

# WARNING:

Do not inflate this assembly when it is unrestricted. The assembly must be restricted by the suspension or other adequate structure. Do not inflate beyond 100 psi Improper use or over inflation may cause property damage or severe personal injury.

# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Congratulations—your newAir Helper Springs are quality products capable of improving the handling and comfort of your vehicle. As with all products, proper installation is the key to obtaining all of the benefits your kit is capable of delivering. Please take a few minutes to read through the instructions to identify the components and learn where and how they are used. It is a good idea to start by comparing the parts in your kit with the parts list below.

The heart of the air helper spring kit is, of course, the air springs. Remember that the air helper springs must flex and expand during operation, so be sure that there is enough clearance to do so without rubbing against any other part of the vehicle.

Be sure to take all applicable safety precautions during the installation of the kit. The instructions listed in this brochure and the illustrations all show the left, or driver's side of the vehicle. To install the right side assembly simply follow the same procedures.

Your kit includes separate inflation valves and air lines for each air helper spring. This will allow you to level your vehicle from side to side as well as from front to back. If you would rather have a single valve inflation system, your dealer can supply the required "T" fitting.

# IMPORTANT!

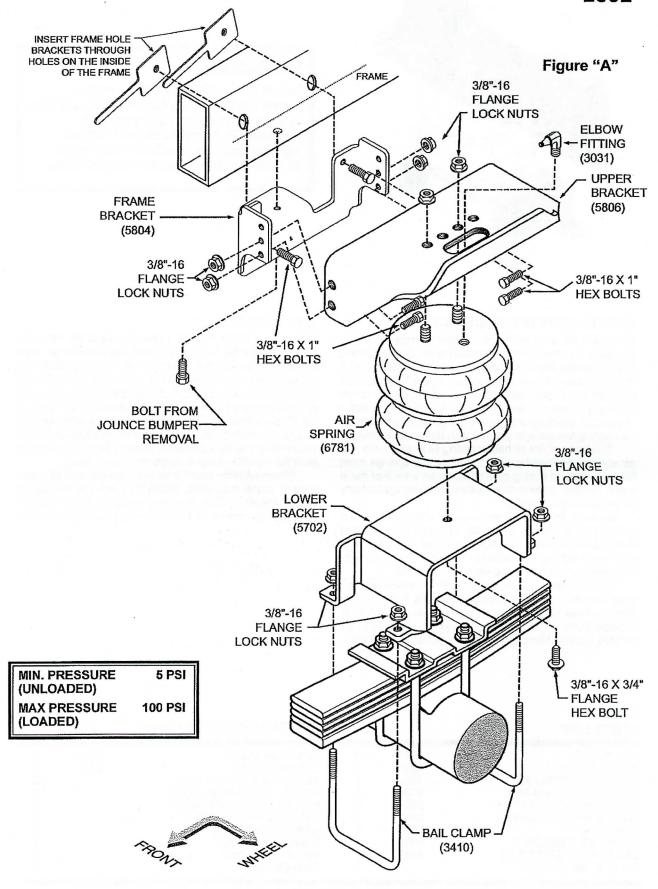
For your safety and to prevent possible damage to your vehicle, do not exceed the maximum load recommended by the vehicle manufacturer (GVWR). Although your Air Helper Springs are rated at a maximum inflation pressure of 100 psi, this pressure may allow you to carry too great a load on some vehicles. It is best to have your vehicle weighed once it is completely loaded and compare that weight to the maximum allowed. Check your vehicle owner's manual or data plate on driver's side door for maximum loads listed for your vehicle.

When inflating your Air Helper Springs, add air pressure in small quantities, checking pressure frequently during inflation. The air spring requires much less air volume than a tire and, therefore, inflates much quicker.

# PARTS LIST

# BOLT PACK (A21-760-2582)

AIR SPRING	6781	2	INFLATION VALVE	3032	2
UPPER BRACKET	5806	2	ELBOW FITTING	3031	2
LEFT FRAME BRACKET	5804	1	3/8"-16 FLANGE LOCK NUT	0007	20
RIGHT FRAME BRACKET	5805	1	3/8"-16 X 1" HEX HEAD BOLT		12
LEFT LOWER BRACKET	5702	1	3/8"-16 X 3/4" FLANGE BOLT		2
RIGHT LOWER BRACKET	5703	1	3/8"-16 X 2" FLANGE BOLT		2
SPACER 1.25"	5336	2	5/16" FLAT WASHER		4
FRAME HOLE BRACKET	5660	4	THERMAL SLEEVE		2
BAIL CLAMP 4.5 X 2.5 X 2.0	3410	4	NYLON TIE STRAP		6
AIR LINE TUBING 18 FT.		1	CAUTION TAG		2



### STEP 1 - PREPARE THE VEHICLE

With the vehicle on a solid, level surface, chock the front wheels. Raise the vehicle by the rear axle and set on jack stands rated for your vehicles weight. Remove the real wheels. Remove the jounce bumpers from the under side of the frame rail. The jounce bumper will not be re-used with the kit, but the bolt will be re-used.

