

## Kit No. 59518

Please read these instructions completely before proceeding with installation

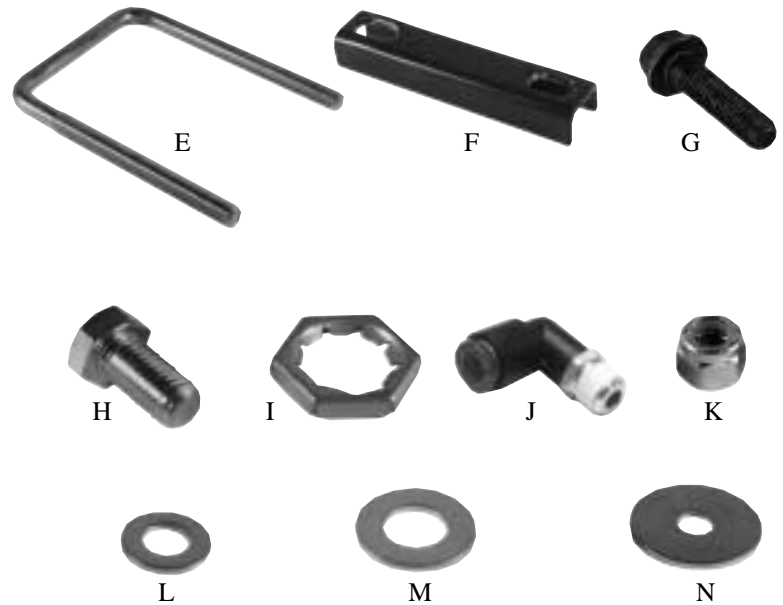
### Air Spring Kit Parts List

Item	Description	Quantity
A	Upper Bracket	2
B	Lower Bracket	2
C	Installation Tool	1
D	Air Spring	2



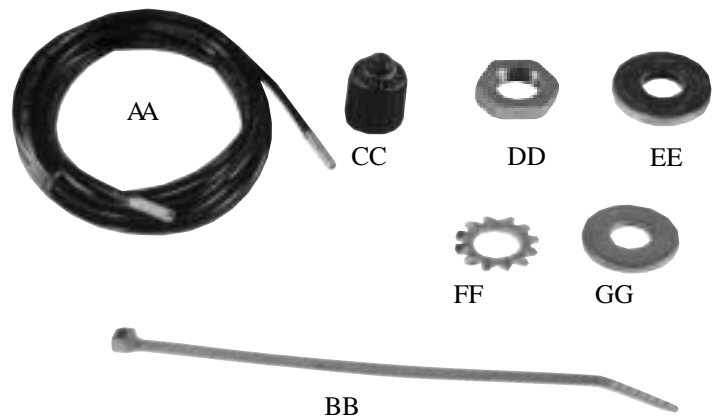
### Attaching Hardware Parts List

Item	Description	Quantity
E	U-Bolt	2
F	Lower Clamp Bar	2
G	Washer Head Frame Bolt	8
H	1/2" Hex Head Cap Screw 7/8"	2
I	Pal Nut	3
J	Swivel Air Fitting	2
K	3/8" Lock Nut	12
L	3/8" Flat Washer	4
M	1/2" Flat Washer	2
N	3/8 Oversized Flat Washer	8



### Air Line Assembly Parts List

Item	Description	Quantity
AA	Air Line	16'
BB	Tie Strap	6
CC	Valve Cap	2
DD	5/16" Hex Nut	4
EE	Rubber Washer	2
FF	Star Washer	2
GG	5/16" Flat Washer	2



## Tools Needed

1/2", 3/4", 9/16", and 1-1/16" open-end or box wrenches  
Crescent Wrench  
Ratchet with 3/8", 9/16" and 1/2" deep well sockets  
3/8" and 5/16" drill bits (very sharp)  
Heavy Duty Drill

Torque Wrench  
Hose Cutter, Razor Blade, or Sharp Knife  
Hoist or Floor Jacks  
Safety Stands  
Safety Glasses  
Air Compressor, or Compressed Air Source  
Spray Bottle with Dish Soap/Water Solution

## Before You Start

You need to determine Normal Ride Height. Normal Ride Height is the distance between the bottom edge of the wheelwell and the center of the hub with the vehicle in the "as delivered" condition. In some cases, Normal Ride Height is not perfectly level.



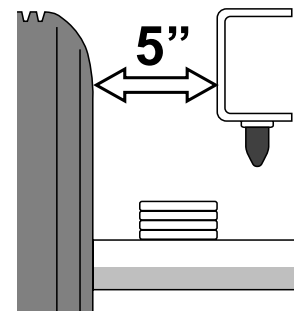
Remove unusual loads and examine your vehicle from the side to ensure it is on a level surface. If necessary (in cases where your leaf springs are sagging badly), use a jack to raise the rear end so that the vehicle achieves the original "as delivered" ride height.

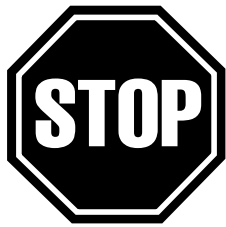


Measure the distance between the center of the hub and the bottom edge of the wheel well. This is the Normal Ride Height. Enter the measurement below:

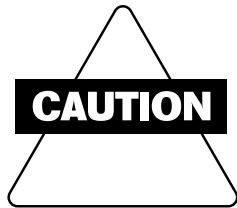
NORMAL  
RIDE HEIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_ inches

Measure the distance between the frame and the tire. This kit requires a minimum of 5" of clearance for a fully inflated air spring.





**IMPORTANT:** Your vehicle may be equipped with a rear brake proportioning valve. Any type of load assist product could effect brake performance. We recommend that you check with your dealer before installing this type of product. If your vehicle **DOES NOT** have a rear brake proportioning valve or is equipped with an anti-lock type brake system, installation of a load assist product will have **NO EFFECT ON BRAKE SYSTEM PERFORMANCE.**



Compressed air can cause injury and damage to the vehicle and parts if it is not handled properly. For your safety, do not try to inflate the air sleeves until they have been properly secured to the vehicle.



If for any reason it becomes necessary to return a part, please use the provided Product Return Form included with your literature pack (Form #AD-240).

