RIGID®
HITCH INCORPORATED

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTION
INSTALLER: GIVE THIS INSTRUCTION TO VEHICLE OWNER

CLASS I TRAILER HITCH
RT-438
APPLICATION: FORD CROWN VICTORIA
MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS
LINCOLN TOWN CAR

2000 LB GROSS TRAILER WEIGHT
200 LB TONGUE WEIGHT
WARNING: CONSULT VEHICLE OWNERS MANUAL FOR TOWING RECOMMENDATIONS AND LIMITATIONS. THIS PRODUCT IS DESIGNED FOR TRAILER TOWING ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE.

TOOLS REQUIRED: **WRENCHES: 3/4”** **DRILL BITS: 1/2”**

NOTE: INSTALL PARTS LOOSELY UNTIL ALL ATTACHMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE VEHICLE.

WARNING: USE ONLY RIGID HITCH APPROVED AND MANUFACTURED DRAW BAR INSERT OR WARRANTY WILL BE VOID.

(1) REMOVE ALL MOUNTING BOLTS FROM THE HITCH NOTING THE PROPER LOCATION OF EACH.

(2) EXAMINE THE BOTTOM OF THE SIDE FRAME MEMBERS AND REMOVE ANY WELD SPATTER THAT EXISTS FROM THE END OF THE FRAME AND FORWARD APPROXIMATELY 10 INCHES.

(3) HOLD THE HITCH UP TO THE VEHICLE CENTERED WITH THE SIDE BRACKETS POSITIONED AS FAR TO THE REAR AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT RIDING UP ONTO THE WELDS.

NOTE: *ON SOME TOWN CAR MODELS IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO REMOVE THE PLASTIC DRESS PANEL TO INSTALL THE HITCH. RETURN TO VEHICLE OWNER FOR LATER REINSTALLATION.*

(4) CLAMP THE HITCH IN PLACE AND USE THE SIDE BRACKETS AS TEMPLATES TO DRILL FOUR 1/2” HOLES IN THE BOTTOM OF THE FRAME MEMBERS.

(5) INSTALL THE HITCH USING THE MOUNTING HOLES DRILLED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) **REARWARD HOLES:** PLACE ONE OF THE NUT HANDLES INTO EACH FRAME MEMBER AND POSITION OVER THE DRILLED HOLE. RUN THE MOUNTING BOLTS UP FROM THE BOTTOM USING A LOCK WASHER UNDER THE HEAD OF EACH.

(B) **FORWARD HOLES:** INSERT ONE OF THE BOLTS WITH STRAP ATTACHED INTO EACH SIDE FRAME MEMBER THROUGH THE EXISTING ACCESS HOLE IN THE BOTTOM OF THE FRAME APPROXIMATELY 10 INCHES AHEAD OF THE DRILLED HOLE. DROP THE BOLT DOWN THROUGH THE MOUNTING HOLE AND HITCH BRACKET. USE THE NUT AND LOCK WASHER PROVIDED ON THE BOTTOM SIDE.

TIGHTEN ALL FASTENERS TO THE TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS SHOWN BELOW.

REVISED 10-01-02

HARDWARE INCLUDED:
2 - 1/2”-13 x 1 1/4” BOLTS
2 - 1/2”-13 x 1 1/2” BOLTS W/STRAP
2 - 1/2”-13 NUTS
2 - 1/2”-13 HANDLE NUTS
4 - 1/2” LOCK WASHERS

BOLT TIGHTENING TORQUE (LB-FT)

BOLT SIZE	TORQUE	BOLT SIZE	TORQUE
3/8"	25 LB FT	8 MM	20 LB FT
7/16"	50 LB FT	10 MM	38 LB FT
1/2"	60 LB FT	12 MM	68 LB FT
3/4"	120 LB FT		

THIS PRODUCT COMPLIES WITH SAFETY SPECIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR SAE AND VESC REGULATION V-5 FOR CONNECTING DEVICES AND TOWING SYSTEMS.
DO NOT MODIFY THIS PRODUCT. INSTALL ONLY ON SPECIFIED VEHICLES IN GOOD CONDITION.

RIGID HITCH INC. - 3301 W BURNSVILLE PKWY - BURNSVILLE MN 55337