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Rough Country 10603 Installation Instructions

Steel Tailgate Reinforcement for Jeep Wrangler (2018–2025)

Part number: 10603

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Scan for fitment, price and install help

ROUGH COUNTRY SUSPENSION SYSTEMS®

10603BAG

2018 - UP JLU/JL Tailgate Brace

Thank you for choosing Rough Country for all of your suspension needs.

Rough Country recommends that a certified technician install this system. In addition to these instructions, professional knowledge of disassemble/reassembly procedures as well as post installation checks must be known. Attempts to install this system without this knowledge and expertise may jeopardize the integrity and/or operating safety of the vehicle. Please read all the instructions before beginning the installation. Check the kit hardware against the ''Kit Contents'' list below. If question exist, please call us @1-800-222-7023. We will be happy to answer any questions concerning this product. Check all fasteners for proper torque. Check to ensure for adequate clearance between all components. Check and retighten wheels at 50 miles and again at 500 miles. Periodically check all hardware for tightness. Be sure you have all the needed parts and understand where they go. Also, please review the "Tools Needed" list to be certain you have the necessary tools to complete the installation.

PRODUCT USE INFORMATION

⚠WARNING As a general rule, the taller a vehicle is the easier it will roll. We strongly recommend that seat belts and shoulder harnesses be worn at all times. Braking performance and capabilities are decreased when significantly larger/ heavier tires and wheels are used. Do not add, alter, or fabricate any factory or after-market parts which increase vehicle height over the intended height of the Rough Country product purchased. Rough Country makes no claims regarding lifting devices and excludes any and all implied claims. We will not be responsible for any product that is altered.

NOTICE TO DEALER AND VEHICLE OWNER

⚠NOTICE Any vehicle equipped with any Rough country product must have the "Warning to Driver" decal installed on the sun visor or dash. The decal is to act as a constant reminder for whoever is operating the vehicle of its unique handling characteristics. INSTALLING DEALER - It is your responsibility to install the warning decal and to forward these installation instructions on too the vehicle owner for review and to be kept in the vehicle for its service life.



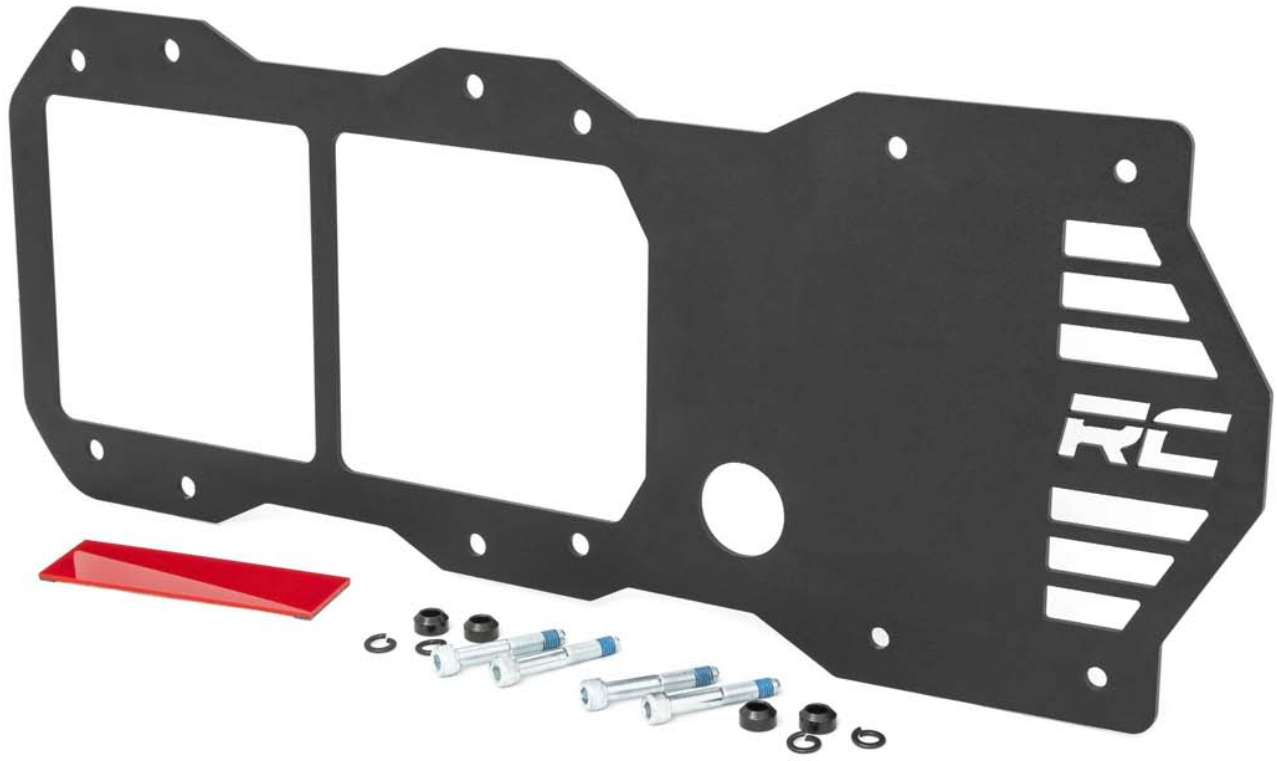
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2018 - UP JLU/JL Tailgate Brace

