



HOT ROD LATCHES

100% AMERICAN MADE

Generic Latch Installation Instructions – All Installations Require Custom Fabrication Work

HotRodLatches.com

Pre-Installation and Purchase of Parts:

Disassemble your door panel and handles/cranks. Inspect the inner door and latch mounting area. Check especially around the window channel area for clearance. For specific latch dimension see drawings in the **Tech Area section**. Determine which size latch is going to work and if you will need the installation kit. If your door latch mounting area is flat and square you can make the cutout to mount the latch, it may not require the install kit. Review where the striker bolt will need to mount to mate up to the latch and ensure it can be mounted in this location. In general it is best to mount the latch to the door and the striker bolt to the B-pillar. You can mount the striker on the door and latch in the B-pillar, but this complicates the latch release. See **Installation Gallery** section for examples how others have done installations.

Determine how the new latch will be operated: by solenoids, mechanical linkage to existing handles, or other means. Plan out the rough installation and where things will fit or be required. You can weld to the release lever if needed to get the required fit or pull direction to accommodate your installation. Release lever is just plain steel with zinc plating for corrosion resistance. Grind off the zinc plating in weld area and weld, keeping the latch clean from debris.

Any questions, please feel free to contact us at hotrodlatches@yahoo.com, we are here to help!

General Latch Installation Process:

- 1) With the door disassembled, remove any parts from original latch. Also disconnect any linkages from outer or inner handle. Remove original latch.
- 2) Cut out door area to mount the latch. This could be cutting the door and welding in the install kit latch mount piece, other metal welded to door, or just cutting out your door to allow the new latch to be mounted and function.
- 3) Mount latch into the door. Note we do not supply mounting hardware as each person has preference for what style to use. All latches have 1/4 x 20 thread (1/4 coarse thread) mounting holes.
- 4) Hook up the release lever to whatever method you use (solenoids, rod, cable, chain, etc) so the latch can be opened. A lot of people hook up to the stock inner handle, even if using solenoids to open from the outside.
- 5) It is a good idea to have an outside back-up release method if you are relying on solenoids. A sheathed cable run through the door into engine compartment or under the car will enable you to get in if dead battery or wiring problem. A bicycle cable or similar can work good for this.
- 6) *IF* you are using a latch for a hood latch, it is strongly recommended to have a back-up safety for the hood. Hot Rod Latches has great confidence in our latches, but we want your hood to stay down in case of accidental latch release when you are driving down the road! A chain or cable is fine; just have something as a back-up.



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General Striker Bolt Installation Process:

- 7) With the B-pillar area disassembled, remove any parts from original striker not needed.
- 8) Close the door and figure out the approximate location for the new striker bolt. Mark this location on B-pillar. An easy way is to reach in the door and use a sharpie pen through the latch to mark the location on B-pillar. You can also measure carefully to mark the position.
- 9) Drill an oversize hole to allow the new striker to be mounted and function. Hole must be oversize to allow for final door closing gap adjustment. The large washer on striker bolt will cover the oversize hole when tightened up.
- 10) Striker bolt must protrude far enough for the latch to grab. You may need to space out the striker from the B-pillar to accommodate the spacing required.
- 11) Place nut plate on inside of B-pillar and thread in striker bolt, sandwiching the B-pillar. The nut plate can be cut to fit as required; it must have enough material to keep the nut from turning inside the B-pillar when you tighten up the striker bolt. Nut plate is not welded, it has to float to allow for adjustment of striker bolt.
- 12) Lightly tighten striker bolt, close door and check gap. Make adjustments as needed and then final tighten the striker bolt at the right position.

Complete the Installation Process:

- 13) Reinstall door panels and handles/cranks.
- 14) Check that door closes and release for the latch still works good without interference. Ensure window regulator can operate window fully up and down without problems.
- 15) If using solenoids, ensure wires do not hang up on window regulator and are protected where they go through door into car.

Congratulations, you have installed the new latches in your vehicle!