



# Assembly and Use Instructions





880 Marietta Highway, Suite 630-333  
Roswell, GA 30075

Dear Customer,

Thank you for your purchase of a new Hitchmount-RACK! This entirely American-made product is designed for easy assembly and use. Please read through the Assembly and Use Instructions and follow them closely.

If you have any questions, concerns or feedback please feel free to send a message to:

[info@1mleadership.com](mailto:info@1mleadership.com)

We are happy that you chose a Hitchmount-RACK for your kayak, paddle-board and gear hauling. Best wishes for some great adventures and the memories that come with them.

Sincerely,

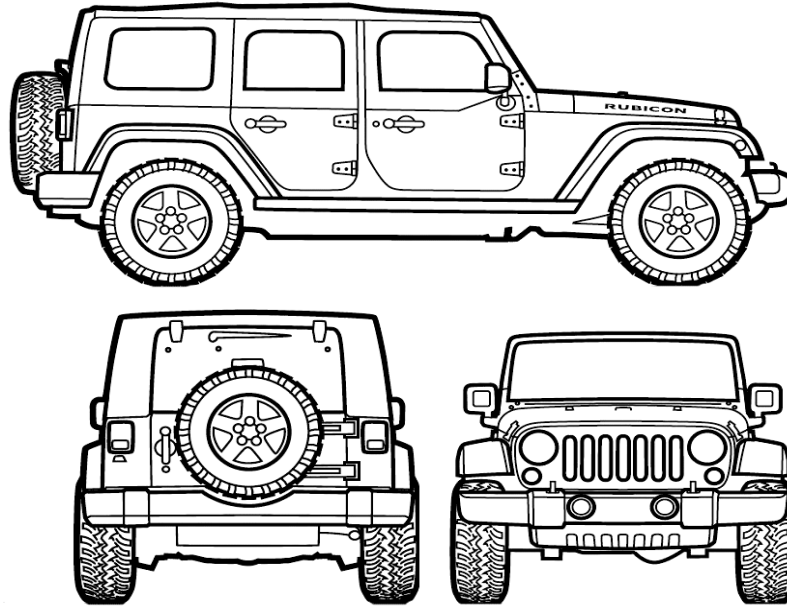
President  
Mission Systems, LLC

## **SAFETY FIRST!**

### **Review Safety instructions Before Each Use**

- 1. Upper unit weight maximum: 140 lbs.**
- 2. Upper unit length maximum: 12 feet.**
- 3. Do not exceed unit weight and length capabilities on the rack system.**
- 4. Ensure the rack (and strap) system are assembled and mounted in accordance with instructions.**
- 5. For stability, the rack system requires four points of connection to the vehicle: (1) weight is held by the trailer hitch receiver, (2) forward/aft movement is limited by the center-point strap, (3 & 4) lateral movement is limited by the left/right lateral straps. Ensure all four points are engaged per instructions.**
- 6. Loads and straps can shift during movement, check and tighten every 25-30 minutes when traveling.**
- 7. Many states require lights, flags or strobe lamps for loads that extend beyond the bed or body of the vehicle – ensure you follow local and state laws when placing loads on the rack.**
- 8. The rack system and loads will add height and length to your vehicle, ensure you do not drive into situations where the rack and/or loads exceed the height or ability to maneuver your vehicle safely.**
- 9. Do not transport material on the rack system in extreme weather conditions.**
- 10. When loading material onto the rack system, ensure you wear safety gear and take precautions to avoid injury or damage to the rack system, load or vehicle.**

