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’88-98 Chevy Solid Axle Conversion Instructions, Using ’85-97 Ford Dana 60 With 52” Long Springs

Quantity in kit	☑	Part
2		36.5" spring pad width main eye spring hanger 1 RH 1 LH, 52” springs
2		36.5" spring pad width rear eye shackle hanger 1 RH 1 LH, 52” springs
2		Solid axle conversion shackles, 3” mounting width
8		ORDB8002 Bushing halves
4		ORDB7003 Bushing halves
2		3" sleeves for 9/16" bolt
4		3-1/2” sleeves for 9/16” bolt
2		1" bolt spacer
2		9/16" x 5-1/2" Grade 8 bolts, greasable
4		9/16 x 5” Grade 8 bolts, greasable
6		9/16" top lock nuts
14		7/16" x 1-1/4" Grade 8 bolts
14		7/16" top lock nuts
28		7/16" washers
8		1/2" x 1-1/4" Grade 8 bolts
6		½” x 1-1/2” Grade 8 bolts
14		1/2" top lock nuts
28		1/2" washers

This kit uses rear springs from a 73-87 Chevy ½ ton truck, there is 3” of lift built into the brackets and moving rear springs to the front adds another 4-5” (stock rear springs net 7-8” total). This kit is designed for a 36.5” spring pad width, these are the ’85 and newer Ford Dana 60 front axles.

Remove all of the factory independent front suspension components and cut all

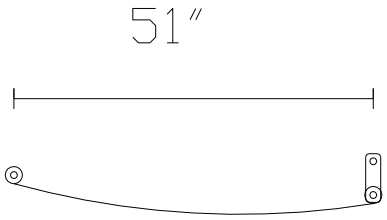
of the existing bracketry off such that you are left with a bare frame. Removal of the A-arm/engine crossmember is typically not necessary or recommended though some modifications may need to be made to the crossmember if the spring contacts it under full compression travel.

Install front hangers, additional holes will need to be drilled on the inside of each frame rail and in some cases, the holes in the bottom will need to be drilled as well. ½” x 1-1/2” bolts go in the outside of the frame rail to account for the bumper bracket, ½” x 1-1/4” bolts go on the inside and 7/16” x 1-1/4” bolts go in the bottom.

Brackets shown are for the 32” spring pad kit but the concept is the same

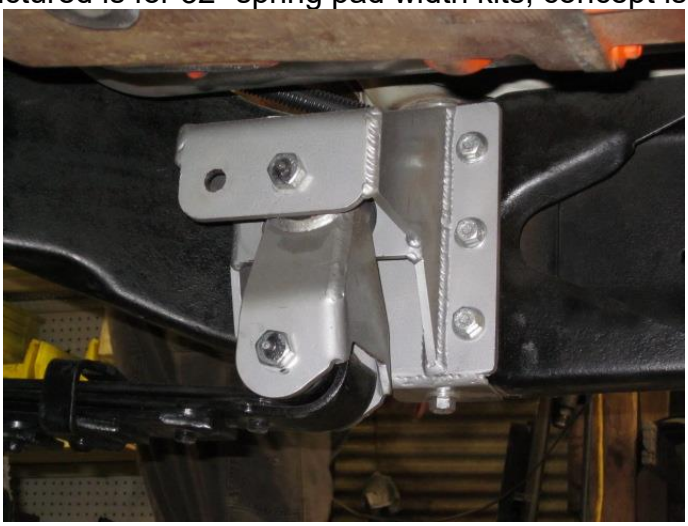
Position rear hanger such that the distance from the main eye centerline to the upper shackle bolt is 51”. You will be using the rearward most shackle bolt

location, the bent piece of the bracket goes towards the front of the truck.



This is the passenger’s side rear shackle hanger bracket, the notched and bent piece goes towards the front of the truck:

Bracket pictured is for 32” spring pad width kits, concept is the same



When using stock rear springs from a ’73-87 ½ ton Chevy you will be using the rear shackle bolt hole in these brackets

Mark all of the holes that you have access to and remove bracket, mark the bolt hole for the shackle as well. Using the template, mark the remaining holes on the frame and drill them with a ½” drill bit. You will need to use a hole saw to create a clearance hole for the bolt/nut that go through the shackle, a 1.25” hole saw works fine.

ORDB7003 bushings go in the front of the front spring, ORDB8002 bushings go in the back of the front spring and the shackles.

Install brackets on both sides, then install the shackles into the rearward most hole with the open end pointing forward. **You will need to install the supplied spacers on the frame side of the bolts that go through the shackle, the clearance hole and spacer are to allow you access to the nut that is now inside the frame rail.**

Install springs. Torque the 7/16” hardware to 38 ft. lbs., torque the ½” hardware to 59 ft. lbs. Torque the bolts that run through the leaf springs (9/16” or ½”) to 40 ft. lbs., with more torque than that you run the risk of crushing the sleeve in the bushing