TOOLS NEEDED:
T55
Metric Wrench/Socket
13mm
8mm Allen

KIT CONTENTS:
Tailgate Brace (1)
Red Accent Plate (1)
Hinge Spacers (4)

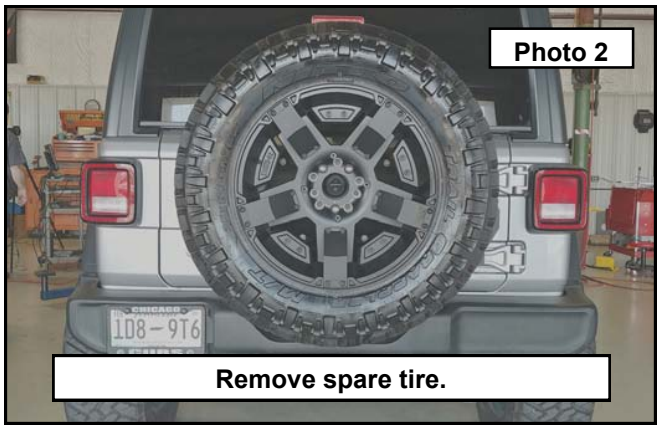
HARDWARE INCLUDED:
10mm x 65mm Bolt (4)
10mm Lock Washer (4)



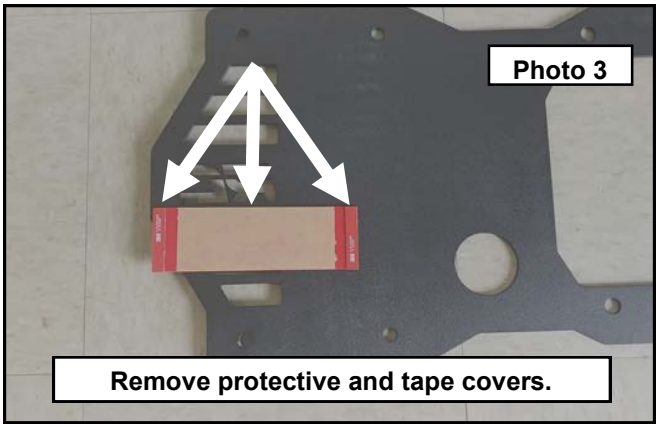
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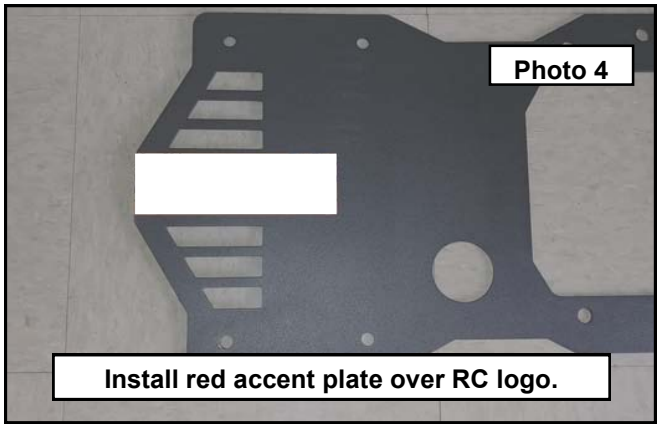
1. Park the vehicle on a clean flat surface.
2. Remove the back up camera cover if still installed. Some aftermarket wheels may not have this cover in place due to fitment with a center cap. **Photo 1**
3. Remove the spare tire from the tire carrier. **Photo 2**





4. Prepare the tailgate brace by installing the red accent plate to the back of the tailgate brace by removing the protective film and 3m backing if so desired (leaving off will show the paint color of the vehicle behind the cut out). **Photo 3**
5. Stick the plate over the RC logo and press firmly for about 30 seconds to make sure it adheres to the plate. **Photo 4**