# STEP 2-ATTACH THE UPPER BRACKET

Select one air helper spring and one upper bracket from your kit. Insert the studs of the air spring into the mounting holes of the upper bracket. Make sure the air inlet is visible through the large access hole. Fasten the upper bracket to the air spring using the 3/8"-16 flange nuts, see Figure "A". Install the elbow fitting into the air spring through the large access hole in the upper bracket. Tighten the air fitting securely to engage the orange thread sealant. Position the fitting to point to the anticipated location of the air inflation valves.

# STEP 3A - ATTACH THE LOWER BRACKET (4WD)

Select the left lower bracket and fasten it to the air spring with a 3/8"-16 x 3/4" flange bolt (finger tight). Figure "B".

# STEP 3B - ATTACH THE LOWER BRACKET (2WD)

Select the left lower bracket and spacer and attach them to the air spring with a 3/8"-16 x 2" flange hex bolt (finger tight). Open end of the spacer should mount towards lower bracket. See Figure "C".

# STEP 4— ATTACH THE FRAME BRACKET TO THE FRAME

Attach the left frame bracket to the bottom of the frame reusing the jounce bumper bolt in the hole from the jounce bumper removal. Next, insert the 3/8"-16 x 1" hex head bolts through the left frame bracket and into the holes on the outside of the frame. Secure with framehole brackets inserted through the hole on the inside of the frame. See Figure "A". DO NOT OVER TIGHTENI 20 FT/LBS Max.

# STEP 5-INSTALLING THE ASSEMBLY TO THE VEHICLE

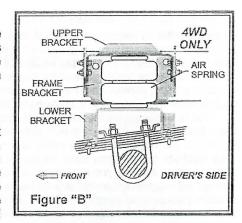
Place the assembly on the leaf stack over the spring retainer and align the holes in the upper bracket with the lower four holes in the left frame bracket. Install four, 3/8"x1" hex head bolts and fasten using 3/8"-16 flange nuts. Secure the left lower bracket to the leaf stack using bail clamps and 3/8"-16 flange nuts. Once aligned, tighten the bolt holding the bottom of the air spring to the lower bracket. See Figures "A", "B" & "C".

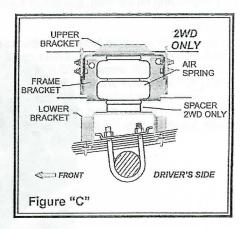
# STEP 6 — INSTALLATION TO THE PASSENGER'S SIDE ASSEMBLY

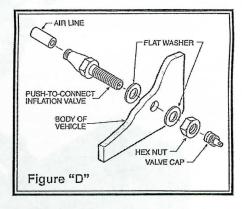
Reverse any orientations when assembling and installing the right, or passenger, side of the vehicle.

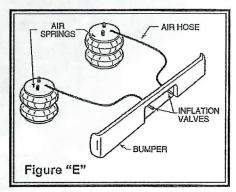
# STEP 7—INSTALL THE AIR LINE AND THE INFLATION VALVE

Uncoil the air line tubing and cut it into two equal lengths. DO NOT FOLD OR KINK THE TUBING. Try to make the cut as square as possible. Insert one end of the tubing into the elbow fitting installed in the top of the air helper spring. Push the tubing into the fitting as far as possible. Select a location on the vehicle for the air inflation valves. The location can be on the bumper or the body of the vehicle, as long as it is in a protected location so the valve will not be damaged, but maintain accessibility for the air chuck, see Figure "E". Drill a 5/16" hole and install the air inflation valve using two 5/16" flat washers per valve as supports, see Figure "D". Run the tubing from the air helper spring to the inflation valve, routing it to avoid direct heat from the engine, exhaust pipe, and away from sharp edges. Thermal sleeves have been provided for these conditions. If a thermal sleeve is required simply slide the sleeve over the air line tubing to the location requiring protection. The air line tubing should not be bent or curved sharply as it may buckle. Secure the tubing in place with the nylon ties provided. Push the end of the air line tubing into the inflation valve as illustrated, see Figure "D".