## Raising the Vehicle

Raise the vehicle and remove the wheels. Check the distance between the center of the hub and the bottom edge of the wheel well to ensure it is at the normal ride height recorded on page 2. If not, raise the frame or lower the axle as necessary to restore the original distance.



If the vehicle is raised with an axle contact hoist, place stands under the frame and lower the axle as needed . . .

or . . .



If the vehicle is raised with a frame contact hoist, place stands under the axle and lower the frame as needed . . .

or . . .

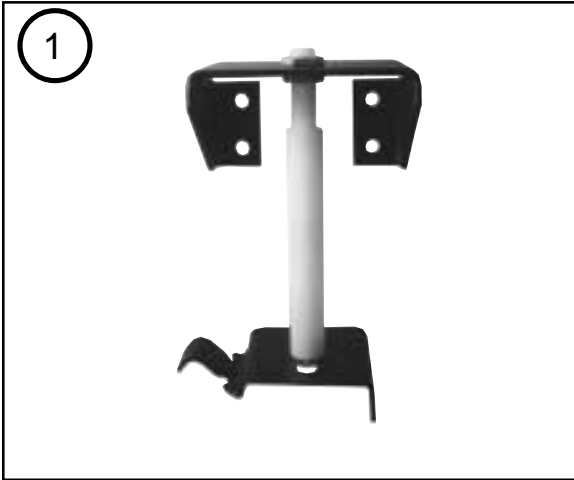


If the vehicle was raised with a jack and supported with stands on the frame, use a floor jack to raise the axle.

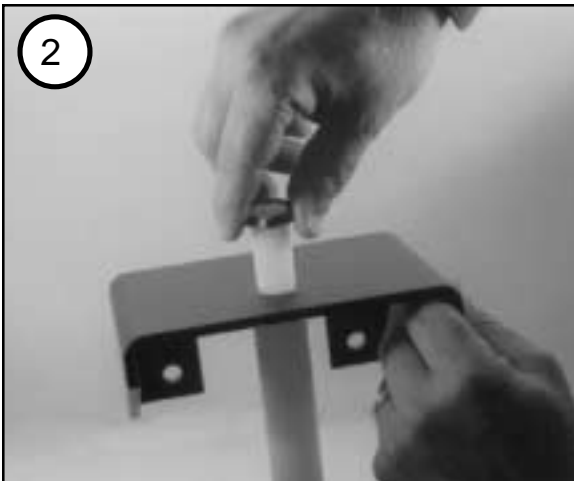


Your air springs will last much longer if they are not the suspension limiter in either compression or extension. **Regardless of load, the air pressure should always be adjusted so that the Normal Ride Height is maintained at all times.** The shock absorber is usually the limiter on extension. If this is not the case, you should consider the use of limiting straps; especially if the vehicle is used off-road.

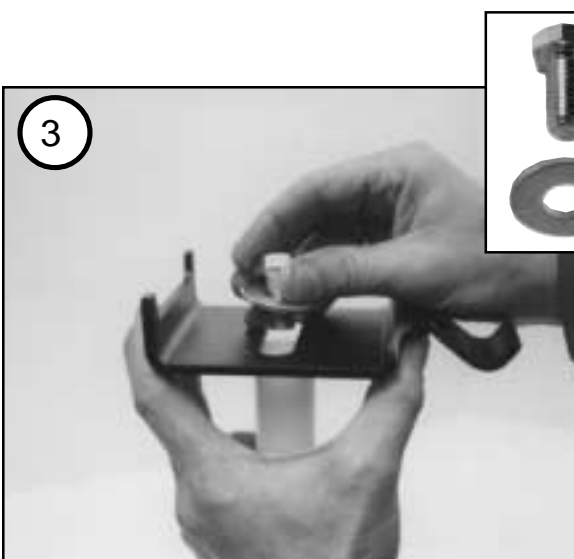
## Assemble the Installation Tool



The tool provided with your kit will help you properly align the air spring and position the upper bracket for drilling the bolt holes. The tool attaches to the upper and lower bracket. The tool is rigid so that it will self-align the upper bracket. The threaded section of the upper part of the tool ensures that the air spring can only be mounted at the correct height.



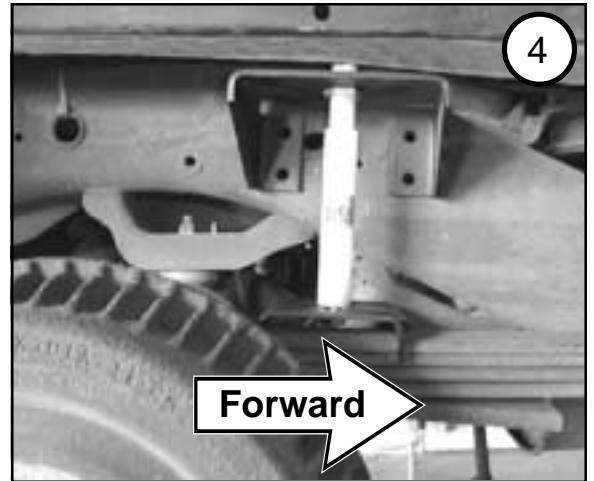
Secure the upper bracket (A) to the tool (C) using the provided pal nut (I).



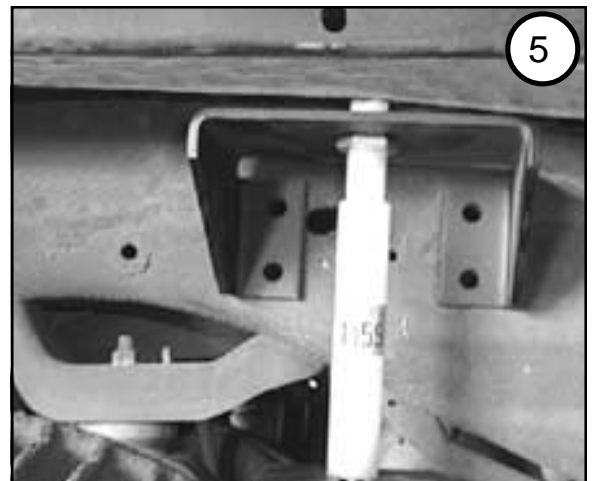
LOOSELY attach the tool (C) to the lower bracket (B) using 1/2 Flat Washer (M) and 1/2 Hex Head Cap Screw 7/8" (H). Leave loose for adjustment.