# Assembly

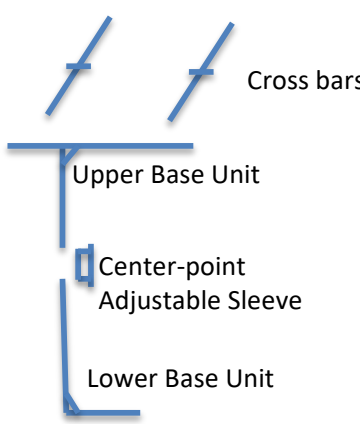







## STEP 1: Check your vehicle and your parts.

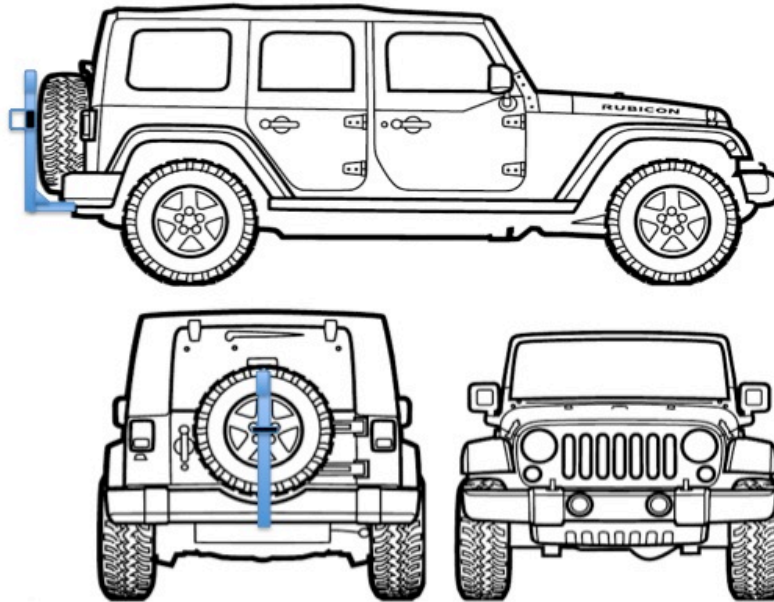
Ensure your vehicle is equipped with a Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) trailer hitch mounted per manufacturer specifications.

To assemble your Hitchmount-RACK you will need a **two crescent or adjustable wrenches**

Remove all parts and separate from packaging. Make sure the following parts are present:

 <p>Cross bars</p> <p>Upper Base Unit</p> <p>Center-point Adjustable Sleeve</p> <p>Lower Base Unit</p>	 <p>3/8" x 2 1/2" (6, each with nut and 2 washers)</p>  <p>3/8" x 2 3/4" (2, each with nut and 2 washers)</p>  <p>Hitch Pin &amp; clip</p>  <p>6' Cam Strap with S-hook (2) Each strap Contains two parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1' cam buckle end</li><li>• 5' running end</li></ul>  <p>4' Cam Strap with pad</p>
---	---

# Assembly



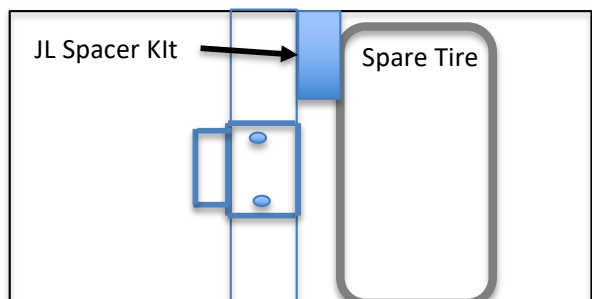
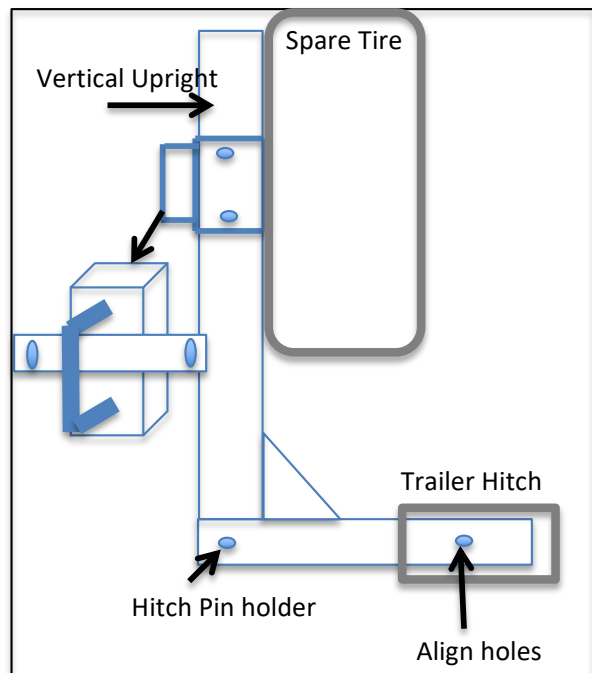
## STEP 2: Assemble the Lower Base Unit.

