

Attachment Tab Height: 14-1/2"

Attachment Tab Width: 17-1/2"

### Please read BOTH these Installation Instructions and the General Information sheet prior to installing or operating this equipment.

- 1. Blue Ox<sup>®</sup> towing products and accessories are intended to be installed by Blue Ox<sup>®</sup> Dealers who are familiar with our products and have the equipment and knowledge necessary to do " it work".
- 2. 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 the hardware supplied in the hardware kit and existing hardware as speci ied in the installation instructions.



Reference your vehicle owner's manual for manufacturer's towing specifications.

# **Bolt Torque Specifications**

Torque in Foot-Pounds for Inch Bolts

Bolt Size	Grade 5	Grade 8
1/4"	S 10 V	14
5/16"	19	29
3/8"	33	47
7/16"	54	78
1/2"	78	119
5/8"	154	230
3/4"	257	380

### **Bolt Torque Specifications** Torque in Foot-Pounds for Metric Bolts

Bolt Size	Grade 8.8	Grade 10.9
6MM	6 - 6	8
8MM	16	22
10MM	31	40
12MM	54	70
14MM	89	117
16MM	161	230
18MM	222	318

# WARNING

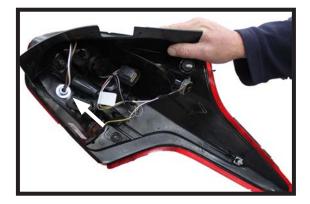
Failure to read and follow these instructions could result in separation of the towed vehicle from the tow bar, causing property damage, loss of towed vehicle, personal injury or death.

**Instruction Notes:** The fascia, bellypan and windshield washer fluid reservoir are removed and reinstalled for the baseplate installation. Some drilling and trimming is required.

Place all components that are removed on a flat, sturdy surface. All items will be reinstalled unless otherwise noted after the baseplate is installed.

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 vehicle manufacturer's tolerances.

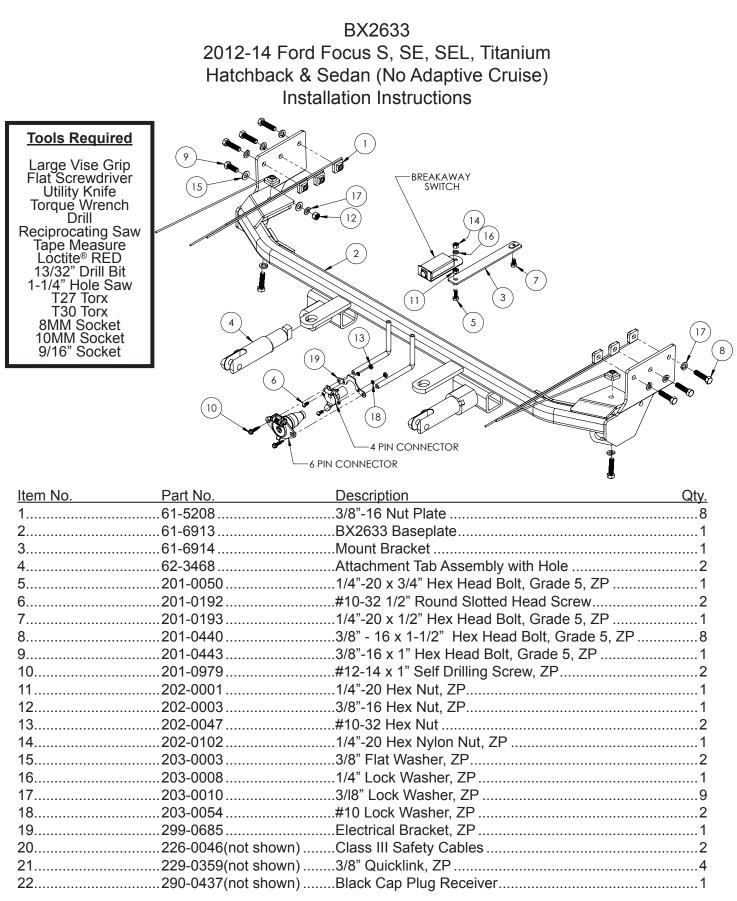
The BX8869 Tail Light Wiring Kit is recommended for this vehicle.



Drill a hole according to the tail light wiring kit instructions.

# NOTICE

- Handling of some cosmetic parts when installing this product may require the use of protective covers, rags, specialty tools, etc. to prevent damage.
- When using power drills be aware of the dangers of torque and drill bit length.
- When using a reciprocating saw be aware of objects behind the cutting surface.
- Use a good quality paint to spray cut edges of frame to prevent rusting.
- Be sure that **ALL** electrical connections are plugged in and accessories are functioning properly before reinstalling the fascia.
- The baseplate is computer tested to your vehicle's GVWR, exceeding this weight will void the manufacturer's warranty.
- Be sure to use a sufficient amount of Loctite<sup>®</sup> Red on all bolt threads before tightening. Tighten all bolts according to the torque chart provided.
- Dealer or installer be certain the user receives these instruction sheets.
- If the baseplate is in an accident, it must be replaced. DO NOT use it again! An accident can cause unseen damage and using it again could result in more damage or serious injury. DO NOT use the baseplate if it is damaged or missing parts.