# Positioning Upper Bracket

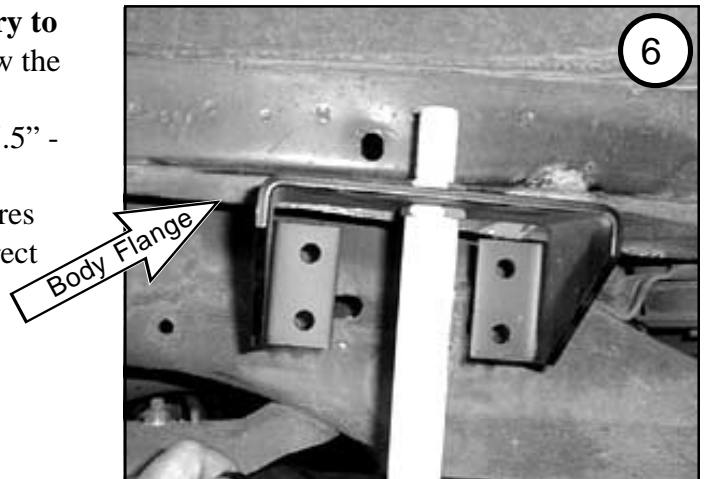
Set the assembled bracket/tool unit on the leaf spring **FORWARD** of the axle.

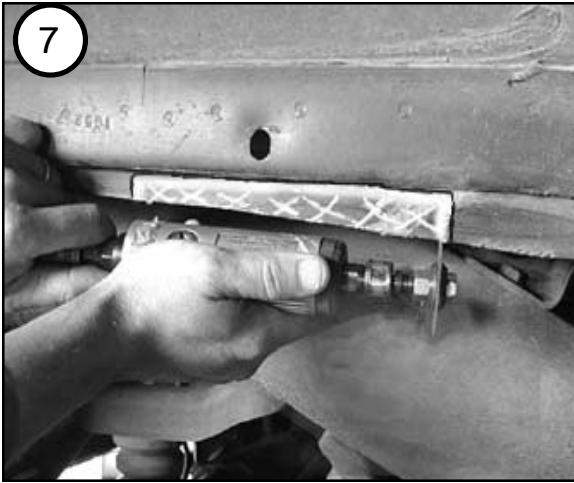


Using the slot in the lower bracket, push the upper bracket against the frame rail. Use the Pal nuts on the threaded portion of the installation tool to adjust the upper bracket so that the legs of the upper bracket are flat against the frame rail and all four mounting holes are on the middle section of the frame rail. The mounting holes must not fall on the rounded edges of the frame rail. You must also **ALLOW AT LEAST 1.5"** above the top of the upper bracket for air fitting clearance. **The brackets can be mounted anywhere within the threaded range of the installation tool.**

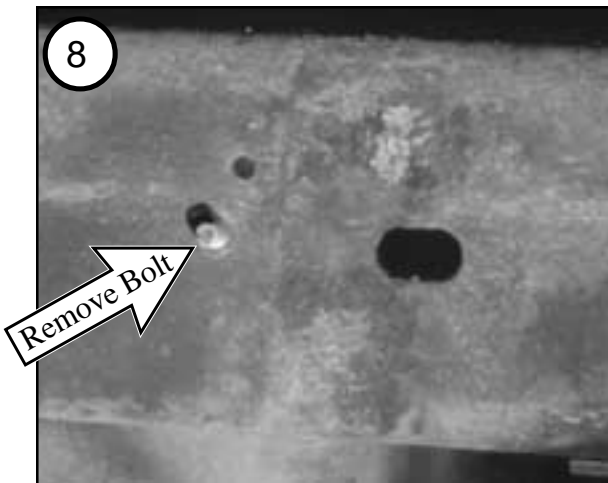


**IMPORTANT** On some models **it will be necessary to trim the inner body flange** to allow the air spring to be mounted at our recommended mounting height of 5.5" - 7" with 1.5" of clearance for the air fitting. The threaded section of the upper part of the tool ensures that the air spring can only be mounted at the correct height.



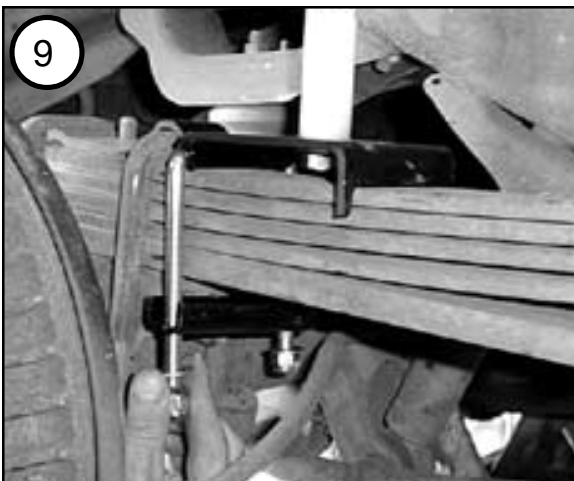


Mark the area of the body flange that will need to be removed and using a die grinder or tin snips cut away the necessary area.



**IMPORTANT** NOTE: DRIVER SIDE - On some models there may also be a **bolt protruding through the frame rail** that may rub on the air sleeve. The threaded end of the bolt that holds brake line clip on the inside of the frame protrudes through to the outside of the frame rail where the upper bracket will be attached to the frame. The bolt will prevent the upper bracket from laying flush to the frame rail. It will be necessary to remove the bolt or trimmed flush to the frame rail. There are other clips to sufficiently hold the lines to the frame rail.

