



Southwest Speed Billet Hood Hinge Kit Installation Instructions 1955-1956 Chevy Car (SWS # 890-1026)

If you plan to disassemble the hinges before installation for polishing or plating you should know that all the bolts are assembled with blue Loctite. This should be done again when hinges are reassembled.

Also, note when disassembling the hinges, that there are two small washers to provide clearance for the pivot bearings on the forward support arms. Make sure that they are replaced when the hinges are reassembled.

Packing List:

- 1 – Right hinge assembly
- 1 – Left hinge assembly
- 4 – 3/8" x 1-1/8" button head bolts with washers for attaching hinge body to the firewall
- 4 – 5/16" x 3/4" button head bolts with washers for attaching hinge bracket to hood
- 2 -aluminum apron blocks
- 4 - 1/4" x 20 x 7/8" button head bolt w/nuts for securing the aluminum apron block
- 2 – Gas springs - **NOTE gas springs must be installed with the larger barrel above the rod or they will fail.**

CAUTION: Make sure ALL bolts are not too long for your application.

Tools Needed:

- 5/16" Socket, open end or box end for removing factory hinges
- 3/8" Socket
- 1/2" and 9/16" wrench
- Drill with 1/4" bit
- Allen wrench set
- Tape measure

Installation Steps

1. Remove hood
2. Remove factory hinges and hand tighten a button head bolt where each hinge bolt was removed. If the threads are damaged or corroded re-tap as needed.
3. Install new hinge to firewall with the 3/8" x 1-1/8" bolts. Push the hinge up as far as it will go on the mounting bolts. Hold the hinge in this position and tighten the bolts.
4. Please refer to (Image #1) below for the next step. You will need to measure 14_3/4" from the center of the top fender mounting bolt toward the front of the car. This is where you will drill the first hole for the aluminum block as pictured in (Image #2). The second hole for

the aluminum block will be drilled approximately 1.5" further forward or 16.25" from the fender mounting bolt. This will allow for block adjustment approximately ¼" in either direction. Please note that aluminum block coming off hinge was for prototyping purposes only – your hinges will not have this additional piece.

Image #1



Image #2



5. Each hinge has a gas spring to hold the hood open. Please refer to (Image #3) for an example **NOTE:** When installing the spring attach the cylinder end of the spring to the front arm of the hinge and the rod end of the spring to the apron bracket.

Image #3



6. Before attaching the hood you will need to make sure that the hinges are closing square. To do so you will need to take and record a few measurements. Take the hood and measure the distance between the two rear mounting holes and record it. Then measure the distance between the two front mounting holes and record it. With the hinges installed to the fire wall you want to take the same measurements on the hood bracket mounting holes. The measurements from your hood should match the measurements from the hinges.

NOTE: HINGES MUST CLOSE SQUARE! THEY WILL NOT FLEX!

7. Attach the hood to the hinges with the 5/16" x 1" button head bolts. Slide the hood forward as far as possible tightening the bolts. This will assure that the hood will not hit the cowl as it is lowered. Lower the hood **carefully**, watching for clearance front and back as well as both sides. Adjust the hood on the hinge brackets as needed for the correct clearance.

8. Adjust the hood height. Once the hood closes completely, check the height of the hood at the rear corners.