



Strong As An Ox™

## **BX2117 Installation Instructions 1993-97 Ford Ranger 2WD & 4WD Without Fog Lights**

Utilization of Blue Ox baseplates with any tow bar not approved by Automatic Equipment Mfg. Company invalidates the limited warranty.

Installation of this baseplate requires loosening/removing the bumper, the plastic air dam, and the belly pan. The lower air dam will have to be notched to clear the mount tabs.

1. Read the General Instruction Sheet included with this baseplate.
2. The baseplate mounts to the vehicle using the four bolts that mount the bumper to the frame and two bolts into the frame. All bolts are provided with the baseplate.
3. The bumper of the pickup will be loosened and/or removed during the installation. Before starting, take some measurements between the top of the bumper and the body of the truck so the bumper can be replaced in its original position.
4. The bottom strip of plastic on the bumper is bolted to the rest of the bumper. Using a 8mm socket, remove the nine bolts that attach the plastic air dam from the bottom of the bumper.
5. The bumper bolts to brackets welded to the inside of each frame rail. When the baseplate is installed, the bumper mounts will be “sandwiched” between the baseplate and the frame brackets.
6. There may be a small belly pan in front of the radiator. Remove the two bolts with a 7mm socket, and slide the belly pan towards the passenger’s side about one inch, and pull down. Set the belly pan aside. Loosen the four bolts that attach the bumper to the frame with a 21mm socket. Remove the nuts from the bolts. The bumper is loose at this time and will move freely. Have an assistant hold the bumper up during this next step or remove it and set it aside.
7. Remove the bumper mount bolts and hold the baseplate up between the mounts in its approximate mounted position. These bolts will not be used again. The outside rear mounts on the baseplate will match up with a slot on the frame rail on each side. Set the baseplate aside and guide a nut plate up through the slot. Position the plate with the weld nut up. Additional access to the plate can be made through a triangular opening on the side of the frame.
8. With an assistant, hold the bumper and baseplate in position between the frame brackets. Start the 12mm x 40mm bolts and flat washers provided with the baseplate through the slots from inside out. Once all the bolts are installed and nuts started to hold them in position, start the 1/2” x 1 1/2” bolts and lock washers through the rear mounts into the nut plates in the frame. Apply Loctite before starting.

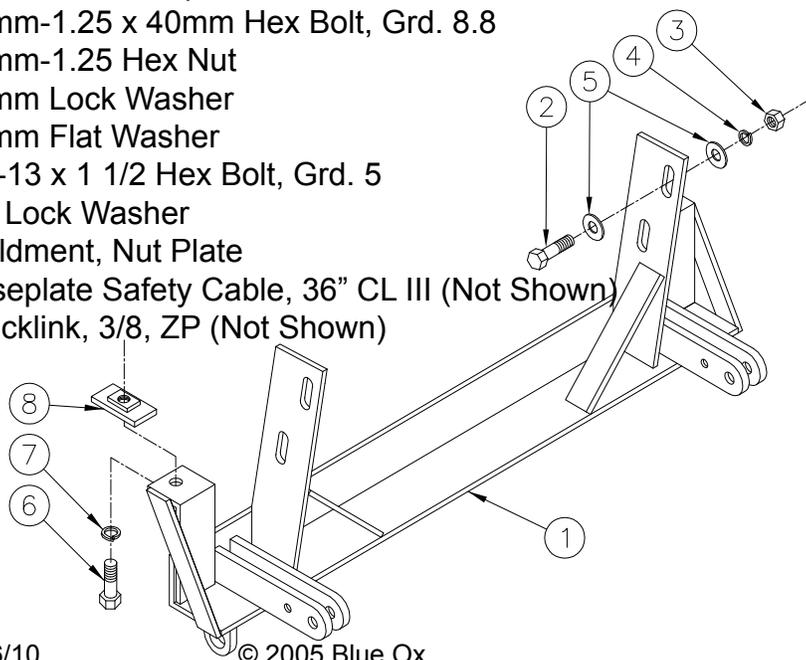
9. One at a time, remove the nuts from the bumper mount bolts and apply Loctite to the bolts. Install the nut, flat and lock washers to the bolts and snug up the bolts. Check the adjustment of the bumper with the measurements taken in Step 3. When the bumper is properly positioned, tighten the four bolts completely with a 19mm socket and wrench. The 1/2" bolts can now be tightened with a 3/4" socket.
10. Hold the lower air dam under the bumper approximately where it will be installed. Note where the tow bar mount tabs interfere. The plastic will have to be notched to clear the mount tabs. The notches will need to be approximately 1 1/2" wide and 1 3/4" tall. When the notches are cut, install the air dam.
11. The dimensional variations between otherwise identical cars can be considerable. While the location and size of the holes in the baseplate were designed to allow for easy installation, it may be necessary to file a hole slightly to allow a bolt to clear.
12. Install the tow bar and safety cables according to the instructions included in their packages.
13. Do not substitute other devices if the tow bar pin and clip are lost.
14. **DEALER OR INSTALLER: BE CERTAIN THE USER RECEIVES THE INSTRUCTION SHEET.**