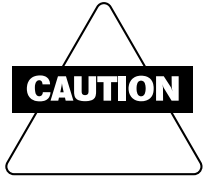
## Attaching Lower Bracket



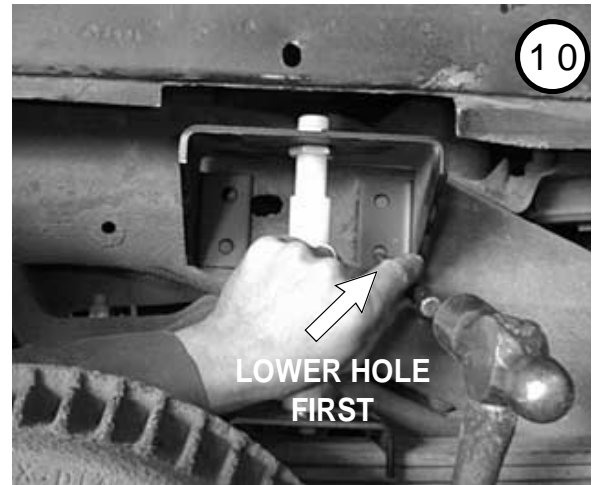
With the hook end of the lower bracket placed over the U-bolt , secure the lower bracket to the leaf spring with the provided U-bolt (E), lower clamp bar (F), flat washers (L), and locknuts (K). Torque to 20 ft/lbs.

## Attaching Upper Bracket

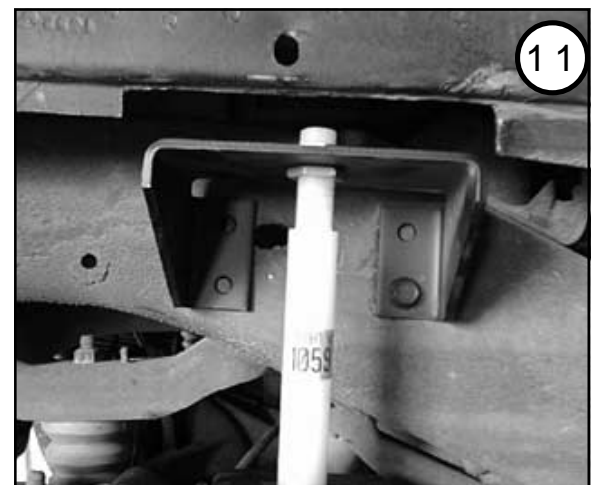
Using the upper bracket as a template, centerpunch one of the lower mounting holes and drill a 3/8" hole through the frame.



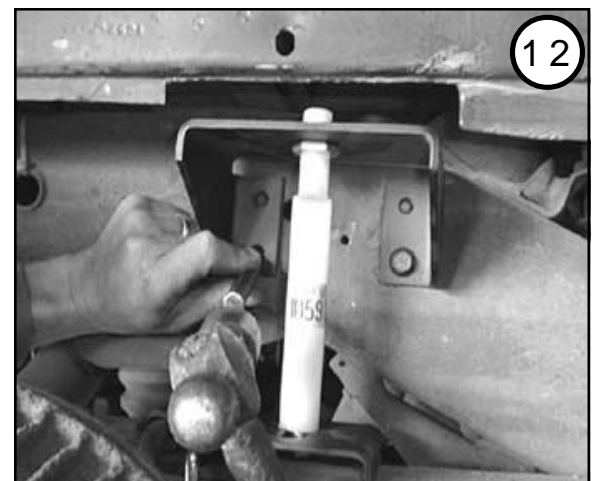
Before drilling, check the back side of the frame to see if brake lines, gas lines, or other features will have to be moved before you drill the upper bracket holes. Always check the back side of any surface to be drilled.

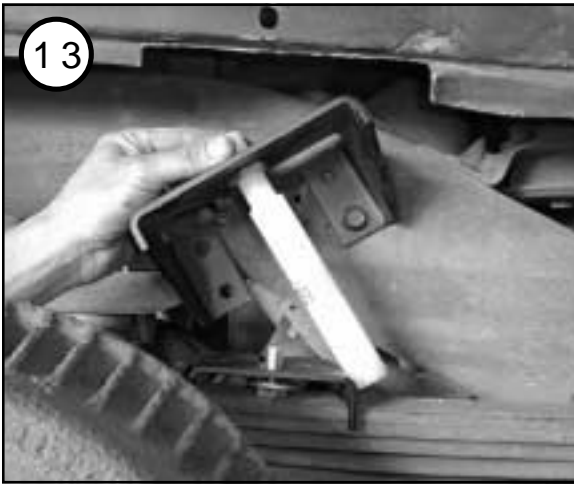


Install one of the washer head frame bolts (G) and LOOSELY attach the 3/8" oversized flat washer (N) and locknut (K).



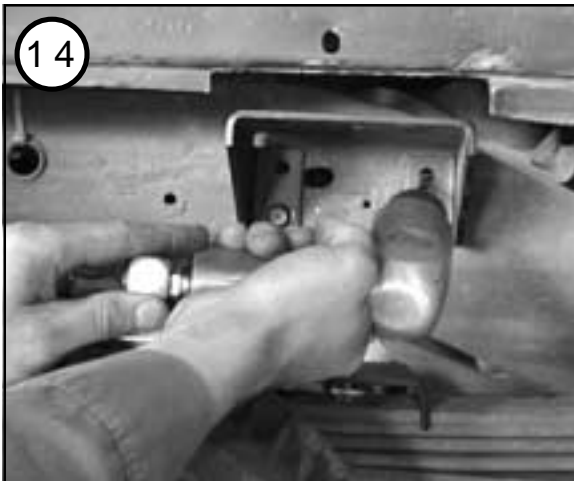
Now centerpunch and drill a 3/8" hole at the OTHER LOWER mounting hole location. DO NOT insert the mounting bolt at this time.





You can now remove the installation tool by removing the upper pal nut, loosening and removing the tool from the bottom bolt (leave in place), and slightly rotating the upper bracket to give you enough room to completely remove the tool.

Save the upper Pal nut to attach the air spring.



Rotate the upper bracket back to the original location and install the washer head frame bolt (G), 3/8" oversized flat washer (N), and lock nut (K) through the second hole you drilled. Now tighten both of the installed fasteners to 20 ft/lbs.

Center punch and drill the other two holes and install the fasteners.

