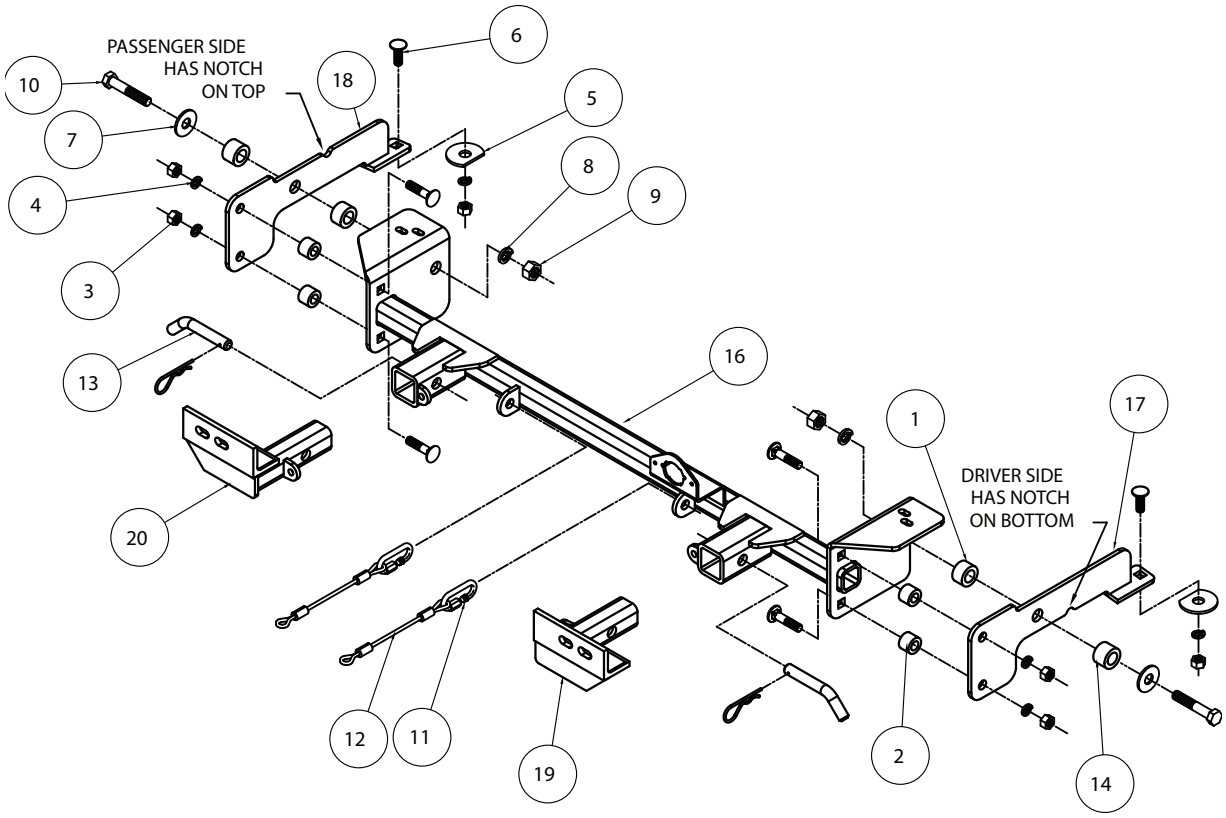
# BASEPLATE KIT INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