Slide the Center-point Adjustable Sleeve over the vertical upright of the Lower Base Unit so that the handle faces away from the spare tire when mounted. Temporarily place the 5/8" diameter hitch pin into the hitch pin holder in the Lower Base Unit.

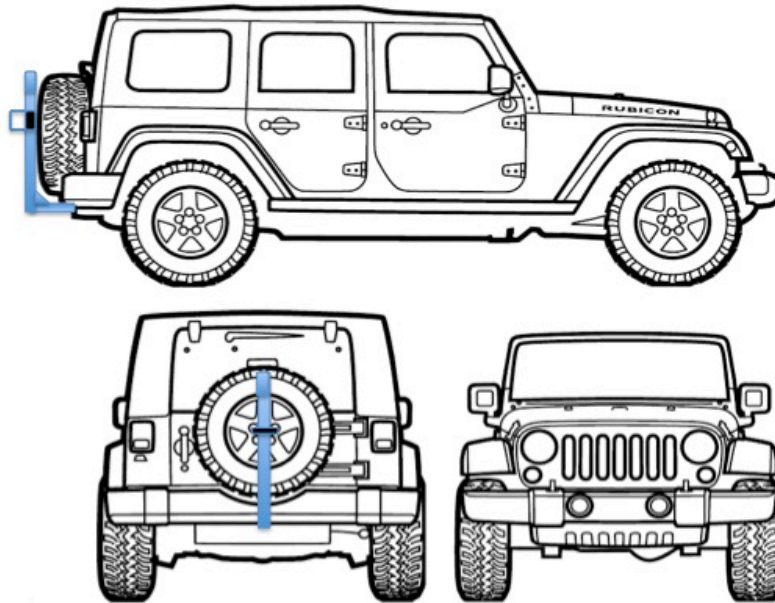
## STEP 3: Attach the Lower Base Unit to your vehicle.

Insert the Lower Base Unit into the trailer hitch. Slide the unit forward into position so that the vertical upright is against, or nearly against, the spare tire. Align the holes from the trailer hitch and the lower base unit together. Remove the 5/8" diameter hitch pin and clip from the holder and insert through the aligned holes to secure the Hitchmount-RACK to the trailer hitch.

NOTE: For JL owners with the JL Spacer Kit, temporarily position the spacer kit between the rack and the spare tire. You will install bolts after the upper unit is attached in STEP 6.

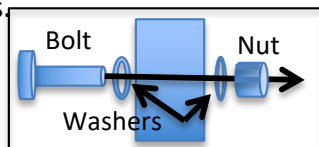


# Assembly

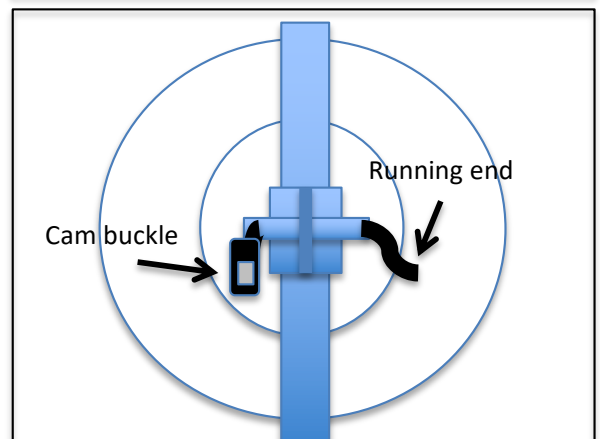
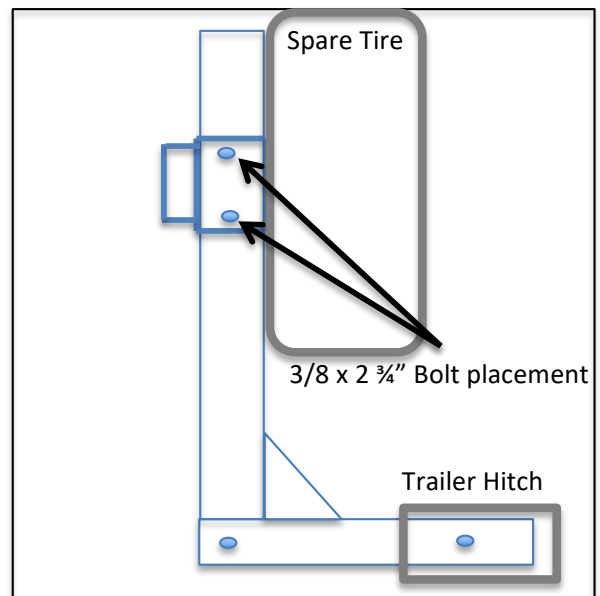