#### 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. Failing to follow and/ or altering these installation instructions in either installation or required equipment will void the manufacturer's warranty. Towing behind a non-motorized vehicle will void the warranty.



 From the top of the fascia, using a T30 Torx, remove the inner-most bolt from each side (gray arrow). Remove the four (4) push pins (white arrows).



 Using a T27 Torx, remove the two (2) screws from the driver's side front wheel well (white arrows). Remove the push pin from the driver's side front wheel well (gray arrow). Repeat this on the passenger's side.



 On the underside of the fascia remove the two (2) pushpins from the outer edge. Repeat this on the other side of the vehicle.



4. On the underside of the fascia remove the two (2) pushpins from the front outer edge.



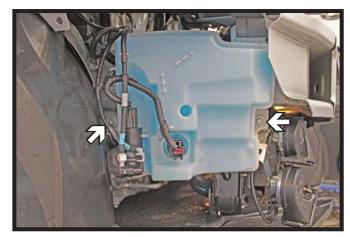
 Using a flat screwdriver, pry the black hood latch cable out of the black mounting bracket (white arrow). Then rotate the wire left to release it.



 On the driver's side, locate the running lights main electrical cord and disconnect. Under both headlights release the tabs from the body and carefully remove the fascia.



 Using a 10MM socket, remove the bolt from the passenger's side horn bracket. Disconnect and set horn bracket aside.



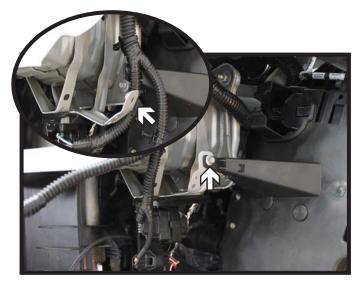
 Using a 10MM socket, remove the two (2) bolts from the washer reservoir on the passenger's side. Disconnect all electrical connections. Remove and plug the fluid lines.



9. Using a T30 Torx, remove the flexible intake cover.



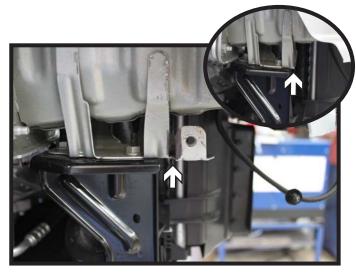
10. On the front bumper, using a 1-1/4" hole saw, slowly drill a hole centered vertically and horizontally on the flat area as shown. Do this on both sides of the vehicle. NOTE: The hole cut is used to place nut plates for future steps and if available the use of a carbide-tipped holesaw is recommended.



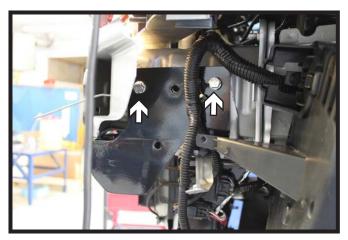
 On the driver's side, use a 8MM socket to remove the bolt from the frame webbing. Once the bolt is removed, bend the webbing outward with a pair of large vice grips far enough to fit the baseplate on top of it.



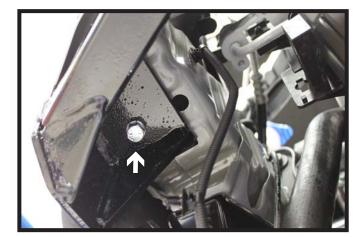
 On the plastic bumper cover, using a utility knife, trim the lower outer edge flush with the bottom of the bumper. Repeat on the other side of the vehicle.



13. On the passenger's side only, use a reciprocating saw to remove the washer reservoir bracket and horn front bracket.



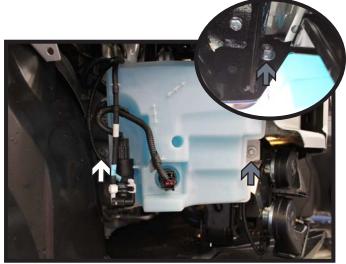
14. On the driver's side, slide the baseplate on top of the bracket we bent down earlier until the top back hole is aligned with the top back existing hole on the frame webbing. Insert a 3/8"-16 x 1-1/2" hex bolt and 3/8" lock washer with a 3/8"-16 nut plate. Also secure the top front hole the same way. **DO NOT** tighten bolts all the way, wait until directed to do so. Do this on both sides of the vehicle.