**KIT# 1541-1**

10/23/20
KS

ROADMASTER, Inc. 6110 NE 127th Ave. Vancouver, WA 98682 360-896-0407 fax 360-735-9300 www.roadmasterinc.com




| ITEM | QTY | MATERIAL | Part Number |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 1 1/4" O.D. x 0.250 WALL x 3/4" PIPE SPACER | A000559 |
| 2 | 4 | 1" O.D. x 0.219 WALL x 3/4" PIPE SPACER | A000558 |
| 3 | 6 | 1/2" HEX NUT | 350258-00 |
| 4 | 6 | 1/2" LOCK WASHER | 350309-00 |
| 5 | 2 | 1/2" CLIPPED PLATE WASHER | A001511 |
| 6 | 6 | 1/2" x 2" CARRIAGE BOLT | 350373-00 |
| 7 | 2 | 5/8" FLAT WASHER | 350312-00 |
| 8 | 2 | 5/8" LOCK WASHER | 350313-00 |
| 9 | 2 | 5/8" HEX NUT | 350262-00 |
| 10 | 2 | 5/8" x 3 1/2" | 350163-00 |
| 11 | 2 | QUICK LINK | 200008-00 |
| 12 | 2 | SAFETY CABLES | 650646-10 |
| 13 | 2 | DRAW PIN / SPRING PIN | 357035-00 |
| 14 | 2 | 1 1/4" O.D. x 0.250 WALL x 7/8" PIPE SPACER | A000481 |
| 15 | 2 | 7" ZIP TIE | 300140-00 |
| 16 | 1 | MAIN RECEIVER | C000292 |
| 17 | 1 | DRIVER SIDE FRAME BRACE | C000295 |
| 18 | 1 | PASSENGER SIDE FRAME BRACE | C000296 |
| 19 | 1 | DRIVER SIDE ARM | C000293 |
| 20 | 1 | PASSENGER SIDE ARM | C000294 |

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This bracket kit is one of our XL series, which is designed to be partly removable (Fig.A). The kit consists of the main receiver brace, front braces, rear side braces and a hardware pack. The main receiver brace replaces the bumper core behind the front bumper fascia and mounts to the front frame and radiator support area on each side. The front braces insert into the receivers on each side.

Start by laying the kit out according to the illustration. This will give you a visual idea of how the kit installs and also confirm that the kit components are present and accounted for.

Fig.A

***IMPORTANT:*** All baseplates ***must*** be assembled with all the bolts left loose for final adjustment and positioning (before tightening) unless otherwise instructed. All bolts ***must*** be torqued for proper strength. If more than one bolt is used per fastening point, the diagram may only show one. Use flat washers over all slotted holes and lock washers on all fasteners.

## ⚠ WARNING

**Failure to heed these warnings or follow the installation instructions may result in a voided warranty, loss of towed vehicle, personal injury or death.**

- **Do not weld or modify this baseplate or its components.** Welding or modification will void the warranty.
- **Do not use this document as a basis to design/fabricate a baseplate, as it may not show all parts or structural components.**
- We strongly recommend professional installation.
- If the towed vehicle has been in an accident, it must be properly repaired before attaching the baseplate. **Do not install the baseplate if any structural frame damage is found.**
- **The installer must use all bolts and parts supplied. If running changes were made** by the vehicle manufacturer after this kit was designed, some bolts or other fasteners may no longer be the correct size. **It is the installer's responsibility** to verify this kit is securely fastened to the vehicle.
- **Use Loctite® Red on all bolts used to secure this baseplate.** Torque all bolts to the specifications found at the end of these instructions. Do not over-torque the bolts or failure may occur.
- **The installer must inspect the baseplate to ensure adequate clearance, particularly around hoses, air conditioner lines, radiators, etc.** or non-warranty failure may result.
- Roadmaster manufactures many styles of baseplates. **If your baseplate has removable arms, they must be removed before driving the vehicle, unless the arms can be pinned or padlocked in place.** If not secured, the arms could vibrate out.
- Some motorhome chassis have such a tight turning radius that you can damage your motorhome, towed vehicle, tow bar or baseplate while turning sharply. **Before getting on the road, test your turning radius in an empty parking lot.** Turning too sharply could result in non-warranty damage to your towing system, motorhome and/or towed vehicle.
- **Do not back up with the towed vehicle attached** or non-warranty damage will occur to your towing system or vehicles.
- **The safety cables must connect the towing vehicle to the towed vehicle frame to frame, with the cables crossed, with enough slack for sharp turns.** See cable instructions for proper routing. Failure to do so will result in non-warranty damage and/or the loss of the towed vehicle.
- This kit is designed for use with ROADMASTER tow bars and ROADMASTER adapters only. **Using this kit with other brands, without an approved ROADMASTER adapter, may result in non-warranty damage or injury.**
- **Receiver extensions and out-of-level towing situations of 3 inches or more.** This can cause the system to swing much higher and lower, causing excessive strain on the tow bar, baseplate and frame. That can cause the towing system to fail, causing property damage, personal injury or even death. **If you must use a receiver extension or drop hitch to tow, it will reduce your receiver's weight capacity by 1/3 to avoid damaging your system. Never use more than one extension and/or drop hitch, as this will void your warranty.**
- **Every 3,000 miles, the owner must inspect all mounting points for cracks or fatigue, and check the fasteners** for proper torque, according to the bolt torque requirements chart on the last page of these instructions.
- **The owner must follow the vehicle manufacturer's instructions to prepare the vehicle for towing. Failure to do so may cause severe damage to the vehicle.**
- **This baseplate is only warranteed for the original installation.** Installing a used baseplate on another vehicle is not recommended and will void the warranty.

