

## 13438 INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

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

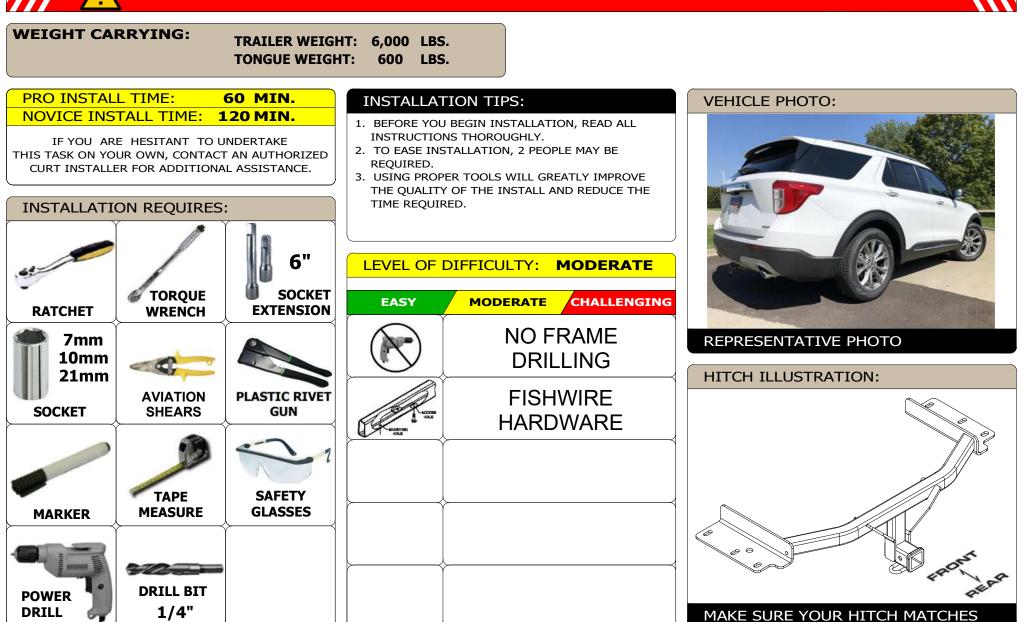
**STYLE: SUV** 

YEARS: 2020-PRESENT

MAKE: FORD

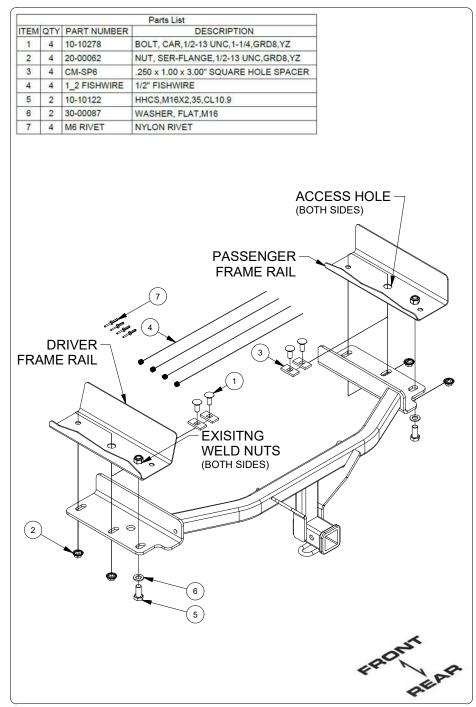
**MODEL: EXPLORER** 

WARNING: NEVER EXCEED YOUR VEHICLE MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDED TOWING CAPACITY



**PERIODICALLY CHECK THIS RECEIVER HITCH TO ENSURE ALL FASTENERS ARE TIGHT AND ALL STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS ARE SOUND** CURT Manufacturing LLC. warrants this product to be free of defects in material and/or workmanship at the time of retail purchase by the original purchaser. If the product is found to be defective, CURT Manufacturing LLC. may repair or replace the product at their option, when the product is returned, prepaid, with proof of purchase. Alteration to, misuse of, or improper installation of this product voids the warranty. CURT Manufacturing LLC.'s liability is limited to repair or replacement of products found to be defective, and specifically excludes liability for incidental or consequential loss or damage.