### Tools Required

8mm Socket	21mm Socket	19mm Socket
3/4" Socket	Utility Knife	Loctite Blue
7mm Socket		19mm Wrench

### Parts List

Ref. No.	Qty.	Part No.	Description
1	1	61-4539	Weldment, Baseplate, BX2117
2	4	201-0411	12mm-1.25 x 40mm Hex Bolt, Grd. 8.8
3	4	202-0120	12mm-1.25 Hex Nut
4	4	203-0105	12mm Lock Washer
5	8	203-0112	12mm Flat Washer
6	2	201-0051	1/2-13 x 1 1/2 Hex Bolt, Grd. 5
7	2	203-0012	1/2 Lock Washer
8	2	61-3950	Weldment, Nut Plate
	2	226-0046	Baseplate Safety Cable, 36" CL III (Not Shown)
	4	229-0359	Quicklink, 3/8, ZP (Not Shown)



# General Information

1. Ensure that your product(s) are registered online at [www.blueox.com](http://www.blueox.com). It is crucial to register your product(s) so that you may be alerted of product offerings, updates, upgrades, maintenance and safety bulletins, and/or recalls.
2. **It is the owner's responsibility to inspect all towing equipment for cracked welds, missing or worn parts and loose bolts before each towing trip.** Be sure to use Loctite® Red on all bolts and tighten to the recommended specifications.
3. **It is the owner's responsibility to hook up all towing equipment per manufacturer's instructions/recommendations.**
4. Remove the attachment tabs when not in use (if applicable).

## Notice To Baseplate Installer

1. **It is YOUR responsibility to watch for:**

- Oil cooler and air conditioner lines
- Electrical wires and hoses
- Missing parts or attaching points on the frame

\*\* If the baseplate is improperly installed and is against a wire or hose, it could cause fluid leaks or electrical shorts some time after the actual baseplate installation.

## Permanent Baseplate Safety Cable Installation

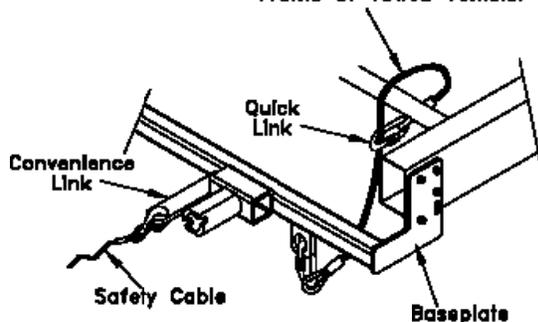
Permanent baseplate safety cables are strongly recommended when towing a vehicle with a tow bar. The principle function of the permanent baseplate safety cables is to prevent the towed vehicle from breaking loose in the event the connection between the frame of the towed vehicle and the baseplate fails or becomes disconnected. The cables must be connected from the baseplate to the frame rail or cross member of the vehicle's frame. The illustrations below show the possible arrangements recommended by Blue Ox®. Each permanent baseplate safety cable must have an adequate weight rating for the towing system. The weight rating of the two (2) cables together will not qualify.

***Do not mount the permanent baseplate safety cables against wires, hoses or brake lines.***

These permanent baseplate safety cables should remain installed as long as the baseplate is installed on the vehicle. Permanent baseplate safety cables are to be used in conjunction with, and NOT a replacement for legally required safety cables attaching the towed vehicle to the towing vehicle.

### OPTION #1

Permanent Baseplate Safety Cables to Cross Member or Frame of Towed Vehicle.



### OPTION #2

Permanent Baseplate Safety Cables to Cross Member or Frame of Towed Vehicle.