## STEP 4: Align the Center-point Adjustable Sleeve and strap to spare tire.

Slide the Center-point Adjustable Sleeve up the vertical upright portion of the Lower Base Unit so that it aligns with the lug nuts of the spare wheel. Secure and tighten using two 3/8 diameter x 2 3/4" length bolts.



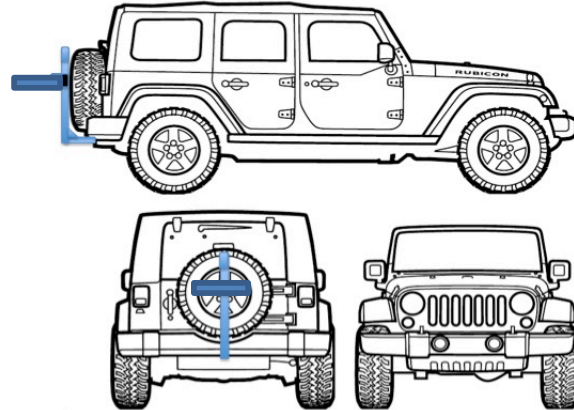
Next, feed the 4' cam strap through the 1" perforation on the left side of the Center-point Adjustable Sleeve. Pull strap all the way until the cam buckle pad prevents any further movement. Run the strap into the spare wheel, around the backside of the wheel, and out so that it lines up to feed through the perforated hole on the right side. Slide the running end of the strap into cam buckle and pull tight. The cam pad and cam buckle should be flat against the guide and protected by the carrying handle. This will secure the lower base unit and limit forward and aft movement of your Hitchmount-RACK.



# Bike/Gear Rack Assembly

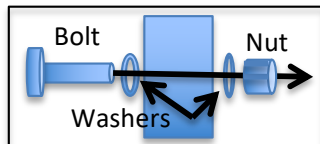
With the purchase of the Bike/Gear Rack please substitute the following instructions for step 4.

The bike/Gear Rack takes the place of the Center-point Adjustable Sleeve. Use the hardware provided for the Center-point Adjustable Sleeve to attach your Bike/Gear Rack.

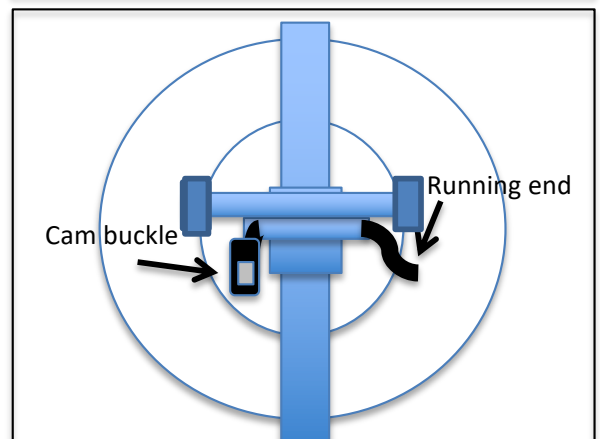
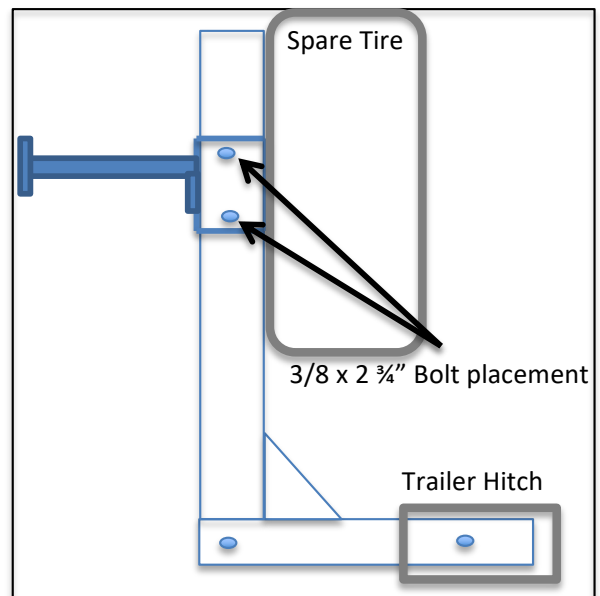