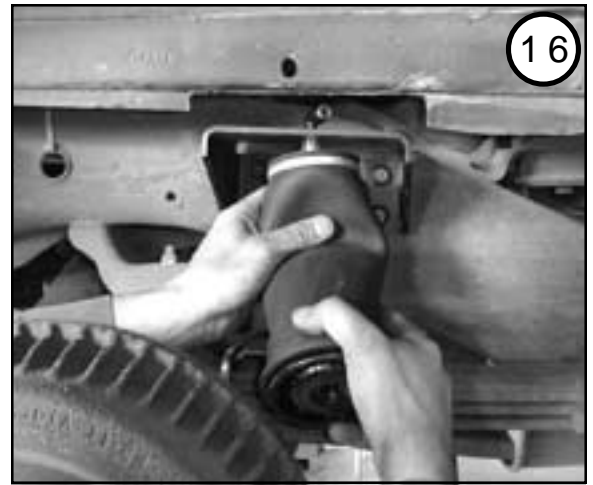
## Mounting the Air Spring



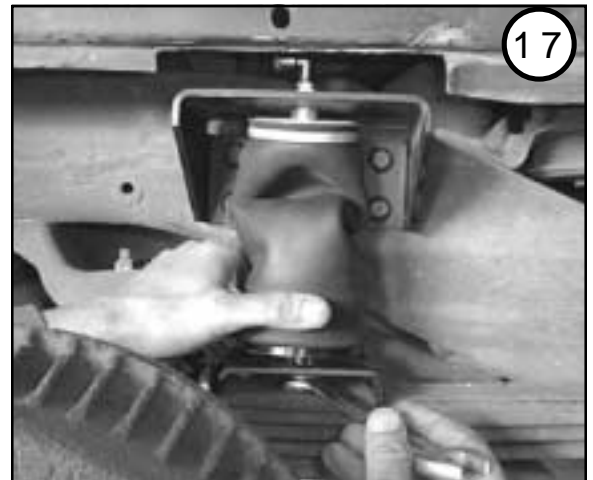
Install the air fitting (J) into the top of the air spring (D). This fitting is pre-coated with sealant. Finger-tight plus two 360° turns with an open-end wrench will seal the fitting. **Use a 7/16" open end wrench being careful to tighten on the metal hex nut only. DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN.**



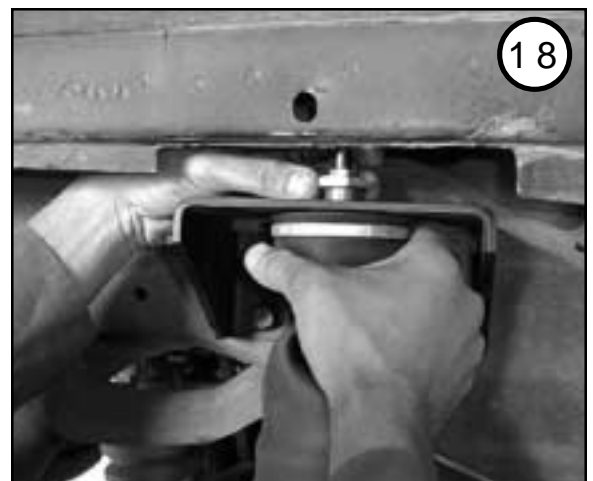
Guide upper thread post/fitting through the center mounting hole in the upper bracket.



Attach the air spring to the lower bracket. Carefully hand turn the air spring onto the lower mounting bolt (H). LEAVE LOOSE for later adjustment.



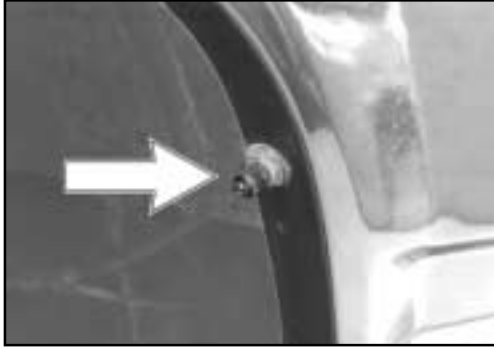
Now install the Pal Nut (I) - flange up - onto the upper threadpost of the air spring. LEAVE LOOSE for final adjustment.



# Installing the Air Lines

19 Choose a convenient location for mounting the inflation valves. Make sure there is enough clearance around the valves for an air chuck. Drill a 5/16" hole to install the valves.

Popular locations for the valve are:



- The wheel well flanges



- Licence plate recess in the bumper

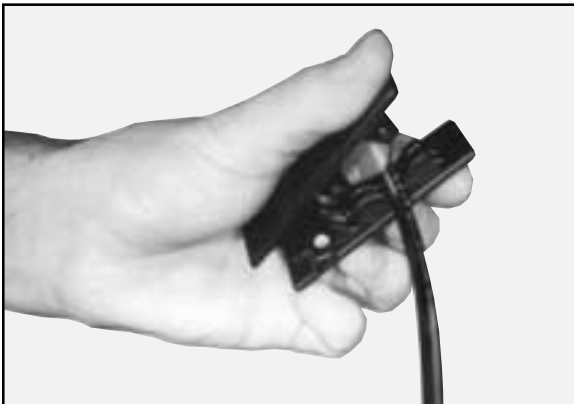


- Under the gas cap access door

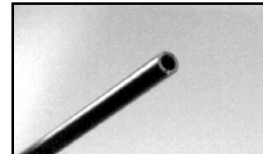


- Through the licence plate itself.