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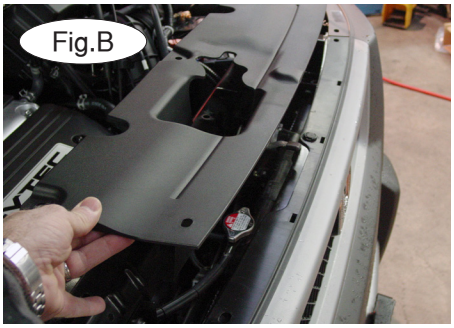
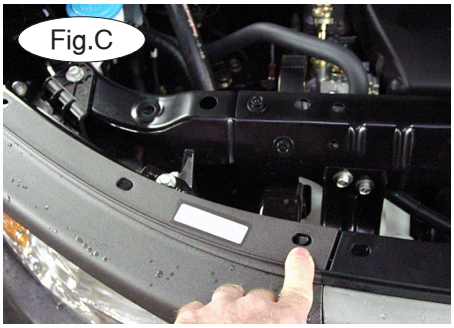
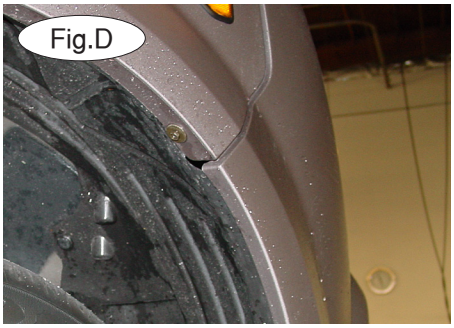
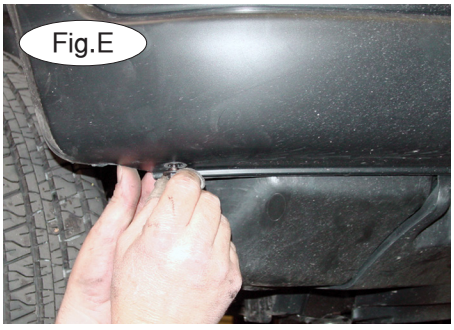


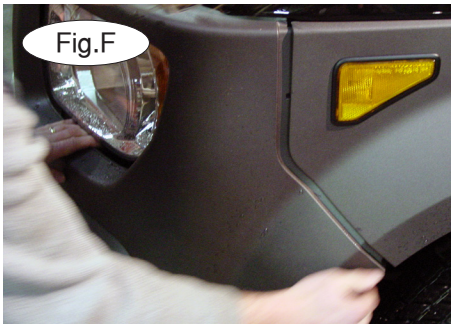




1. ***Important:*** **please use all supplied bolts and parts and read all instructions carefully before beginning this installation. The majority of questions you may have can be answered within the text, and proper installation will ensure safe and secure travel.** Now, begin the installation. Start by removing the plastic fasteners in the top plastic grille cover. You will have five to seven plastic fasteners and a 10mm (head) bolt next to the battery depending on which model your vehicle is. Once the fasteners are removed, simply lift the cover off and set aside (Fig. B). The Honda Element will have three more plastic fasteners over the headlight area. These will have to be removed (Fig.C).