## STEP 4: Align the Center-point Adjustable Sleeve with Bike/Gear Rack Attachment and strap to spare tire.

Slide the Center-point Adjustable Sleeve with Bike/Attachment up the vertical upright portion of the Lower Base Unit so that it aligns with the lug nuts of the spare wheel. Secure and tighten using two 3/8 diameter x 2 3/4" length bolts provided with the original rack.

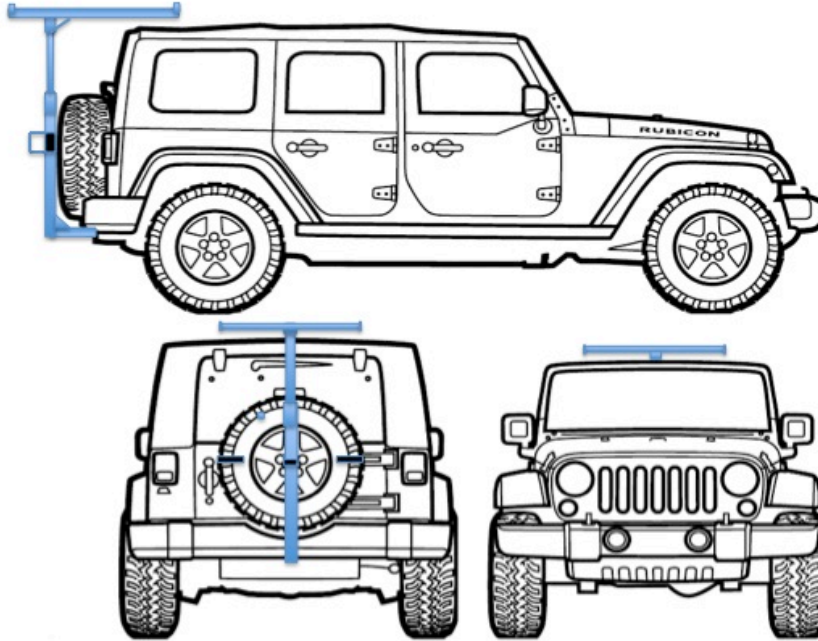


Next, feed the 4' cam strap through the 1" perforation on the left side of the Center-point Adjustable Sleeve. Pull strap all the way until the cam buckle pad prevents any further movement. Run the strap into the spare wheel, around the backside of the wheel, and out so that it lines up to feed through the perforated hole on the right side. Slide the running end of the strap into cam buckle and pull tight. The cam pad and cam buckle should be flat against the guide. This will secure the lower base unit and limit forward and aft movement of your Hitchmount-RACK.