# STEP 8- CHECK THE AIR SYSTEM

Once the inflation valves are installed, inflate the air helper springs to 70 psi and check the fittings for air leaks with an applied solution of soap and water. If a leak is detected at a tubing connection then check to make sure that the tube is cut as square as possible and that it is pushed completely into the fitting. The tubing can easily be removed from the fittings by pushing the collar towards the body of the fitting and then pulling out the tube. If a leak is detected where the fitting screws into the spring, screw the fitting into the air spring until the leak stops. Reinstall the tubing and reinflate the air springs and check for leaks as noted above.

This now completes the installation. Install the wheels and torque the lug nuts to the manufacturer's specifications. Raise the vehicle by the rear axle and remove the jack stands and lower the vehicle back onto the ground. Re-attach the negative battery cable and remove the wheel chocks from the wheels. Before proceeding, check once again to be sure you have proper clearance around the air springs. With a load on your vehicle and the air helper springs inflated, you must have at least 1/2" clearance around the air springs. As a general rule, the air helper springs will support approximately 40 lbs. of load for each psi of inflation pressure (per pair). For example, 50 psi of inflation pressure will support a load of 2000 lbs. per pair of air helper springs. FOR BEST RIDE use only enough air pressure in the air helper springs to level the vehicle when viewed from the side (front to rear). This amount will vary depending on the load, location of load, condition of existing suspension and personal preference.

Too much air pressure in the air helper springs will result in a firmer ride, while too little air pressure will allow the air helper spring to bottom out over rough conditions. Too little air pressure will also not provide the improvement in handling that is possible. TO PREVENT POSSIBLE DAMAGE MAINTAIN A MINIMUM OF 5 psi IN THE AIR HELPER SPRINGS AT ALL TIMES.

Once the air helper springs are installed, it is recommended that the vehicle not be lifted by the frame, as over-extension may occur, resulting in damage to the air helper springs. However, should it become necessary to

raise the vehicle by the frame, deflate both air helper springs completely.

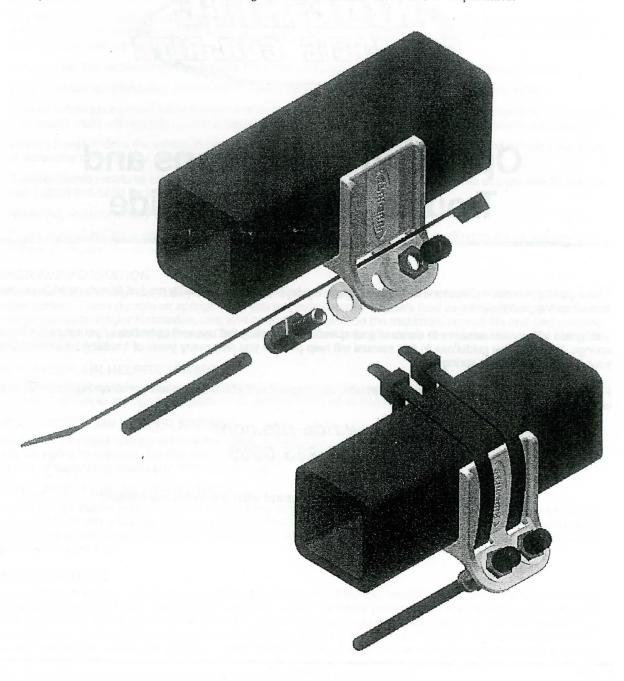
NOTE: 5 PSI MIN PRESSURE 100 PSI MAX PRESSURE (LOADED)



# No Drill Inflation Valve Bracket

Parts List				
Description	Part Number	Quantity		
Inflation Valve Bracket	9483	1		
Large Nylon Tie	9488	2		

This bracket is designed to mount on receiver hitches round or square. Simple use the two provided large Nylon ties to affix the bracket to the receiver hitch tube. Install the air inflation valves on the bracket using two 5/16" flat washers per valve as supports. Then push the end of each air line tubing into the inflation valve as far as possible.





FIRESTONE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS COMPANY



# Operating Instructions and Trouble Shooting Guide

Thank you for purchasing Firestone air helper springs. You have purchased a quality product from the world's number one air spring manufacturer.

This guide will provide answers to some of your questions regarding the use and operation of your new air helper springs. Following the guidelines in this manual will help provide you with many years of trouble-free service from your Firestone air helper springs.

For vehicle applications, air pressure requirements, air compressor CFM, maintainance, or air spring technical data, contact us at:

www.ride-rite.com 1-800-888-0650

INSTALLER: Please leave this manual with the vehicle's owner.