20 Cut the air line in two equal lengths.



Bad cut - flattened

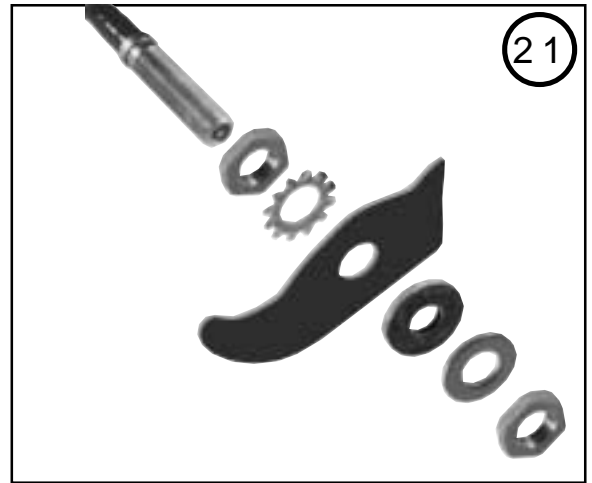


Good cut - clean and square

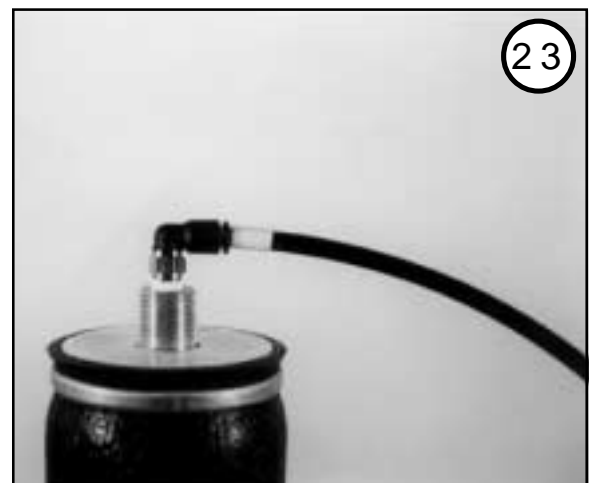
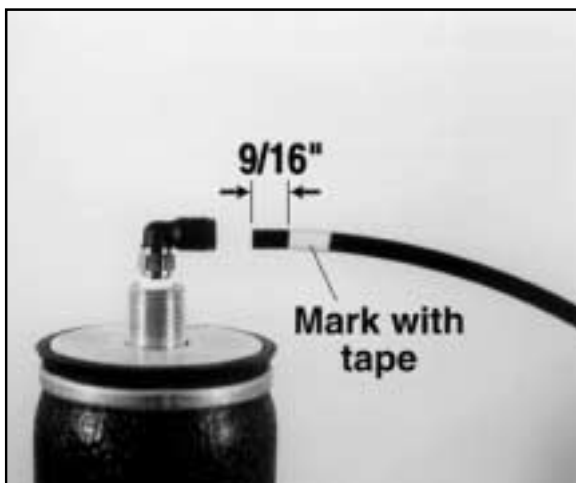
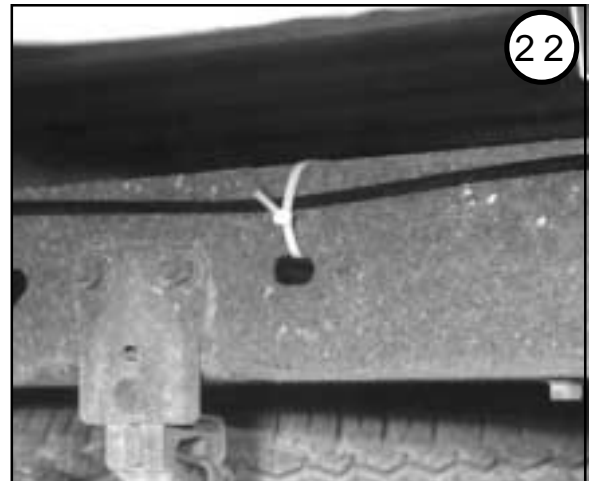


When cutting or trimming the air line, use a hose cutter (Air Lift P/N 10530), a razor blade or a sharp knife. Do not use wire cutters or scissors to cut the air line. These tools may flatten or crimp the air line, causing it to leak around the O-ring seal inside the fitting.

Place a 5/16" nut (DD) and a star washer (FF) on the air valve. Leave enough of the inflation valve in front of the nut to extend through the hole and have room for the rubber washer (EE), flat washer (GG), 5/16" nut (DD) and cap (CC). There should be enough valve exposed after installation - approximately 1/2" - to easily apply a pressure gauge or an air chuck. Push the air valve through the hole and use the rubber washer (EE), flat washer (GG) and another 5/16" (DD) nut to secure it in place. Tighten the nuts to secure the assembly in place.

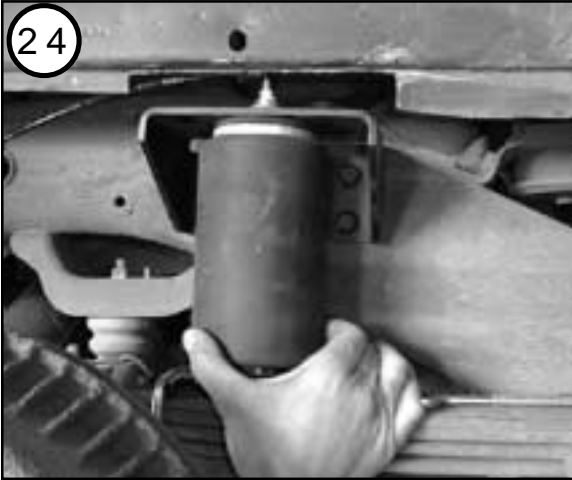


Route the air line along the frame to the upper bracket. Keep at least 6" of clearance between the air line and heat sources, such as the exhaust pipes. Avoid sharp bends and edges. Use the plastic tie straps (BB) to secure the air line to fixed, non-moving points along the chassis. Be sure that the tie straps are tight, but do not pinch the air line. Leave at least 2" of slack to allow for any movement that might pull on the air line.



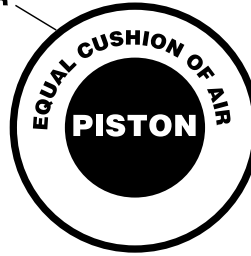
Install the air line into the air fitting. Trim the excess air line before inserting it into the swivel fitting. To properly install the air line measure 9/16" from the cut end and mark with tape. Lubricate (i.e. soap solution, silicone spray, saliva) the end of the air line and insert it into the fitting. Push and slightly turn the air line until you hear/feel it "click" into place. The front edge of the tape band should be flush with the fitting. The air line is now installed.