# Assembly



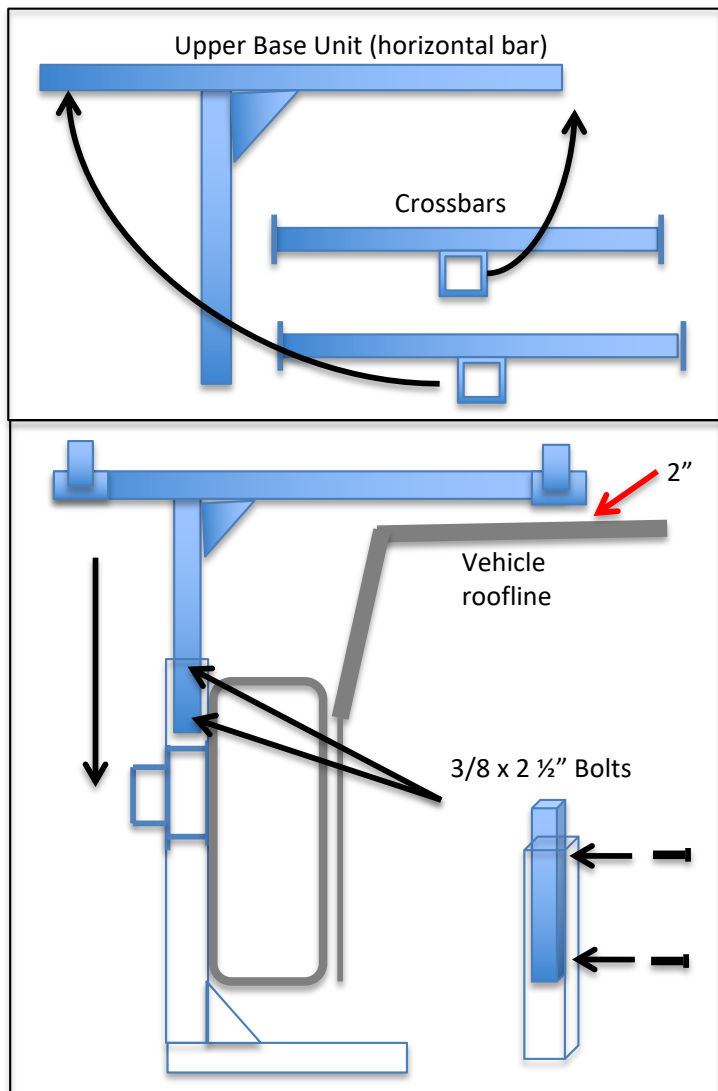
## STEP 5: Assemble the Upper Base Unit.

Attach the Crossbars to the Upper Base Unit by sliding the sleeves into a desired position along the Upper Base Unit horizontal bar. Use two  $\frac{3}{8}$ " diameter by  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " bolts to secure and tighten each crossbar sleeve to the Upper Base Unit horizontal bar.

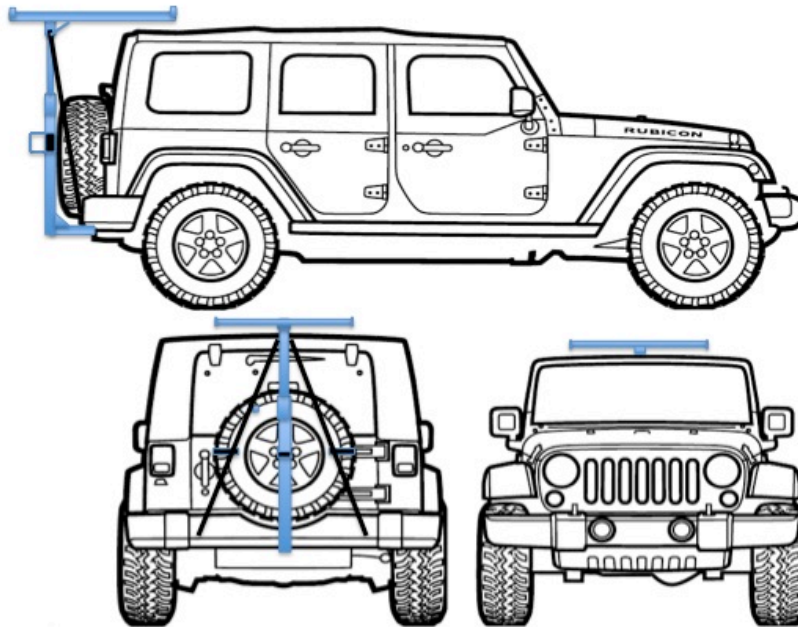
## STEP 6: Connect the Upper Base Unit to the Lower Base Unit.

Pickup the Upper Base Unit and insert the vertical portion into the Lower Base Unit. Position so that the Upper Base Unit horizontal bar is approximately 2" above the roofline of the vehicle. Secure and tighten in place using two  $\frac{3}{8}$ " diameter x  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " bolt. The first bolt should be placed at the uppermost position where the Upper Base Unit enters the Lower Base Unit. The second bolt should be placed in the lowermost position of the Upper Base Unit for a stable connection.