### SAFETY TIPS

Never exceed the manufacturer's recommended Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR)

As with your vehicle's tires, an air helper spring is a pneumatic device that supports a portion of the vehicle's weight. The air helper spring may fail as a result of punctures, impact damage, improper inflation, improper installation, or improper usage. To reduce the risk of failure, we strongly recommend the following:

Never overload your vehicle. The manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) is stated on the specification plate on the chassis. You should weigh your vehicle on a truck scale when it is fully loaded and in a level condition to determine if your are exceeding the manufacturer's recommended GVWR.

Inspect the inflated air springs to verify that they do not contact any component of the vehicle under normal suspension operation. The air helper spring must flex and expand during normal operation. There must be at least 1/2" of clearance between the inflated air spring and any other component of the vehicle under normal suspension operation.

The kit is designed to clear all chassis components. If there is any interference, please call Firestone at 1 (800) 888-0650.

Inspect the air line tubing and the air spring to verify that they have not been too close to the exhaust system. If the distance between any portion of the air spring or air line tubing and the exhaust system is less than 6", a heat shield should be used.

Never inflate the air helper springs beyond the maximum pressure indicated in the installation manual.

Never attempt to remove any component of the air spring assembly when the air springs are inflated.

If an air helper spring has failed while you are on the road, operate your vehicle at reduced speeds. High speed over rough roads will result in severe bottoming of the air spring and may damage other vehicle components.

Never attempt to drive the vehicle in an unleveled condition. Failure to level a heavily loaded vehicle may result in excessive body roll and possible damage or injury.

If unidentifiable problems exist with your air helper spring kit, visit Firestone on the web at www.riderite.com or call 1 (800) 888-0650 for technical assistance.

Never cut, weld, or modify the air helper springs or brackets.

Do not use aerosol tire repair products in the air helper springs or a tire patch of any kind on the air helper spring. If there is a hole in the air spring it must be replaced.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Firestone air helper springs are heavy duty, quality air springs designed to supplement your vehicle's existing suspension system. These durable air springs allow you to maximize your vehicle's load carrying capacity through the use of air pressure. Proper installation, use, and operation will provide the maximum service life and performance your air spring kit is capable of delivering. These instructions will help you obtain the maximum benefits available from your air spring kit.

# RIDE-RITE™ AIR HELPER SPRINGS

Ride-Rite<sup>™</sup> air helper springs are installed between the frame and the suspension of trucks, vans, and motorhomes. Ride-Rite<sup>™</sup> air helper springs are capable of supporting loads up to 5000 lbs per pair.\*

# SPORT-RITE™ AIR HELPER SPRINGS

Sport-Rite<sup>™</sup> air helper springs are installed between the frame and suspension of light trucks, and utilize a sleeve-style air spring to enhance the ride when the vehicle is loaded or unloaded. Sport-Rite<sup>™</sup> air helper springs are capable of supporting loads up to 3000 lbs per pair.\*

# LEVEL-RITE™ AIR HELPER SPRINGS

Level-Rite<sup>™</sup> air helper springs replace the existing shock absorber with a fully-protected, reversible sleeve air spring paired it with a high-performance Bilstein monotube shock absorber for perfectly matched performance characteristics over the entire operation spectrum. Level-Rite<sup>™</sup> air helper springs are capable of supporting loads up to 1000 lbs per pair.\*

# **BASIC OPERATION**

As your vehicle is loaded, the stock suspension is compressed under the weight of the load. Your vehicle's stock suspension system has been designed so that it will provide optimum performance and handling with a specific load on the vehicle. When your vehicle is loaded, its performance, handling characteristics, and ride quality may be compromised. As the stock suspension is compressed, the ride may become "mushy", and you may encounter sway and handling problems. As weight is added to the vehicle, the air helper springs become an active part of

\*Do not exceed the vehicle's recommended gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR)

# Firestone

World's Number 1 Air Spring.

FIRESTONE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS COMPANY



# Operating Instructions and Trouble Shooting Guide

Thank you for purchasing Firestone air helper springs. You have purchased a quality product from the world's number one air spring manufacturer.

This guide will provide answers to some of your questions regarding the use and operation of your new air helper springs. Following the guidelines in this manual will help provide you with many years of trouble-free service from your Firestone air helper springs.

For vehicle applications, air pressure requirements, air compressor CFM, maintainance, or air spring technical data, contact us at:

www.ride-rite.com 1-800-888-0650

INSTALLER: Please leave this manual with the vehicle's owner.

21-1083 10-14