



Southwest Speed Billet Hood Hinge Kit Installation Instructions 1957 Chevy Car (SWS # 890-1038)

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
- 2 – 3/8" x 1" button head bolts with thin washers for attaching center firewall bolts from passenger compartment.
- 1 – 3/8" x 1" button head bolt with thin washers for attaching hinge body to the firewall
- 4 – 5/16" x 3/4" button head bolts with 3/8" thick washer and 5/16" thin washer for attaching hinge bracket to hood
- 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
- Allen wrench set

Installation Steps

1. Remove hood
2. Remove factory hinges and try to hand tighten a button head bolt where each hinge bolt was removed. If the threads are damaged or corroded re-tap as needed. Install the gas spring onto the hinge. You will need to loosen the adjustable block on the bottom of the hinge to get the correct length for the gas spring to snap on. With the gas spring attached pre-load the gas spring by turning the bolt on the bottom of the adjustable block until it is about a 1/8" from the bottom the hinge. **NOTE gas springs must be installed with the larger barrel above the rod or they will fail.**

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. Before you attach the hood you need to make sure that the hinges will close square. Measure the hood to hinge mounting holes. Measuring across the hood, record the length between the front two mounting holes. Then record the measurement between the rear two mounting holes on the hood. With the hinges mounted to the car you will need to measure and record the length between the front two holes on the hood bracket. Do the same for the rear two holes on the hood bracket – just as you did on the hood. You are making sure that the measurements are close because the hinges will NOT FLEX.

NOTE: it may be necessary to loosen the inner fender bolts to adjust the hinge mounting surface in or out.

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

5. 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.

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

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