### Section I – Installation Preparation

#### **Kit Contents**

Item #	Quantity Reqd.	Description
1	4	End Castings
2	2	Tubes
3	1	Hardware kit
4	4	Rubber expanders
5	4	Rubber Spacers (Tundra Only)

### Hardware Kit Contents

Item #	Quantity Reqd.	Description
1	4	5/16" X 4.5" Bolts
2	4	Black Gaskets

### **Additional Items Required For Installation**

Item #	Quantity Reqd.	Description
1	None	

### **Recommended Tools**

Safety Tools	
Eye Protection (if drilling)	
Special Tools	
Corded or Cordless Drill	
(if drilling)	
Torque Wrench	
<b>Installation Tools</b>	
1/4" Allen wrench	
5/16" Drill bit (if drilling)	
Special Chemicals	
Streak free cleaner	Automotive wax

# **Recommended Sequence of Application**

Item #	Accessory	
1	Bolt hardware to	
	castings	
2	Insert castings into	
	tube	
3	Insert assembly into	
	stake pockets	

## Legend

STOP	<b>STOP:</b> Damage to the vehicle may occur. Do not proceed until process has been complied with.
	<b>OPERATOR SAFETY:</b> Use caution to avoid risk of
	injury.
V	<b><u>CRITICAL PROCESS</u></b> : Proceed with caution to ensure a quality installation. These points will be audited on a completed vehicle installation.
	GENERAL PROCESS: This highlights specific
	processes to ensure a quality installation. These points will be audited during the accessory installation.
	TOOLS & EQUIPMENT: Calls out the specific tools and equipment recommended for this process.
	<b><u>REVISION MARK</u></b> : This mark highlights a change in installation with respect to previous issue.

FOR TECHNICAL ASSITANCE CALL 1-800-247-3974 Monday –Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm (CST)

## A. Pre-installation Preparation

- ➡ 1. Verify kit contents.
- Remove protective wrapping from tubes and castings. Place on a non-abrasive surface.
- > 3. Remove the hardware from the box.

### B. Assemble castings and mounting hardware

- Put plastic sleeve on bolt and insert bolt through the top of the casting
- Insert the gasket, expander, and threaded plate on the bottom and finger tighten. If installing on a drill mount application, you will not need the rubber expander.(Figure B1)
- A. **IMPORTANT:** If installing with a tool box only assemble two of the castings. If vehicle does not have stake holes skip this step 2.
- B. <u>IMPORTANT</u>: If installing on the Tundra the rear will need a rubber spacer between the plastic bed cap and the metal be rail. (see Figure B2)

### C. Insert the casting into the tubes

- 1. Insert a casting into each end of the tube.
  - i. <u>IMPORTANT</u>: if installing with a tool box place one assembled casting on each tube.
  - ii. <u>IMPORTANT</u>: if tube is tight on casting use a rubber mallet to install. Be careful not to scratch the casting.

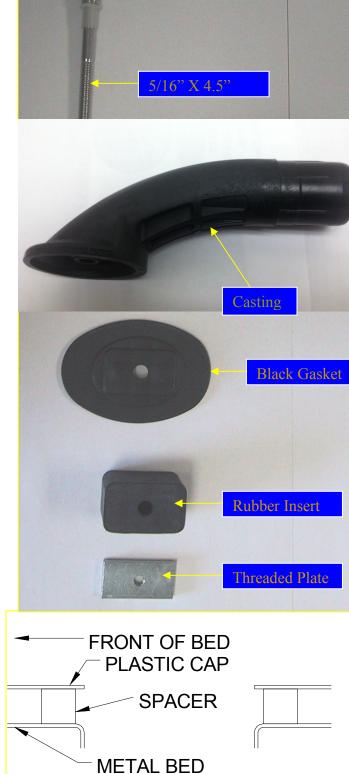


Figure B1

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Figure B2

## D. Install assembled rail on truck with stake pockets

- 1. Insert the assembled rail into the stake pockets on the vehicle.
  - i. On the 1997-2004 Ford F-Series, to help conceal the stake pocket opening, we recommend you drill a 5/16" hole through the center of the plastic cap that covers the stake pocket, this cap was installed by Ford at the time the vehicle was manufactured. On 2004-2005 F150 trucks you will have to cut a hole in the plastic cap to access the stake pocket.
- Torque Allen head bolts to approximately 27 lbs/ft.



# 3. IMPORTANT: DO NOT EXCEED THE RECOMMENDED TORQUE VALUE!

## E. Install assembled rail on truck with tool box

- 1. Place a casting, with out the bolt, gasket, expander or back plate, into the open end of the tube.
- 2. Place assembled tube onto truck by inserting the back plate and expander of the assembled casting into the rear stake pocket.
- 3. Center the front casting, left to right, on your truck's bed rail near the toolbox.
- 4. Mark the center of the hole in the casting on your truck's bed rail.
- 5. Using your drill and 5/16" drill bit, center the drill bit on the mark you made from Step 4 above and drill straight through the bed rail of your truck.
- 6. Place the rail assembly back onto the bed of your truck, again by placing the back plate and expander into the rear stake pocket of the same side you just drilled.
- 7. At the front casting, place a 5/16"X4.5" bolt through the casting, oval gasket and the hole you drilled in Step 5. Thread a back plate onto the bolt and hand tighten.

**IMPORTANT**: Due to the strength on 99-up Chevy Silverado /GMC Sierra pickups, Putco recommends using a bed rail protector between the rail and the truck bed when not mounting into a stake pocket.

- 8. Repeat the steps in this section for other side. Fig. D1
- F. Install assembled rail on truck without stake pockets
  - 1. Set assembled rail on vehicle so that there is equal distance in front of and behind the rail. The casing should be centered on the bed rail left to right.
  - 2. Mark the location of the hole in the casting on your truck's bed rail and remove the assembled rail
  - 3. Using your drill and 5/16" drill bit, center the drill bit on the mark(s) you made from Step 2 above and drill straight through the bed rail of your truck.

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Fig. D1

- 4. Place the assembled rail on bed with a gasket between the casting and the bed.
- 5. Insert a 5/16" X 4.5" Full threaded bolt through each casting, gasket, and bed rail then place a threaded plate on the bottom.
- i. <u>IMPORTANT</u>: Due to the strength on 99-up Chevy Silverado /GMC Sierra pickups, Putco recommends using a bed rail protector between the rail and the truck bed when not mounting into a stake pocket.

## G. Clean rails

- ▶ 1. Clean the rails with a streak free cleaner.
- → 2. Apply a protective coating of high quality automotive wax.