



"FLAT BACK" TJ & LJ **Wrangler Drop Down Tailgate** **Installation Instructions.**

First off let me say thanks for purchasing this kit. If you have any questions during the installation of this kit send us an email, troy@swagoffroad.com .

NOTE: Grease all stainless steel fasteners with grease, failure to do so will gall the threads and permanently fuse the bolt in place.

NOTE: Some brackets in these instructions are prototype parts; your brackets may be different.

Paint all steel brackets and gather up all necessary tools:

- ✓ Allen Wrench Set
- ✓ Common screwdriver
- ✓ Wrenches, 7/16", 1/2" and 9/16"
- ✓ Socket, 5/16", 7/16" & 1/2" deep well
- ✓ Electric drill.
- ✓ Tap 5/16" x 18tpi
- ✓ Drill bit set, up to 5/8"
- ✓ Impact wrench or impact screwdriver
- ✓ T-40 Torx bit
- ✓ Hammer
- ✓ Center Punch
- ✓ Pop Rivet Tool
- ✓ Bubble level
- ✓ Air powered die grinder with bit

STEP 1:

If you haven't already done so you will need to remove the following:

- The factory brake light and wiring above the spare tire
- Spare tire, and tire mounting bracket.
- On the inside of you tailgate, on the passenger side remove the plastic box and all internals.
- Your tail gate and rear portion of the passenger tub should be stripped down to look like the picture below.





STEP 2:

Using a die grinder, you will need to provide clearance for the factory catch-latch. Grind ~1/8" of material away from the bottom catch, as pointed out by the end of the bit shown below. This modification will allow the tailgate to easily unlock when the drop down tailgate kit is installed.



STEP 3:

With your tailgate closed use a T-40 torx bit and impact hammer or a 1/2" socket depending upon which method your hinges are attached and remove the bottom hinge. New stainless steel fasteners are provided in the kit so don't worry about destroying your factory fasteners.



Align and install the aluminum panel using the two mounting holes on the passenger side of the tailgate. Using the aluminum panel as a template, mark the 6 holes to be drilled in your tailgate, shown by the red arrows below.



STEP 4:

Using a center punch and hammer drill the 6 holes you previously marked. The bottom 4 holes along the edge of your tailgate will be drilled out to 5/8" diameter, do not drill through the entire tailgate, only the outside layer. The two top holes will be drilled out to 21/64" diameter and you will drill through the entire tailgate (both sides).



Enlarge the two 21/64" holes on the inside of your tailgate to 1/2" diameter. This will allow you to pass a 1/2" deep wall socket into the hole and tighten the aluminum panel to the tailgate.



The SWAG dropdown tailgate kit is made up of aluminum parts. Every batch of aluminum had a different surface finish and brightness from batch to batch.

If you are not painting your aluminum parts, then we recommend using a green scouring pad. This will shine up the parts and give them a uniform look by evenly scratching the entire aluminum panel. It works great for hiding fingerprints, scratches as well as removing oxidation. This is best done before the parts are installed.



STEP 5:

Install the hinges as show below using the provided (4) 5/16” stainless steel bolts and 5/16” nuts. Align the hinges to they are perpendicular to the aluminum panel then tighten them as you will not have access to the backside of the nuts when the plate is installed on your Jeep.

Note use grease on all stainless fasteners to prevent galling of the threads.



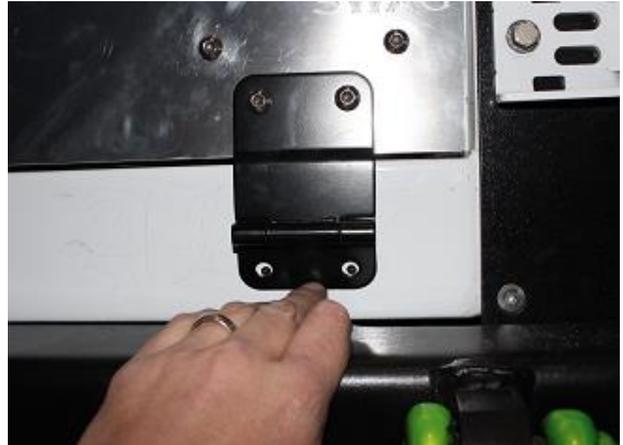
Install the aluminum panel on the tailgate using the provided 5/16" SS fasteners on the passenger side. On the driver side install the 5/16" ss fasteners, and on the backside install the 5/16" washers and nuts. Tighten the nuts with a 1/4" deep wall socket.



STEP 6:

The spacing between the tailgate and the Jeep tub should be equally spaced, if your tailgate is off to one side or the spacing is not equal on all three side then adjust the spacing before proceeding to the next step.

With your tailgate closed hold the bottom of the hinges against the jeep tub and mark the 4 hole locations to be drilled. Using a center punch and hammer drill the 4 holes you previously marked and drill out to 5/8" diameter, the outside layer only.





Using the provided 5/16" nuts and bolts, attach the bottom of the hinges to the bottom aluminum panel. Once the bottom panel is installed the backside of the nuts will not be accessible.....so tighten them securely and use grease to prevent the bolts from galling.

STEP 7:

With the tailgate closed and using the aluminum panel as a template drill out the 8 holes shown below to 3/16" diameter. Install the aluminum panel using the provided pop rivets. Please note we included an extra rivet for potential mistakes. You can now remove the remaining top hinge and install the provided three aluminum cover panels.



These panels are there to hide the bare primer spots that are exposed once the factory hinges are removed. They are optional as some people have aftermarket corner guards or are repainting the vehicle.

If you purchased the "FLAT BACK" Drop Down Tailgate Kit you will need to drill a 5/16" hole through the upper left hand side of the tailgate and install provided 5/16"x .75" stainless steel bolt, washer and lock nut then reinstall latch cover plate.



The aluminum panels on the passenger side of the tailgate are countersunk on one side if you are running 3/16" corner armor and want a uniform look, if you wish to install the provided button head bolts then flip the panel over as shown below.



At this point your tailgates should easily open and close, if it is binding then check for interference and adjust as necessary.

STEP 8:

Mark a spot on your tailgate down ~3.5" this is where we are going to mount the passenger side tailgate cable bracket.



The three remaining small brackets are formed out of steel and need to be painted prior to installation.

Install the passenger side bracket as shown below. Note, it is necessary to grind down the tip of the small screw after the initial hole is drilled through the tailgate to prevent the two opposing screws from interfering when installed.



Install the 3/8"x 1" SS bolt, 3/8" nyloc nut and 3/8" washers. When tightening the 3/8" bolt, the cable eyelet should be just loose enough so it can freely pivot around the bolt without rattling.

STEP 9:

Remove factory torx bolt and attach with 1/4" shoulder screw as shown.



STEP 10:

When installing the tailgate cable tub brackets, the tailgate should be ~2 degrees above horizontal, as the cable will stretch once weight is applied to the tailgate. Make sure there is equal tension on both cables to ensure the load on the tailgate will be shared equally.



The tailgate cable tub brackets are attached with (4) ¼” self-tapping screws. When tightening the 3/8”x1” SS bolt, nyloc nut and (1) 3/8” washers the cable eyelet should be just loose enough so it can freely pivot around the bolt with our rattling.

Note: The tailgate can hold 400 lbs. Anything over that amount you will bend the hinges.