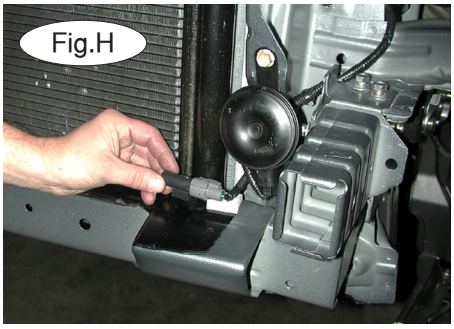
2. Remove three 10mm (head) screws on each side. One is located in the top of the fender well (Fig.D) and two underneath on each side (Fig.E). Some vehicles may have more fasteners in the fenderwells. Remove the remaining plastic fasteners in the bottom of the fascia. Pull forward on the fascia (Fig.F), disconnect the foglights (Fig.G) then set aside.

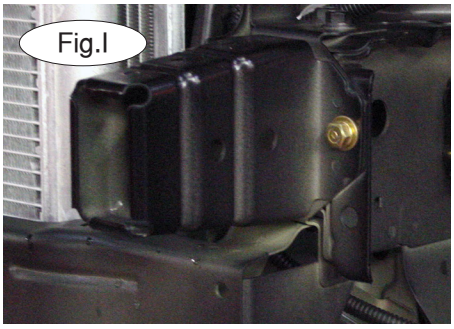


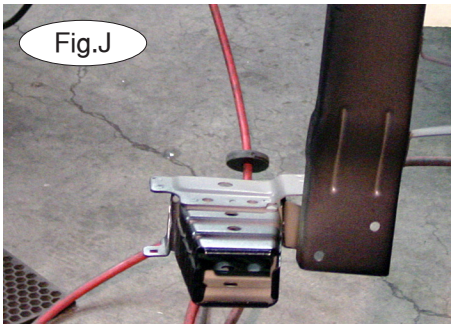





3. Remove the outside temperature sensor from the bumper core and use the two supplied zip ties to reattach the temperature sensor to the main brace after installation. (Fig.H). Now, find seven to eight 10mm (head) bolts (four or five on the passenger side and three on the driver's side) holding the steel bumper core and mounts, remove these bolts on each side (Fig.I) then pull forward to remove the bumper core and the bumper core supports (Fig.J). The bumper core is replaced by the receiver brace and will not be reinstalled. *Note*: retain the bumper core and attachment hardware so that it can be replaced if the bracket is ever removed.



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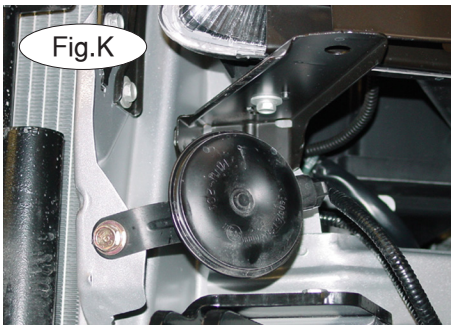
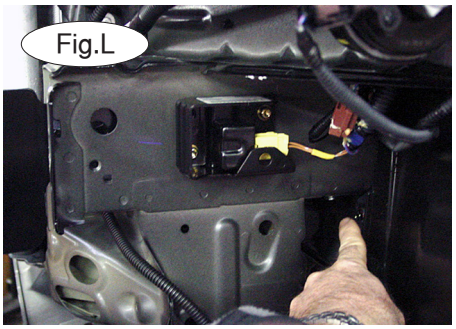
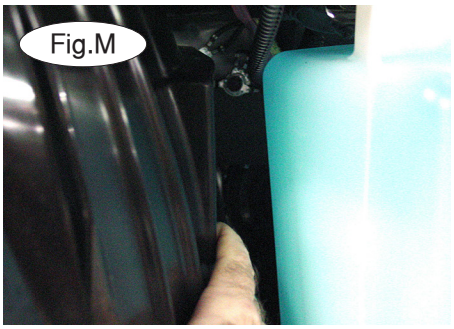