## Aligning the Air Spring

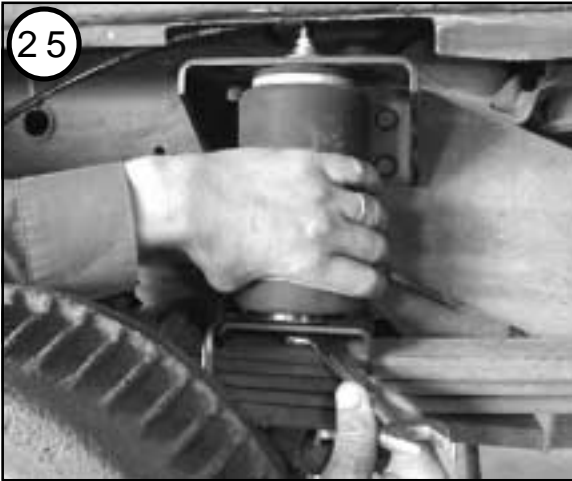


VERY IMPORTANT - With the bottom and top of the air springs still loose, inflate the air spring to approximately 10 p.s.i.. Use the slotted adjustment in the lower bracket to correctly align the air spring between the upper and lower bracket. This can be accomplished by tapping it inboard or outboard for proper alignment. There should be a symmetrical cushion of air around the base of the air spring when correctly positioned.

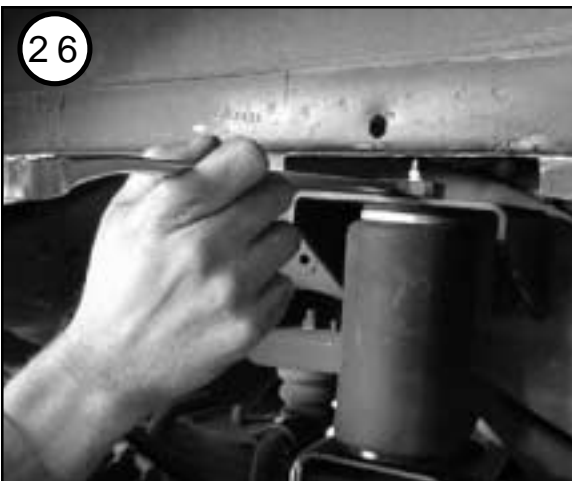
FLEX MEMBER



## Final Tightening Procedure



Tighten the lower end by holding the bolt with a 3/4" wrench and turning the air spring by hand. Turn the air spring - not the bolt. Hand tight is sufficient. **Do not attempt to hold the air spring with any type of tool.**



Now tighten the upper Pal nut with 1-1/16" open end wrench or a crescent wrench (10 ft/lbs.). **DO NOT OVER-TIGHTEN**

## Install Other Air Spring

27

You have now completed the installation for one air spring. Complete steps 1-26 for the other side, and then return to step 29.

## Inflation Decal

28

Install the minimum/maximum air pressure decal in a highly visible location. We suggest placing it on the driver's side window, just above the door handle.

## Checking for Leaks

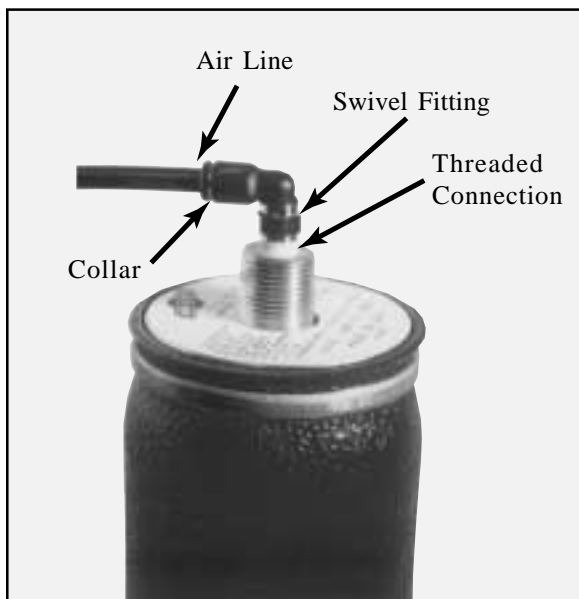
Inflate the air spring to 60 p.s.i. Spray all connections, fittings and the inflation valves with a solution of 1/3 liquid dish soap and 2/3 water to check for leaks. You should be able to spot leaks easily by looking for bubbling in the soapy water. After the test, deflate the springs to the minimum pressure required to restore the Normal Ride Height, but not less than 10 p.s.i.



Check the air pressure again after 24 hours. A 2 to 4 p.s.i. loss after initial installation is normal. Retest for leaks if the loss is more than 5 lbs.

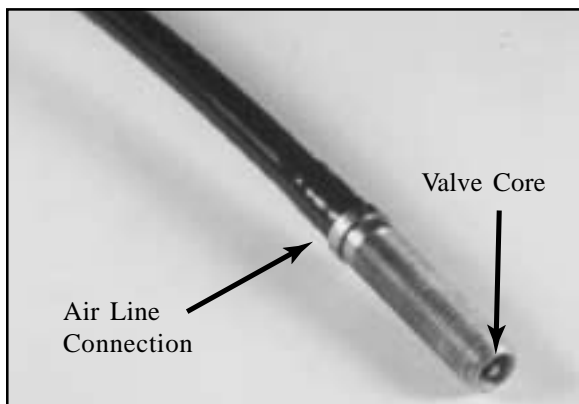


## Fixing Leaks



### Swivel Fitting

1. **Air Line Connection**  
Deflate the spring and remove the line by pulling the collar against the fitting and pulling firmly on the air line. Trim 1/2" off the end of the air line. Be sure the cut is clean and square. Reinsert the air line into the push-to-connect fitting.
2. **Threaded Connection**  
Tighten the swivel fitting another 1/2 turn. If it still leaks, deflate the air spring, remove the fitting, and re-coat the threads with thread sealant. Reinstall by hand tightening as much as possible, then use a wrench for an additional two turns.



### Inflation Valve

1. **Valve Core**  
Tighten the valve core with a valve core tool.
2. **Air Line Connection**  
When removing air line from a barbed type fitting, **DO NOT CUT IT OFF** as this will usually nick the barb and render the fitting useless. Cut air line off a few inches in front of the fitting and use a pair of pliers or vise-grips to pull/twist the air line off the fitting.