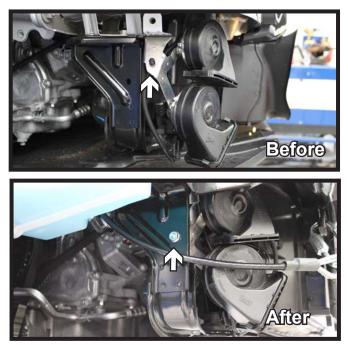
15. Using the baseplate as a template, drill a hole through the bottom of the frame webbing using a 13/32" drill bit. Do this on both sides of the vehicle. Insert a 3/8"-16 x 1-1/2" hex bolt with a 3/8" lock washer and 3/8"-16 nut plate through the hole on the bottom of the baseplate. Make sure baseplate is level, then tighten. Do this to both of the bottom holes FIRST, then tighten the two (2) top bolts on each side (14).



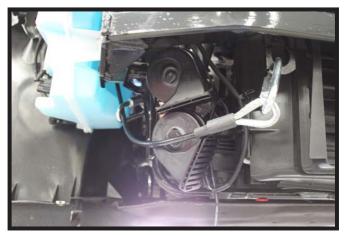
16. If necessary, drill a hole through any obstruction from frame webbing in the middle hole of the baseplate with a 13/32" drill bit. Insert a 3/8"-16 x 1-1/2" hex bolt and 3/8" lock washer with a 3/8"-16 nut plate. Do this on both sides.



17. Reattach the washer reservoir on the passenger's side. Use the existing bolt in the back (white arrow). Then a 3/8"-16 x 1" hex bolt with a 3/8" flat washer and a 3/8" hex nut in the front hole thru the baseplate (gray arrow).



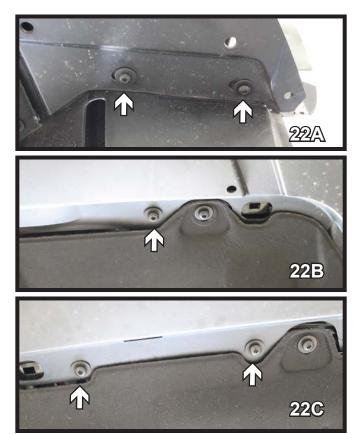
18. To reattach the horn, use the existing hole in the frame webbing on the passenger's side and the existing hole on the horn bracket, insert a 1/4"-20 x 3/4" hex bolt with a 1/4" lock washer and 1/4"-20 nut. Reattach all electrical connections.



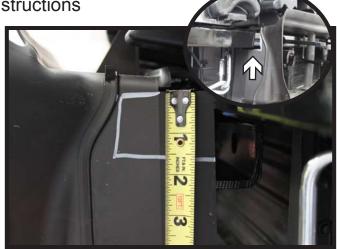
19. Attach the permanent baseplate safety cables to the provided convenience link on the baseplate. The photo above shows the recommended installation of the cables to frame of vehicle. Additional options may interfere with suggested mounting; in this case, secure the cables to a solid piece of the frame as described in the instructions included with the permanent baseplate safety cables. Be sure the safety cables do not rub against any hoses or moving parts. Do this on **BOTH** sides of the vehicle.



20. Bend the bracket back to it's original location and reinstall the existing bolt.



22. **Optional:** To install a breakaway switch, you must remove the belly pan with a T30 Torx. Remove the two (2) screws from in front of both the driver's and passenger's side tires (22A) then follow the pan toward the middle of the vehicle removing the three (3) specified bolts (22B and 22C).



21. To reattach the intake cover, use a utility knife to cut from the back upper corner of the side wall a 2 1/2" x 1 1/2" rectangle from each side of the cover. Reinstall using the two (2) T30 Torx bolts. NOTE: If a breakaway will be installed, install the breakaway before installing cover. Be sure that bottom of the cover goes below the breakaway bracket.



23. Optional: Using a 1/4"-20 x 1/2" hex bolt with a 1/4" lock washer, attach the breakaway bracket to an existing hole on the frame webbing, just slightly toward the passenger's side of the vehicle (white arrow). Attach the breakaway using a 1/4"-20 x 3/4" bolt, 1/4" spacer nut, and a 1/4"-20 nylon nut (gray arrow). Attach all electrical connections and reinstall the belly pan. NOTE:Breakaway should stick out the bottom of the fascia once reinstalled.



23. Align the fascia as close to its original position and trim the opening for the attachment tabs with a utility knife. Reinstall the fascia.



# **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<sup>®</sup> 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

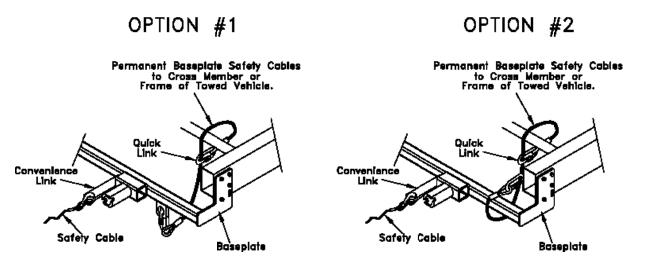
\*\* If the baseplate is improperly installed and is against a wire or hose, it could cause fluid leaks or electrical shorts some time after the actual baseplate installation.

## 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.



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