### **INSTALLATION WALKTHROUGH:**



1. If present remove underbody panel by removing (8) fasteners using 10mm socket and (4) plastic fasteners. Set aside panel for reinstallation.



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- Lower exhaust by removing (1) fastener on outside of frame rail, on each side, using 10mm socket. Remove (2) exhaust isolator hangers by using Rubber Isolator Removal Diagram as reference.
  NOTE: Support exhaust to avoid damage.



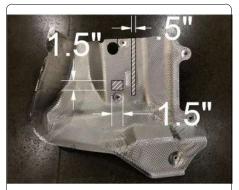


## **INSTALLATION WALKTHROUGH:**

3. Remove heat shield by removing (5) fasteners, on each side, using 10mm socket. Remove (2) wheel well fasteners, on each side using 7mm socket. Trim using trim diagram as reference.

**NOTE:** All dimensions are approximate, confirm fit prior to trim.





4. Remove M16 bumper bolt in frame, on each side, using 21mm socket. Return to owner.



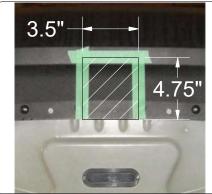


 If kick sensor is present, remove (4) rivets along rear fascia, starting from driver side, to avoid damaging kick sensor while trimming. Replacement rivets are included.



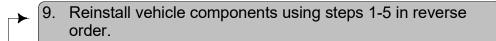
- ¥
- Remove (2) fasteners located inside bumper cover to allow rear fascia to flex. Trim fascia using aviation shears as shown in trim diagram. Avoid sensor and wires by disconnecting from fascia.
  <u>NOTE:</u> All dimensions are approximate, confirm fit prior to trim.

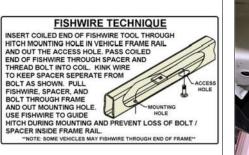




## **INSTALLATION WALKTHROUGH:**

 Fishwire (2) 1/2" carraige bolts and (2) CM-SP6 spacers into access hole and out mounting holes on each side. Reinstall trimmed heat shield.
NOTE: Do not reinstall rearward most frame rail nut.







8. Raise hitch into position. Torque 1/2" hardware to 75 ft-lbs and torque M16 hardware to 146 ft-lbs.



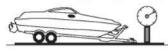




#### TOWING SAFETY INFORMATION

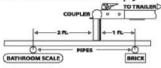
#### Gross Trailer Weight / GTW

The Gross Trailer Weight is the weight of the trailer & cargo. Measure this by putting the fully loaded trailer on a vehicle scale.



#### Tongue Weight / TW

The downward force that is exerted on the hitch ball by the coupler. The tongue weight will vary depending on where the load is positioned in relationship to the trailer axle(s). To measure the tongue weight, use either a commercial scale or a bathroom scale with the coupler at towing height. When using a bathroom scale with heavier tongue weights, use the method shown and multiply the scale reading by 3.

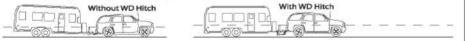


#### Weight Carrying / WC

The total weight of both the trailer and the cargo inside. Never exceed the weight capacity of your trailer hitch.

#### Weight Distribution / WD

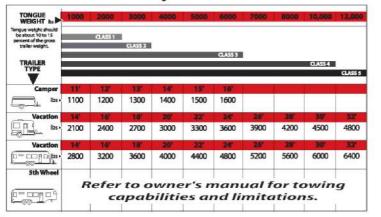
Used to balance the weight of the cargo between the front and rear wheels throughout the trailer, allowing for better steering, braking, and level riding.



#### Sway Control

A device used to reduce the lateral movements of the trailer that are caused by the wind. This works in conjunction with a weight distribution hitch. Do not use this on a class 1 or 2 hitch, or with surge brakes.

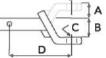
#### How Much Can You Safely Tow?



#### **Ball Mount**

The ball mount is placed inside the opening of the receiver hitch which is mounted to the vehicle. Make sure a hitch pin and clip is properly securing the ball mount to the receiver hitch before you begin towing.

· A: Rise. B: Drop. C: Hole Size. D: Length.