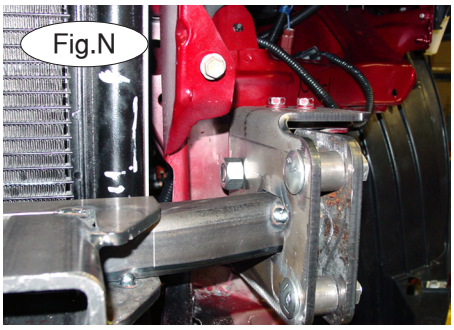



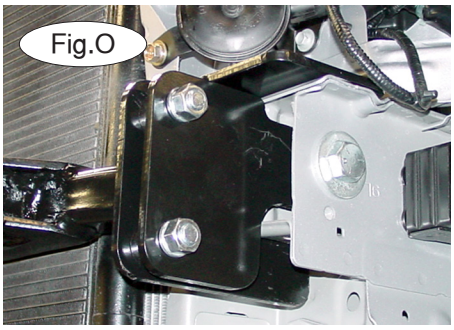



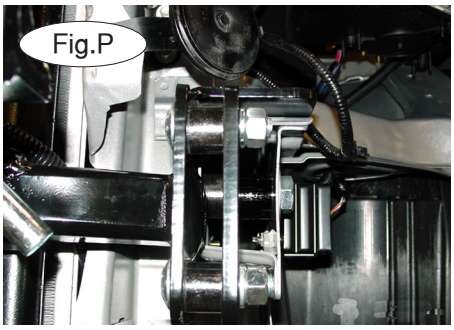

4. Loosen the horns, one 10mm head bolt in each mount (Fig.K).

5. Working on the driver's side, put a ½" x 2" carriage bolt through the rear mounting hole in a rear side mounting brace. Insert this brace into the front of the formed frame tube with the rear bolt through a corresponding hole in the bottom of the frame. Secure with a ½" nut, clipped plate washer, lock washer and nut (Fig.L). Leave loose at this time. *Note:* the passenger side brace has a notch on the top; the driver's side brace has a notch on the bottom.

6. Repeat step 5 for the passenger side. *Note:* an additional fender well fastener can be removed and the fender liner pushed back to allow access to the rear mounting bolt on the passenger side (Fig.M).



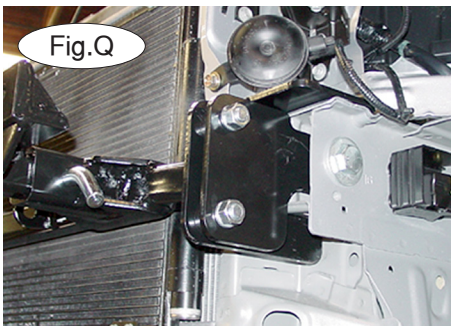

7. Hold the main receiver brace between the frame tubes and bolt through the two top holes on each side with four of the bolts removed from the bumper core in step 4 (Fig.N). Leave loose at this time. *Note:* use thread lock on the factory bolt prior to reinstalling it.

8. Now, looking at your illustration, take a 5/8" x 3½" bolt, 5/8" flat washer, 7/8" x 1¼" o.d. pipe spacer, ¾" x 1¼" o.d. pipe spacer, lock washer and nut (Fig.O,P). Put a 5/8" flat washer on the bolt then insert through a existing frame side hole, a spacer, the rear side brace, a spacer then the other side of the frame and the main receiver brace side plate. Finish with a 5/8" lock washer and nut. Do this on both sides (Fig.O,P). *Note:* make certain you place the 7/8" long pipe spacer on the outside of the rear braces.

