and loose bolts before each towing trip.** Be sure to use Loctite® Red on all bolts and tighten to the recommended specifications.
2. **It is the owner's responsibility to hook up all towing equipment per manufacturer's instructions/ recommendations.**
3. Remove the attachment tabs when not in use (if applicable).

Notice To Baseplate Installer

1. **It is YOUR responsibility to watch for:**

- Oil cooler and air conditioner lines
- Electrical wires and hoses
- Missing parts or attaching points on the frame

** If the baseplate is improperly installed and is against a wire or hose, it could cause fluid leaks or electrical shorts some time after the actual baseplate installation.

Permanent Baseplate Safety Cable Installation

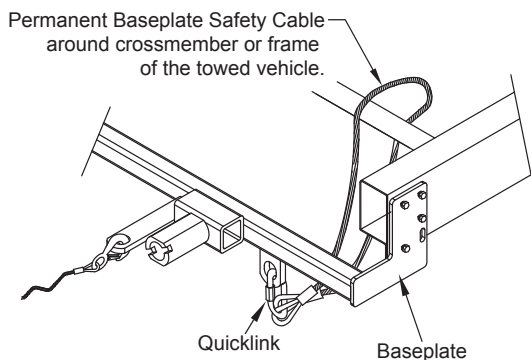
Permanent baseplate safety cables are strongly recommended when towing a vehicle with a tow bar. The principle function of the permanent baseplate safety cables is to prevent the towed vehicle from breaking loose in the event the connection between the frame of the towed vehicle and the baseplate fails or becomes disconnected. The cables must be connected from the baseplate to the frame rail or cross member of the vehicle's frame. The illustrations below show the possible arrangements recommended by Blue Ox®. Each permanent baseplate safety cable must have an adequate weight rating for the towing system. The weight rating of the two (2) cables together will not qualify.

Do not mount the permanent baseplate safety cables against wires, hoses or brake lines.

These permanent baseplate safety cables should remain installed as long as the baseplate is installed on the vehicle. Permanent baseplate safety cables are to be used in conjunction with, and NOT a replacement for legally required safety cables attaching the towed vehicle to the towing vehicle.

Option #1

(Baseplates with Convenience Link Tabs)



Option #2

(Baseplates with out Convenience Link Tabs)

