

#### WJ HIDDEN WINCH MOUNT

Installation Instructions Updated July 2020
Thank You for purchasing HK Offroad's WJ Hidden Winch Mount.
This product is made 100% by hand in the United States of America.

#### **Parts List**

Winch Mount
Two Frame Rail Sandwich Plates
Eight Serrated Edge Flang Nuts & Bolts
Two Hood Latch Support Replacement Brackets
Two Replacement Bolts for Rear Holes M10x1.5x40

# **Tools Required**

Sawzall
Power Drill
Step Drill Bit
14mm Socket and 14mm Wrench
15mm Socket for Use on 10mm bolt
11mm Socket and 11mm Wrench

#### **Installation Instructions**

These steps were performed on a 2004 Special Edition Model.

Some parts may vary.

Also, your winch mount may look different than the one pictured in this booklet.

# **Front Bumper Removal**

#### Step 1:

- A) Remove two plastic clips which attach the wheel liner to the front bumper.
- B) Remove this screw with a 3/8 socket.





Step 2:
C) remove three plastic clips on the bottom of the bumper. These clips will be replaced by the nuts and bolts we provided.

Step 3: Open hood to Remove the front grill by pulling up on the top portion the front grill to release clips. Earlier models may be screwed on.









## Step 3:

D) remove four plastic clips which hold the bumper to the grill support. These clips will be replaced by the nuts and bolts we provided. Earlier models will be





screwed on. Step 4:

At this point the front bumper will slide off. Remove front bumper and set aside. Also remove the foam bumper insert from inner part of the bumper.

### Step 5:

E) Unscrew (4) T-30 torx screws from top of radiator support and (2) screws under headlights. These screws attach the headlight support to the radiator support.









Step 6: Unscrew two screws on the bottom of the headlight mount.





Step 7:G) Unclip this connection located near the passenger side headlight.





Step 8: H) Unscrew hood latch brackets with the T-30 Torx bit and remove both brackets. You will replace these by the longer brackets we have provided.





Step 9)
At this point, start to pull on the headlight support gently until it releases from the vehicle.

#### Step 10:

I) Once the headlight assembly is free, you must disconnect the headlight wires in order to fully remove the headlight support assembly. Using a flat head screwdriver, gently release the red locking clip on the headlight connection. Pull away both passenger side and driver side headlight connections.



Once headlight support assembly is removed, this is what you should be left with...



# **Cutting Cross-member and Grinding Surrounding Area**

#### Step 11:

J) Using a metal cutting power tool such as a Dremel, Hacksaw or Angle grinder with a cutting disc, cut out the center portion marked in red. Take your time and

wear proper eye, ear and Respiratory protection while cutting including leather gloves. BE CAREFUL not to accidentally cut any of your radiator or air conditioning hoses.

CUT THE FRONT, BOTTOM AND TOP completely out so you can easily cut the back side in the end.



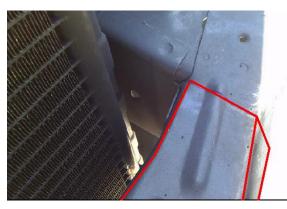
Update: If you have a sawzall, just cut right through both ends at the frame rails

Passenger side close up view of cutting lines....





Driver side close up view of cutting lines....











This is what you will be left with. If you cut anything more than this...prepare to buy a new Jeep or call your nearest welding company.....



These are the pieces you just cut out. Notice how thin and light weight they are. Now take notice the ¼" winch plate which will be replacing this piece. Now you can pat yourself on the back for making the right decision ©



After you are finished cutting, this is how your Jeep should look on both sides of the chassis. These edges will be very sharp so don't touch with bare fingers. Now it's time to get the angle grinder with the grinding disk.



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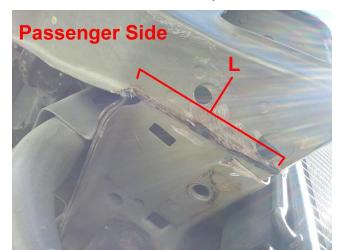
# Step 12:

Grind down the edges marked in the photo (K) down to a flat surface. The winch plate will sit tight and flat against the inner sides and underneath the chassis.



Step 13:

The bottom of the chassis has a small lip. Grind this lip down to a flat surface. This is where the winch plate will mount flat and even.





# **Installing Winch Mount**

Step 1: Locate and remove the factory bolt which is mounted in front of the sway bar. Remove both driver and passenger side. These may be plastic covers on some models. Remove them.



Step 2: Install the Hood Latch Support Brackets we have provided.



Step 3: Be sure bracket is installed behind latch release cable.



# Step 4:

Place Winch Mounting
Plate in its mounting
location and the two frame
rail sandwich plates on
both driver and passenger
side. Tighten these four
bolts using 14mm socket
so the mounting plate is
mounted flush with the
vehicles chassis. We will
loosen and retighten these
bolts again for final
mounting.



#### Step 5:

Using a power drill and a 3/8" Drill Bit, drill 4 holes in the vehicles chassis through the four holes on the side mounts. It will be easier to start with a smaller drill bit first, such as a 3/16 drill bit, then move up to a 3/8". See pictures below.



