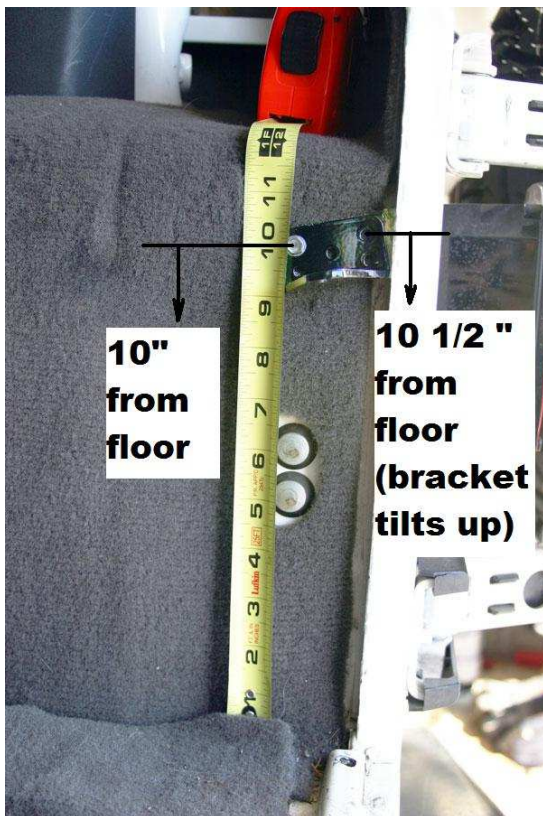


# Installing the HoodLift® Jeep® YJ/TJ TailGate Prop



Here it is installed just like yours will be in a few minutes. Note that the gas spring is installed on a slant with the big end up. That is because the spring is filled with nitrogen to supply the opening pressure plus a small amount of oil. The oil lubricates the seal and also causes the spring to come to a dampened stop when it gets to the end of the stroke. Mounting the spring straight or body-end down will allow the nitrogen to leak out of the un-lubricated seal plus the tailgate won't come to the smooth stop that yours will when you install it this way.

So here we go. (Tools needed and material list on pg 3 & 4)



1. Find the Large L-shaped bracket. You will be putting a ball-stud in the large hole of this bracket, but don't put it on there yet.

Position the bracket near the hinges on the passenger side rear, inside storage space with the top front hole 10" above the floor of the Jeep. The rear of the bracket must rest against the rear metal of the jeep. Tilt it up so the rear mounting hole is about 1/2" higher than the front one to accommodate the slanted gas spring. The illustration shows the front mounting screw already driven in.

*Note! After some of these photos were taken, we improved the gas springs by replacing the plastic ball stud ends with metal ones and replaced the small*



**Improved Small bracket**

*ball stud bracket on the door with a much stronger one with a separate ball stud, similar to the large bracket. This attention to quality is one of the reasons you are installing the very best product available on your beloved Jeep!*

2. Get your trusty drill motor and drive in the remaining self-tapping screws. Use a star washer on each screw. Be sure not to over-torque them with a powerful plug-in drill motor. We like to use an adjustable speed battery-powered one and set the adjustable clutch so it clicks when the screw gets tight. You can final-set them with a 5/16" socket, wrist tight. If you do happen to strip them, you can drill out the holes with a #10 or a 13/64" drill and use 3/16" pop rivets. You can find the rivets in the electrical section, oddly enough, of Lowes Hardware and other places. *Actually 5 screws are overkill. If only one is stripped or broken, the remaining 4 should do the job nicely.*