If the preceding steps have not resolved the problem, call Air Lift Technical Service at 1-800-248-0892 for assistance.

# Checklist

You can protect your warranty on this product and prevent unnecessary wear by ensuring the following checks have been made:

## Section I - Installation (To be completed by the installer).

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Clearance Test - Inflate the air springs to 60 p.s.i. and ensure there is at least 1/2" clearance around each air spring from anything that might rub against them. Be sure to check the tire, brake drum, frame, shock absorbers and brake cables.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Leak Test Before Road Test - Inflate the air springs to 60 p.s.i., check all connections for leaks with a soapy water solution. See page 14 of the manual for tips on how to spot leaks. All leaks must be eliminated before the vehicle is road tested.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Heat Test - Be sure there is sufficient clearance from heat sources - at least 6" for air springs and air lines. If a heat shield was included in the kit - install it. If there was no heat shield, but one is required, call 1-800-248-0892.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Fastener Test - Recheck all bolts for proper torque.

### Torque Guide:

3/8" Frame Bolts	20 ft.-lbs.
U-bolt Lock Nuts	20 ft.-lbs.
Mounting bolt/pal nut for air spring	10 ft.-lbs.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Road Test - The vehicle should be road tested after the preceding tests. Inflate the springs to 10 p.s.i. or until vehicle is level. Drive the vehicle 10 miles and recheck for clearance, loose fasteners and/or air leaks.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Operating Instructions - If professionally installed, the installer should review the operating instructions on page 16 with the owner. Be sure to provide the owner with all of the paperwork that came with the kit.

## Section II - Post Installation Checklist (TO BE COMPLETED BY OWNER)

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Overnight Leakdown Test - Recheck air pressure after vehicle has been used for 24 hours. If pressure has dropped more than 5 p.s.i., you have a leak that must be fixed. Either fix the leak yourself (see page 14) or return to the installer for service.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Air Pressure Requirements - I understand that the air pressure requirements of my air spring system are as follows:

Minimum \_\_\_\_\_ Maximum \_\_\_\_\_

I also understand that I must inflate the air springs until the Normal Ride Height measurement that was recorded on page 2 has been restored. Regardless of load, the air pressure should always be adjusted so that the Normal Ride Height is maintained at all times.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Thirty Day or 500 Mile Test. I understand that I must recheck the air spring system after 30 days or 500 miles, whichever comes first. If any part shows signs of rubbing or abrasion, the source should be identified and moved, if possible. If it is not possible to relocate the cause of the abrasion, the air spring may need to be remounted. If professionally installed, the installer should be consulted. Check all fasteners for tightness.

# Maintenance and Operation

## MINIMUM AIR PRESSURE

10 psi

## MAXIMUM AIR PRESSURE

100 psi

Failure to maintain correct minimum pressure (or pressure proportional to load), bottoming out, overextension, or rubbing against another component will void the warranty.

By following these steps, vehicle owners will obtain the longest life and best results from their air springs.

1. Check the air pressure weekly.
2. Always maintain Normal Ride Height. Never inflate beyond 100 p.s.i.
3. If you develop an air leak in the system, use a soapy water solution to check all air line connections and the inflation valve core before deflating and removing the sleeve. (See page 16.)
4. When increasing load, always adjust the air pressure to maintain the Normal Ride Height.
5. **IMPORTANT:** For your safety and to prevent possible damage to your vehicle, **do not exceed maximum Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR), as indicated by the vehicle manufacturer.** Although your air springs are rated at a maximum inflation pressure of 100 p.s.i., this pressure may represent too great a load on some vehicles. Check your vehicle owners manual and do not exceed the maximum load listed for your vehicle.
6. Always add air to springs in small quantities, checking the pressure frequently. Sleeves require less air volume than a tire and inflate quickly.
7. **Should it become necessary to raise the vehicle by the frame, make sure the system is at minimum pressure (10 p.s.i.) to reduce the tension on the suspension/brake components. Check to see that the sleeve rolls back down over the bottom piston after the vehicle is lowered. If the sleeve fails to roll back down over the piston, add air pressure until the sleeve ‘pops’ back over the piston (do not exceed 100 p.s.i.).**



# Troubleshooting Guide

## 1. Problems maintaining air pressure

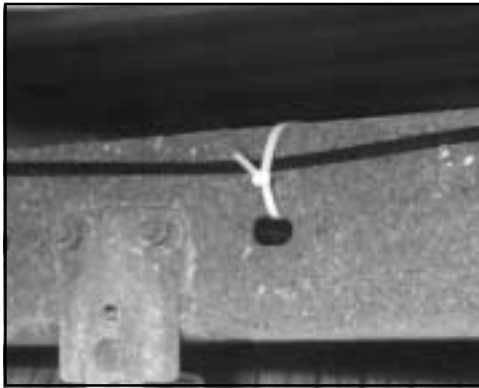
### WITHOUT ON-BOARD COMPRESSOR



Leak test the air line connections and threaded connection of the elbow into the air spring. See page 14 to repair.



Leak test the inflation valve for leaks at the air line connection or dirt or debris in the valve core. See page 14 for repair.



Inspect air lines to be sure it is not pinched. Tie straps may be too tight. Loosen or replace strap. Replace leaking components.



Inspect air line for holes and cracks. Replace as needed.



A kink or fold in the air line. Re-route as needed.

You have now tested for all of the most probable leak conditions that can be easily fixed. At this point the problem is probably a damaged air spring - either a factory defect or an operating problem. We suggest that you return the vehicle to your installer. If self-installed or you are the professional installer, please call Air Lift at 1-800-248-0892 for assistance or a replacement air spring.



*Thank you for purchasing Air Lift Products*

Mailing Address:  
AIR LIFT COMPANY  
P.O. Box 80167  
Lansing, MI 48908-0167

Street Address:  
AIR LIFT COMPANY  
2710 Snow Rd.  
Lansing, MI 48917

Local Phone: (517) 322-2144  
Fax: (517) 322-0240

**FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CALL 1-800-248-0892**