Step 6: Once all 4 holes have been drilled, install hardware, do not tighten.











Step 8:

Install all bolts through Winch Mounting Plate and Washer Plate. Do not tighten just yet. Now install the factory bolts which you removed earlier. The factory bolts will be very tight and will require some torque. Tighten all bolts. Be sure all 10 bolts are nice and tight! Now you have a sturdy winch mount. Time to trim and install the bumper.

Step 9: REINSTALL THE HEADLIGHT SUPPORT BRACKET. You will have to remove and reinstall one final time.

# Trimming the Front Bumper Special Edition.

# For the Limited Bumper, follow these instructions and check pictures of page 15.

The bumper trimmed in this instructional manual is from a 2004 Grand Cherokee Special Edition. Your bumper may vary in style and design. It is best to follow the lines we outline in the photos for the easiest trimming.

1) Lay your bumper on a solid surface such as a table.



2) Cut along this line.



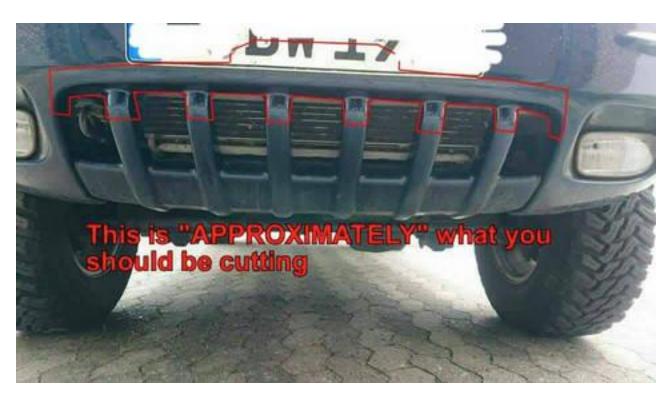
- 3) This step is important in making sure to cut out the location of the fairlead hawse. Once the lower grill portion of your bumper is cut out, remount the bumper to your vehicle and install ONLY the two bolts on side fenders and the 4 bolts on the headlight support.
- 4) Cut out a small piece of the bumper (dead Center) the same width of the opening on the mount, just enough to show the mounting holes for the fairlead. After the holes are visible and this small piece have been removed, attach the fairlead hawse to the winch mount with the bolts provided by the manufacturer.
- 5) Draw a line around the fairlead hawse to be cut out.
- 6) Remove the fairlead hawse and proceed to cut out the new line drawn which will match the exact shape of the fairlead.



Your end result will look something like this.

7) Remove the front bumper and the headlight support to install your winch.
BEFORE YOU INSTALL YOU WINCH YOU MUST ROTATE THE CABLE RELEASE CLUTCH. PROCEED TO THE NEXT PAGE.







This is what your final install should look like. The lower plastic "7-slot" grill should rest under the winch mount.



# **Installing The Winch**

Before installing the winch, you have to rotate the cable release clutch. By rotating this clutch slightly forward, it allows access to it with only a small cut on top of the bumper.

This is a picture of the winch with the clutch release in its normal position:



This is a picture of the clutch rotated forward and this is really easy to do as we show you in the next photo:



Unscrew all the bolts on the side of the winch where the clutch is located. No need to open the winch. Once the bolts are out, simply rotate the clutch forward. Reinstall the bolts and your good to go.



# NOW, YOU MAY INSTALL YOUR WINCH. DO NOT INSTALL THE SOLENOID BOX ON TOP OF THE WINCH JUST YET. PROCEED TO THE NEXT PAGE.

After your winch is installed, cut a small opening where the clutch release is located.



This image shows the winch installed with the clutch rotated forward and the small cut out in the headlight support.

Note: You'll cut another hole in the same location after you install the bumper.



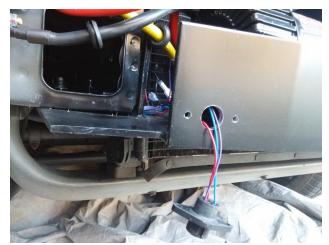
# **Installing the Solenoid**

This step is optional. It is up to you to decide where you want to Install your solenoid. We have provided this final step to show Where we installed ours and we are happy with the location.

#### Regarding the Solenoid Box:

The solenoid box houses the solenoid for the winch. If you choose to mount the solenoid box in its original location, you'll have to cut the front grill and we really don't want to cut the front grill since that's the point of the hidden winch mount. We simply unscrewed the control box (4-screws) and took its contents out and mounted it close to the winch, on the Jeep itself.

We mounted the remote control plug on the front plate of the winch mount by drilling a one inch hole in the plate. You can decide to mount the plug anywhere you like. You'll just have to extend the wires to reach its destination.





This is where we mounted our solenoid and this is all covered by the bumper. The two black plastic pieces you see to the left of the winch, is what's inside the big black box that goes on top of the winch. Every winch has a different looking solenoid.

Note: Before we took anything out of the black box, we simply snapped a few photos of the connected wires so we connected everything back to where they came off.

