



BX2131 Installation Instructions 1997-03 Ford F-150 (4WD)

These vehicles weigh over 3500 lbs. and require a Class III (5000 lbs) rated tow bar, hitch and accessories. Utilization of Blue Ox baseplates with any tow bar not approved by Automatic Equipment Mfg. Co. invalidates the limited warranty.

Installation of this baseplate requires removing the bumper.

1. Read the General Instruction Sheet included with this baseplate.
2. Remove the four bolts that hold the bumper to the frame of the truck, remove the electrical connectors to the blinkers and the four plastic inserts that hold the plastic molding to the flexible belly pan.
3. The baseplate (Item 1) will mount to the frame using the same bolt holes that the tow hooks use. Remove the bolts from each tow hook. Place the baseplate and tow hooks on the frame and bolt it in place using the same bolts. The holes in the side of the angle mount will need to be drilled (17/32" drill bit). With the baseplate (Item 1) bolted to the frame, punch and drill the side holes of the baseplate. If you cannot reach all the holes of the baseplate (Item 1), you may have to remove it and then drill the holes.
4. Bolt on the baseplate (Item 1) and tow hooks, and secure all the bolts. Use the 1/2 x 1 1/2" bolts (Item 3) and 1/2" washers (Item 4 & 5) with the wire nuts (Item 6). Be sure to use Loctite with all the bolts to ensure that they will not loosen.
5. Replace the bumper and the flexible molding to its original positions.
6. Install the tow bar and safety cables according to the instructions included in their packages.
7. Do not substitute other devices if the tow bar pin and clip are lost.
8. **DEALER OR INSTALLER: BE CERTAIN THE USER RECEIVES THE INSTRUCTION SHEET.**

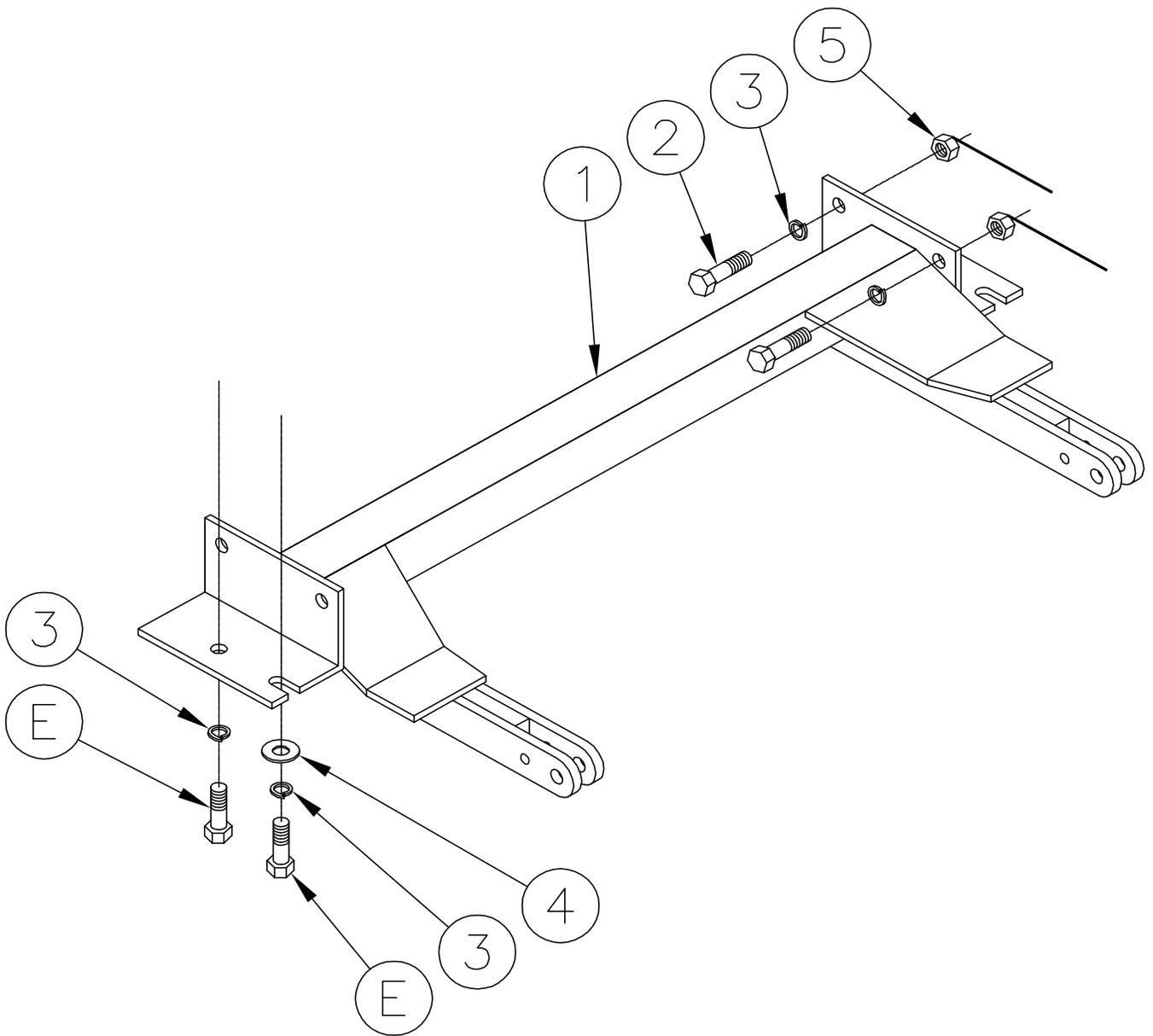
Tools Required

10mm Wrench
13mm Wrench

3/4" Wrench
17/32" Drill Bit

Loctite Blue

Automatic



Parts List

Ref. No.	Qty.	Part No.	Description
1	1	61-4943	Baseplate, BX2131
2	4	201-0051	1/2-13 x 1 1/2" Hex Bolt, Grade 5
3	8	203-0012	1/2" Lock Washer
4	2	203-0005	1/2" Flat Washer
5	4	61-4029	1/2" Wire Nut
6	4	xxx-xxx	Existing Bolts

General Information

1. Ensure that your product(s) are registered online at 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

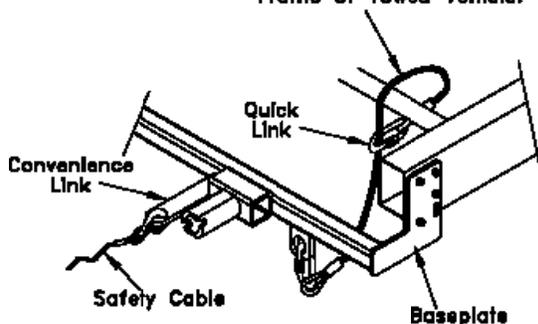
Permanent baseplate safety cables are strongly recommended when towing a vehicle with a tow bar. The principle function of the permanent baseplate safety cables is to prevent the towed vehicle from breaking loose in the event the connection between the frame of the towed vehicle and the baseplate fails 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.

