



1970-81 GM F-body Exhaust Systems BH13179 (3")

Installation Instructions

***Designed to be used w/ Ridetech Bolt-On 4-Link Kit**



Thank you for choosing to install a HOOKER™ exhaust system on your 2nd-gen GM F-body vehicle. These systems have been specifically developed for direct fitment with HOOKER™ Blackheart mid-length headers. However, they will provide equally beneficial fitment, function, and service life with other non-Hooker headers through the modification of the system inlet tubes, or construction of new ones, by a competent fabricator. Installation of these systems are 50-state legal on 1970-74 OE non-catalyst applications and can only be legally installed on 1975-81 model year vehicles operated solely for closed course competition purposes, which will never be driven on public streets or highways.

BEFORE STARTING:

Your vehicle must be raised a minimum of 36 inches. A floor hoist is ideal. If no hoist is available, we strongly urge the use of axle stands as a safety measure. Please read these instructions in their entirety before attempting installation.

CAUTION! WORK ONLY ON A LEVEL SURFACE. USE JACKS /JACK STANDS OF SUFFICIENT CAPACITY TO LIFT AND SUPPORT YOUR VEHICLE. NEVER WORK UNDER A VEHICLE SUPPORTED BY A FLOOR OR BUMPER JACK.

INCLUDED HARDWARE:

Qty.	Description
2	Under-Axle Tube Hanger Brackets w/ Barbed Rods
2	U-Channel Tailpipe Hanger Brackets
2	Rectangular Back-Up Washers
2	1/2-13 x 2" Bolts
2	1/2" Nylon Lock Nuts
4	Rubber Isolators
12	3" Band Clamps
4	5/16 x 1" Bolts
4	5/16" Lock Washer
4	5/16" Flat Washer

Your vehicle was designed to accommodate the routing of 2" exhaust tubing from the factory and therefore may require re-configuring the routing of your brake and/or fuel lines to achieve safe operating clearances between the components of this HOOKER™ exhaust system and those of your vehicle. This is extremely critical on 3" systems. Failure to provide sufficient clearance, as mentioned here, may result in an unexpected fire or the loss of vehicle control.

INSTALLATION:

NOTE: The following steps assume that you are installing this system using HOOKER™ mounting components (LS swap engine brackets and transmission cross member) and mid-length headers already in place on the vehicle. If you are performing an installation of this system without utilizing these products, install all system components from the “X” crossover rearward. Then, align them for parallel alignment with the bottom of the rocker panels and sufficient clearances around all suspension, fuel, and brake components. Do all this before modifying the included HOOKER™ inlet tubes, or fabricating new inlet tubes to be compatible with the geometry of your headers and transmission cross member.

1. Remove all existing exhaust system components from the vehicle, including any hangers added to the vehicle floor in front of the rear axle, the stock hangers above a transverse muffler, and the tailpipe hangers attached to the outside faces of the rear frame (if not previously done). Spray all hanger fasteners with penetrating oil prior to removal and allow ample soak time before attempting to do so.
2. Install the two exhaust hangers that are forward of the rear axle (barbs pointing inward towards driveshaft) with the existing hardware that is used for the Ridetech forward sub-frame mounting tabs. Install the rubber isolators onto each bracket.

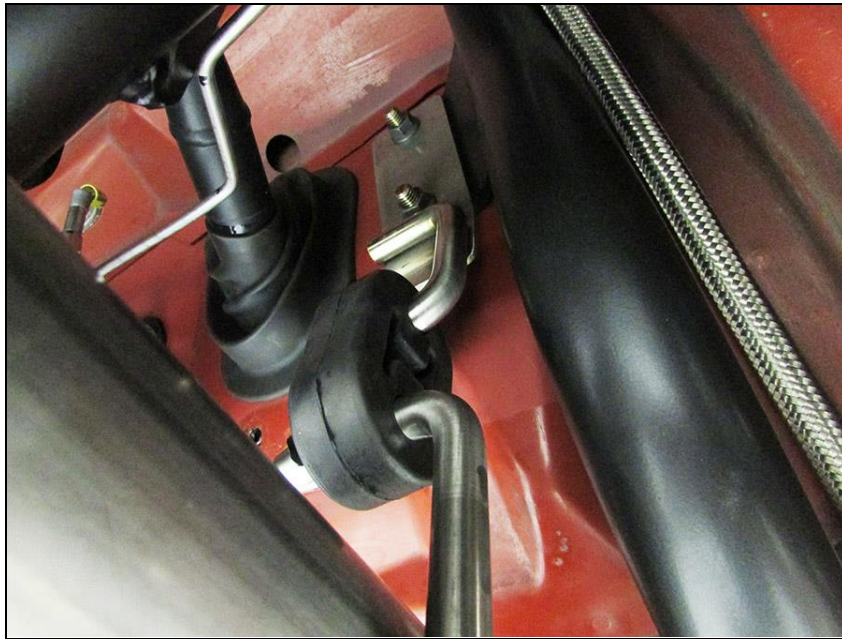


Figure 1

3. Place a supplied band clamp over each inlet of the mid-length adapter tubes (single bend tubes with oxygen sensor bungs) and install them onto the Hooker Blackheart mid-length headers. To ensure correct adjustment later, do not tighten the clamps more than what is required to hold basic component positions at this time.
4. Place a supplied band clamp over each inlet of the crossover assembly and insert the supplied inlet tubes (tubes with a single bend in them) into the crossover X-pipe assembly.
5. Now, position another clamp over the open end of each inlet tube and install the entire assembly onto the outlets of the previously installed HOOKER™ mid-length header adapter tubes.
6. According to your preference, the emergency brake cable may be routed either below or above the crossover assembly during installation. When correctly installed, the bends in the crossover assembly outlet legs will angle up towards the floor of the vehicle (as the pipes exit the stamped X) not down towards the ground. To ensure correct adjustment later, do not tighten the clamps more than what is required to hold basic component positions at this time.
7. Place a supplied clamp over the end of each muffler (either end, as mufflers are reversible) and install them onto the outlets of the crossover assembly. To ensure proper final adjustment, tighten the clamps only enough to maintain the general position of the mufflers at this time.
8. Place another supplied clamp over the outlet of each muffler. Install under-axle pipes (barbs pointing inward toward driveshaft) and insert hanger rod into lower hole in rubber isolator. To ensure correct adjustment later, do not tighten the clamps more than what is required to hold basic component positions at this time.

9. Install a rubber isolator into each U-channel hanger bracket and position the supplied rectangular offset-hole washers on top of the rubber isolators. Next, install the supplied 1/2" bolts through the washers, isolators, and brackets. Install the lock nuts on the back sides of the brackets. Install the assembled brackets over the ends of the hanger rods welded to the tailpipes. When properly installed, the ends of the brackets with the rubber isolators will be positioned towards the rear of the vehicle. Lightly oiling the rubber isolators will greatly ease their installation.
10. Place the two remaining clamps over the inlets of the tailpipes and install both with their attached hanger brackets onto the outlets of the under-axle tubes. Now, attach the hanger brackets to the outside of the frame rails using the stock holes with supplied fasteners. To ensure correct adjustment later, do not tighten the clamps more than what is required to hold basic component positions at this time.



Figure 2

11. Provide a means of support under both mufflers to keep their weight from working against your efforts to align the system components.
12. Align all system components for best fit and fully tighten all band clamps.