NOTE: For JL owners with the JL Spacer kit, place spacer in-between rack and tire to create offset to protect your backup camera



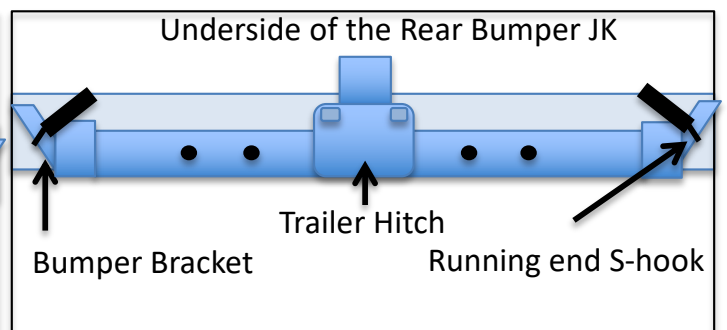
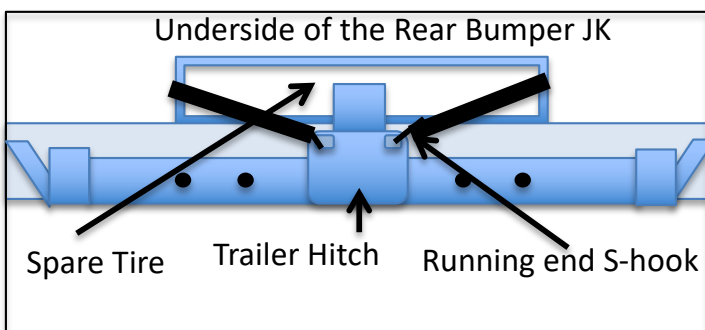
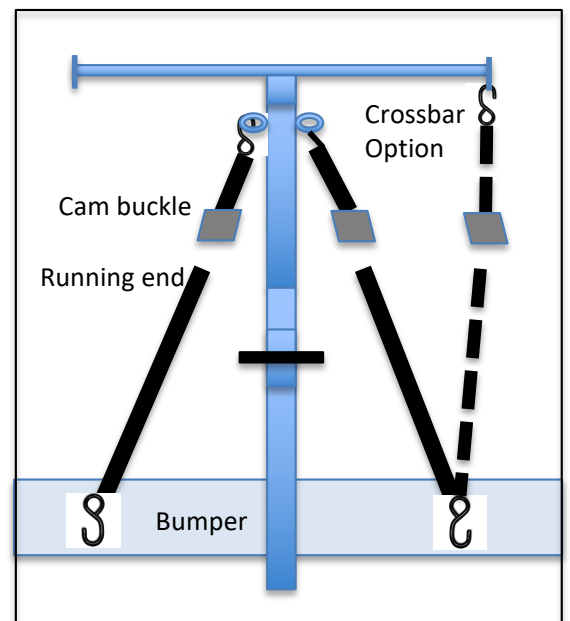
# Assembly



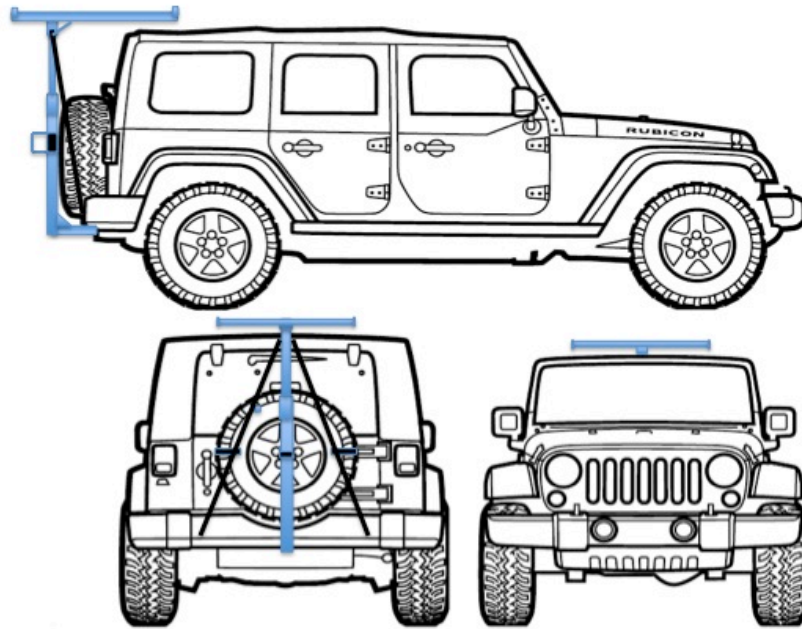
## STEP 7: Connect 6' cam straps.