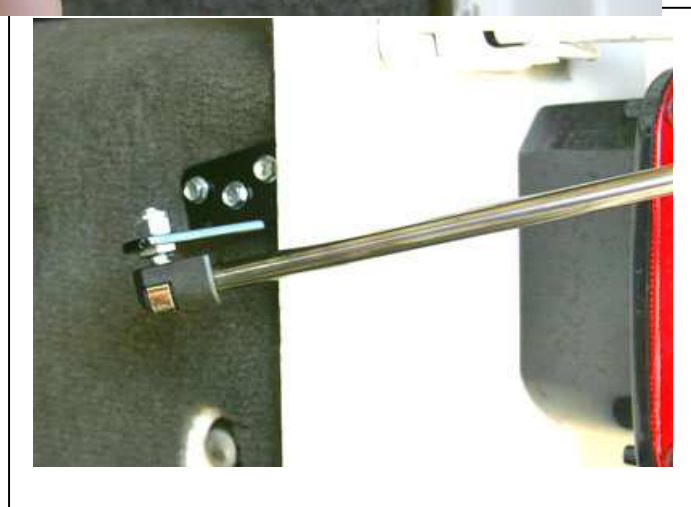


3. Then put the ball stud onto the bracket with the ball **DOWN** and tighten nut.



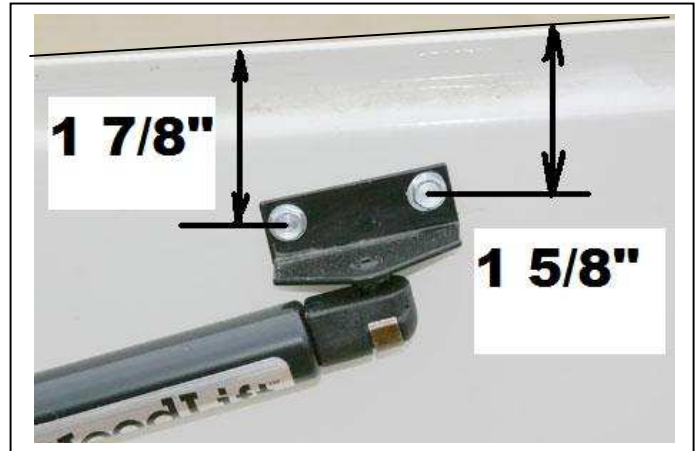
4. Snap on the small end of the gas spring to the large bracket. Open the tailgate **all the way to the stop** so you can position the small bracket. You will be installing that bracket so the spring pushes the tailgate all the way to the Jeep's stop.

*It is important that the Jeep's tailgate opens all the way to the tailgate stop! If the gas spring becomes the limiting stop, something will break!*



*If you ever have to remove a gas spring, you can do so by slipping a small screwdriver under the small spring-clip on the end and pulling it up to release it. The spring will just snap back on to the ball stud when you reinstall it.*

5. Snap on the small bracket to the large end of the gas spring. **With the tailgate pushed (by you) against the Jeep's stop, mark the location where the outer (small) bracket lands on the tail gate.** Make the outermost screw be 1 5/8" inches from the top of the tail gate. The other screw should be about 1/4" lower. You will be able to easily see where it goes by putting in the outer screw first without tightening it all the way, then aligning the bracket with the slanted spring. Aligning it exactly with the gas spring is *not* super-critical.



Drive in both screws, using the supplied star washers. You can choose to remove the small bracket from the gas spring if this makes holding everything in place easier.



6. Snap on your gas spring if you took it off to drive in the screws and see how nicely everything works. It should open by itself smoothly to a dampened stop. You should be able to close it easily with moderate pressure.

Enjoy your HoodLift® TailGate Prop! Be sure to call or email us if you have any suggestions on how to improve it or the instructions. We and your fellow four wheelers will appreciate it!

1-888-220-6861

[www.hoodlift.com](http://www.hoodlift.com)

Tools you will need

- Drill motor
- Measuring tape
- 5/16" nut driver
- 1/2" end wrench
- 1/2" socket wrench and ratchet wrench (or just two 1/2" end wrenches)
- Socket driver and extension
- 5/16" socket wrench or 5/16" combo end wrench



Materials included

1 Gas Spring  
7 star lockwashers  
1 large bracket  
1 small bracket

7 #10 self driving screws  
ball stud  
self-locking nut

**Do you have a HoodLift®? Go to [www.hoodlift.com](http://www.hoodlift.com) and check them out!**

No more fooling with that awkward and dangerous prop rod. Your hood opens as easily as your tailgate will with the HoodLift® TailGate Prop.