9. Bolt through the two front holes on each side in the receiver brace and side braces with ½" x 2" carriage bolts, flat washers, ¾" x 1" spacers, lock washers and nuts (Fig.O,P,Q).

10. Torque all bolts to the mounting specifications on the last page.

11. Tighten the horns loosened in step 4, bending or displacing the mounting to prevent the horns from touching any part of the vehicle or brace. *Note:* any contact with any object other than the horn mount will either alter or prevent sound output.



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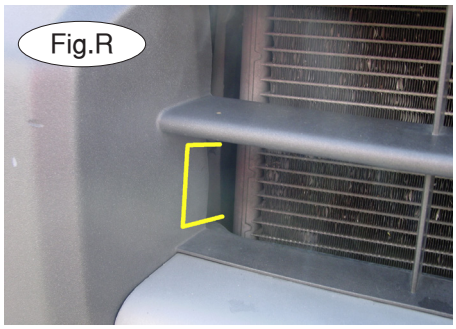
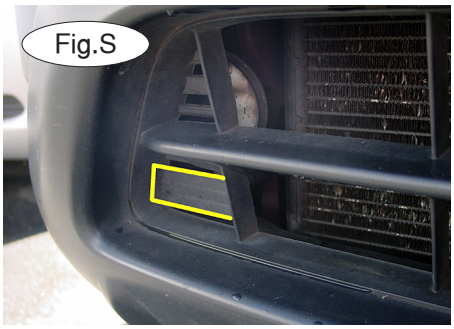
12. Test fit the fascia. On some models it may need to be trimmed. Refer to Figure R for the Element trimming or Figure S for the CRV trimming, if necessary.

13. Reverse steps two through four to reinstall the bumper fascia and top cover.

14. Insert the front braces into the receiver tubes and secure with 5/8" draw pins and spring pins .




15. Install the tow bar according to the manufacturer's instructions and torque all mounting bolts to the specifications below.

16. Attach one end of the 10" safety cables to front holes on the receiver cross bar on each side of the receiver brace with the included cable connectors. Connect the other end to the tow vehicle's safety cables and the tow bar.

17. A universal wiring connector plate is also available for use on the crossbar.

## BOLT TORQUE REQUIREMENTS

Note: The torque values represented below are intended as general guidelines. Torque requirements for specific applications may vary. Roadmaster does not warrant this information to be accurate for all applications and disclaims all liability for any claims or damages which may result from its use.

### STANDARD BOLTS

| Thread Size | Grade | Torque |
|---|---|---|
| 5/16 | 5 | 13 ft./lb. |
| 3/8 | 5 | 23 ft./lb. |
| 7/16 | 5 | 37 ft./lb. |
| 1/2 | 5 | 56 ft./lb. |
| 5/8 | 5 | 150 ft./lb. |

### METRIC BOLTS

| Thread Size | Grade | Plated / Unplated |
|---|---|---|
| 8mm-1.0 | 8.8 | 20 ft./lb. 18 ft./lb. |
| 8mm-1.25 | 8.8 | 19 ft./lb. 18 ft./lb. |
| 10mm-1.25 | 8.8 | 38 ft./lb. 36 ft./lb. |
| 10mm-1.5 | 8.8 | 37 ft./lb. 35 ft./lb. |

### METRIC BOLTS

| Thread Size | Grade | Plated / Unplated |
|---|---|---|
| 12mm-1.25 | 8.8 | 70 ft./lb. 65 ft./lb. |
| 12mm-1.5 | 8.8 | 66 ft./lb. 61 ft./lb. |
| 12mm-1.75 | 8.8 | 65 ft./lb. 60 ft./lb. |
| 14mm-2.0 | 8.8 | 104 ft./lb. 97 ft./lb. |