Insert the S-hook of the cam buckle end of the 6' strap system into the loop on both sides of the upper base unit (or use the cross bar endcap strap points). Ensure the cam buckles will face skyward when tightened. Insert the S-hook of the running end of the strap system into an attaching point on bumper (if you have clevis or other attachments) or under your rear bumper (the bumper braces on each side or an equally strong attaching point – avoid plastic anchors). If you have no suitable anchor points, run the straps around the spare tire and attach on the equipment cutouts on the trailer hitch.

Slide the running end of the strap into the cam buckle and begin to tighten. The straps should be positioned on the outside edge of the spare tire. Alternately pull tension on each side and check to ensure the rack system is straight and level (not leaning to one side).

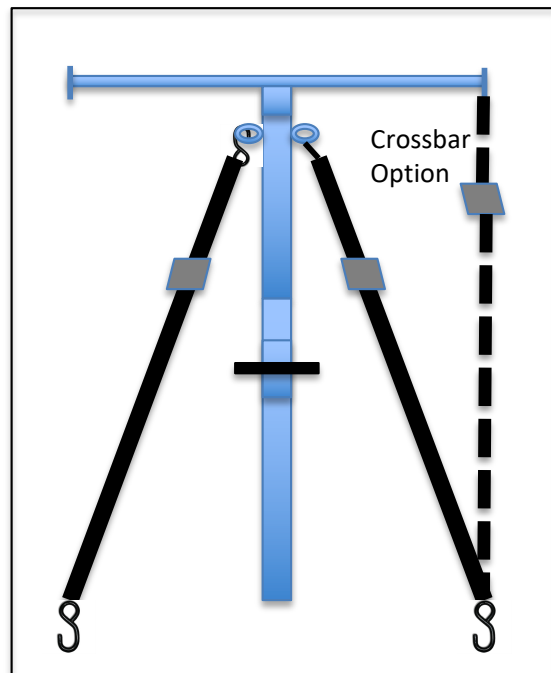


# Assembly Safety Checks



## STEP 8: Safety Check before loading

- A. Check to ensure hitch pin and clip are securely connecting the Hitchmount-RACK to your OEM trailer hitch.
- B. Check to ensure your Centerpoint Adjustable Sleeve 4' cam strap is secure to limit rack movement forward and aft.
- C. If your rack is not abutted against your spare tire – use some wood, rubber or plastic as a wedge to ensure a tight fit between the rack and spare tire.
- D. Check to ensure your rack is straight and not leaning to one side.
- E. Check to ensure your 6' cam straps are secure and limit rack movement left and right.
- F. Ensure your rack is 2" above the top of your vehicle.
- G. Measure and note the new height of your vehicle with the Hitchmount-RACK.



## STEP 9: Safety Check after loading

- A. Ensure you have not exceeded 140 lbs and 12' length (without support straps) capability of the Hitchmount-RACK.
- B. Ensure you follow manufacturers instructions if you have added load attachments/accessories to the Hitchmount-RACK.
- C. After adding any load to the Hitchmount-RACK, pull tension on each of the 6' cam straps and check the to ensure the rack system is straight and level (not leaning to one side).
- D. Measure and note new height and length of your vehicle with your Hitchmount-RACK and load.
- E. Affix safety lights, flag, strobe or other device per local and state laws.

# Removing your Hitchmount-RACK

1

STEP 1: Disconnect straps.

1A. Undo the 4' cam strap on the Centerpoint Adjustable Sleeve

1B. Loosen the 6' cam strap attached to each bumper. Remove the S-hook and loop it back to the attaching point on the upper rack unit.

2

STEP 2: Disconnect the Hitch Pin

2A. Remove the clip and slide the hitch pin out the trailer hitch.

2B. Place the hitch pin into the hitch pin holder.

3

STEP 3: Remove the Hitchmount-RACK

Grasp the handle on the Center-point Adjustable Sleeve and the vertical upright of the Upper Base Unit. Gently slide the Lower Base Unit out of the trailer hitch and lean away from the vehicle. **Note the Hitchmount-RACK is top heavy**