#### Trailer Ball

The connection from the hitch to the trailer. There are many factors that determine the correct hitch ball:

- Number one is the hitch ball's gross trailer weightrating.
- The mounting platform must be at least 3/8" thick.
- The hole diameter must not be more than 1/16" larger than the threaded shank.
- · Every time you tow, check the nut and lock washer to make sure they are fastened securely. • A: Ball Dia. B: Shank Dia. C: Shank Length. D: Shank Rise.

#### Coupler

The component that is placed over the trailer ball to connect the vehicle to the trailer. Be sure that the coupler size matches the size of the hitch ball and that the coupler handle is securely fastened. To determine what size hitch ball you need for your application you will need to know the size of coupler that is on the trailer. Be sure your coupler is properly adjusted to the ball you are using.

NOTE: For added security the use of safety devices such as Coupler Safety Pins and Locks is strongly recommended.

#### Safety Chains

Safety chains are a requirement and should be crossed under the tongue of the trailer so that the tongue will not drop to the road if it becomes separated from the hitch. Always leave enough slack so you can turn. Never allow the safety chains to drag on the ground and never attach the chains to the bumper.

Trailer Classification: Safety Chain Breaking Force - Minimum

Class 1: 2,000 lbs. (8.9 kN) Class 2: 3,500 lbs. (15.6 kN)

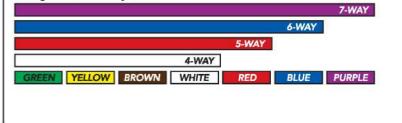
Class 3: 5,000 lbs. (22.2 kN)

The strength rating of each length of safety chain or its equivalent and its attachments shall be equal to or exceed in minimum breaking force the GVWR (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating) of the trailer.

#### Electrical

Trailer lights, Electric Brakes, Break-away systems - Every time you tow, be sure to check that all components are working properly.

Wiring identification by color:





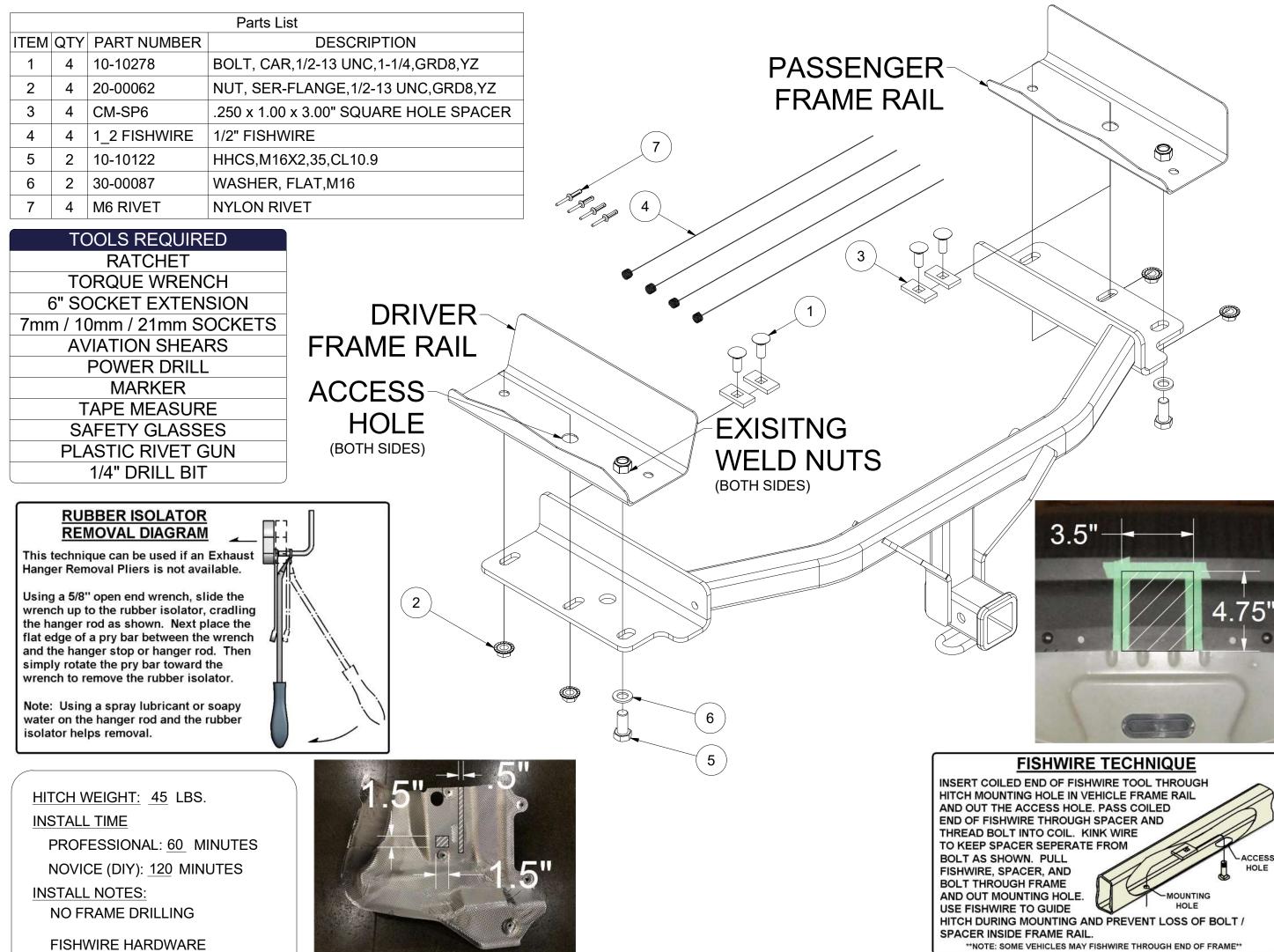
# FORD EXPLORER

## 2/11/2020

13438

GROSS LOAD CAPACITY WHEN USED AS A WEIGHT CARRYING HITCH: 6,000 LBS. TRAILER WEIGHT & 600 LBS. TONGUE WEIGHT. WARNING: ALL NON-TRAILER LOADS APPLIED TO THIS PRODUCT MUST BE SUPPORTED BY 18050 STABILIZING STRAPS.

WARNING: \*\* FAILURE TO PROPERLY SUPPORT NON-TRAILER LOADS WILL VOID PRODUCT WARRANTY \*\* WARNING: \*\*\* DO NOT EXCEED VEHICLE MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDED TOWING CAPACITY



# **INSTALLATION STEPS**



- 2. Lower exhaust by removing (1) fastener on outside of frame rail, on each side, using 10mm socket. Remove (2) exhaust isolator hangers by using Rubber Isolator Removal Diagram as reference. NOTE: Support exhaust to avoid damage.
- 3. Remove heat shield by removing (5) fasteners, on each side, using 10mm socket. Remove (2) wheel well fasteners, on each side using 7mm socket. Trim using trim diagram as reference.

**NOTE:** All dimensions are approximate, confirm fit prior to trim.

- 4. Remove M16 bumper bolt in frame, on each side, using 21mm socket. Return to owner.
- 5. If kick sensor is present, remove (4) rivets along rear fascia, starting from driver side, to avoid damaging kick sensor while trimming. Replacement rivets are included.
- 6. Remove (2) fasteners located inside bumper cover to allow rear fascia to flex. Trim fascia using aviation shears as shown in trim diagram. Avoid sensor and wires by disconnecting from fascia. **NOTE:** All dimensions are approximate, confirm fit prior to trim.
- 7. Fishwire (2) 1/2" carraige bolts and (2) CM-SP6 spacers into access hole and out mounting holes on each side. Reinstall trimmed heat shield. NOTE: Do not reinstall rearward most frame rail nut.
- 8. Raise hitch into position. Torque 1/2" hardware to 75 ft-lbs and torque M16 hardware to 146 ft-lbs.
- Reinstall vehicle components using steps 1-5 in reverse order. 9.

# PERIODICALLY CHECK THIS RECEIVER HITCH TO ENSURE THAT ALL FASTENERS ARE TIGHT AND THAT ALL STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS ARE SOUND.

Discover other trailer hitches and towing on our website.