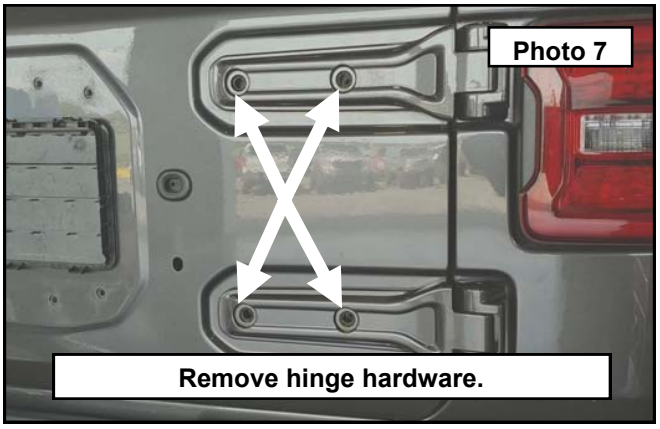
6. Have a helper hold the tire carrier while you remove the 8 bolts from the tailgate using a 13mm socket. **Photo 5**
7. Wrap the spare tire carrier in a protective covering or blanket so as to not scratch any paint or the bumper. Set on a stand while leaning against the bumper. **DO NOT** hang from the wire harness. **Photo 6**

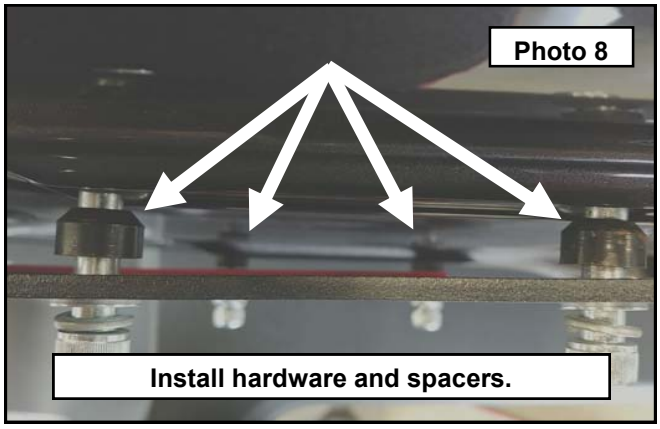




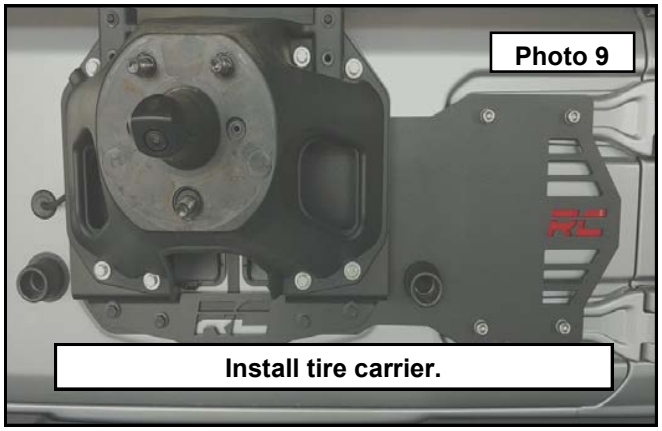
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8. Remove the door hinge hardware from the tailgate using a T55 socket. **Photo 7**
9. Install the tailgate brace hinge hardware and the hinge spacers with the beveled end towards the hinge using a 8mm Allen wrench. As you hold the brace up to the tailgate, make sure the door vents are fitting inside the opening on the brace. You may have to shift the brace around the vents and then slide back towards the door hinge. Not checking this can result in a fitment issue against the door vent and cause you to have to remove the brace and install again. Start all the hardware but do not tighten at this time. **Photo 8**





10. If installing the spare tire relocation plate (shown installed in the picture), do so using the stock hardware but **DO NOT** tighten fully. Then install the factory spare tire carrier using the provided hardware in the relocation plate box. If not installing the spare tire relocation plate, install the spare tire carrier to the tailgate brace and the tailgate using the factory hardware and 13mm socket. DO NOT fully tighten at this time. **Photo 9**
11. Make sure all hardware is started and the tailgate is centered on the hinges (adjust as necessary). Torque the hinge hardware to **45 ft-lbs** and the tire carrier hardware to **30 ft-lbs**.
12. Install the spare tire. **Photo 10**





By purchasing any item sold by Rough Country, LLC, the buyer expressly warrants that he/she is in compliance with all applicable , State, and Local laws and regulations regarding the purchase, ownership, and use of the item. It shall be the buyers responsibility to comply with all Federal, State and Local laws governing the sales of any items listed, illustrated or sold. The buyer expressly agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Rough Country, LLC for all claims resulting directly or indirectly from the purchase, ownership, or use of the items.

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