



TRUE GRIP TRACTION SYSTEM

Instruction Manual

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Important Notes

Important Application Note

Before installing the ring gear and pressing the bearings on to the differential, the following two (2) items need to be checked:

1. Ensure that your axle shaft mates with the differential side gear. Some models have different spline counts depending on the year of manufacture.
2. Check the differential flange position (bearing shoulder to flange face) to ensure that it is correct. You may compare it to your old one. The differential flange position depends only on the gear ratio that you are using. This flange position may change at certain gear ratios. Some aftermarket ring gear and pinion sets specify the differential case “series” that is required.

If you feel that you have the wrong differential for your application, contact your place of purchase and make the necessary arrangements to exchange the differential for the correct one. Once the differential has had bearings and/or a ring gear installed, it can no longer be considered new and therefore cannot be exchanged for a new one.

Important Lubricant Note

The RTS True Grip differential design uses helical cut gears to transfer power to the wheel with the most traction. Always use an 80W-90 mineral/petroleum based gear oil with at least a GL-5 rating. Synthetic oil and oils that contain friction modifiers are NOT recommended.

Introduction

Ring and pinion backlash and differential carrier bearing preload are two items of concern when installing a differential. These items are typically adjusted by means of shims or threaded adjusters. The shims or adjusters will determine the position of the ring gear, which determines the backlash of the ring and pinion set. When installing a differential, the backlash should be set to the original backlash setting, measured prior to disassembly. To increase the backlash, adjust the shim packs or threaded adjusters to move the ring gear further away from the drive pinion gear.

To decrease backlash, move the ring gear closer to the drive pinion gear. Bearing preload refers to the amount of interference (press) fit of the differential case and bearings into the carrier housing. Adjust the bearing preload by adding or removing shim pack thickness or by tightening or loosening the threaded adjusters. Too much bearing preload will cause premature bearing failure. Insufficient bearing preload will allow the differential to 'walk' in the housing causing damage to the ring and pinion set and other components.

These instructions are intended as an aid for the experienced automobile mechanic in properly installing the limited-slip differential. It is expected that the installer be equipped with the proper tools, equipment, and experience before attempting the installation.

It's a good idea to have an extensive selection of shims or adjustable shim packs on hand to properly install the differential. Threaded adjuster applications do not require shims.

Maintenance

It is recommended that the axle lubricant be changed as required by your vehicle's service schedule. Lubrication breakdown can lead to accelerated wear on all rear axle components. See **IMPORTANT LUBRICATION NOTE** on page 2 for oil and additive requirements.

Instructions

1. Raise and safely support vehicle.
2. Remove wheels and brake drums or brake rotors
3. Drain lubricant from carrier and remove cover.
4. Remove axle shafts from housing. If your axles have "C" clips, do the following:
 - a) Remove pinion shaft lock screw and pinion shaft.
 - b) Push flanged end of axle shaft toward the center of the housing and remove the "C" clip from the button end of the axle shaft. Repeat for other axle shaft.
 - c) Remove axle shafts from housing. Be careful not to damage the oil seals.

If your axles are non-"C" clip style, do the following:

- a) Remove axle shaft bearing retaining plate nuts and remove the retaining plate.
- b) Use a slide-hammer to remove the axle shafts. Be careful not to damage the oil seals.

Note: Some axles use shims or adjuster nuts to set the axle shaft end play. Refer to the vehicle service manual for the proper removal and installation procedures for the axle shafts.

5. For removable carriers, disconnect the drive shaft from the pinion yoke and remove the third member from the axle housing.
6. Prior to further disassembly, measure and record the ring and pinion backlash. Mount an indicator as shown in **Figure 1**. Hold the drive pinion stationary and rotate the ring gear in both directions to measure the amount of backlash or free play. Check the

backlash at three to four points around the ring gear and record for later use.



Figure 1

7. Mark bearing caps "R" and "L" to make sure that they will be reassembled in their original position.
8. If equipped with adjuster nuts, remove adjuster nut locks and loosen adjuster nuts.

Chrysler® tool: C-4164

Ford® tool: T70P4067-A

9. Remove bearing cap bolts and bearing caps.
10. Remove differential case. It may be necessary to use a pry bar as shown in **Figure 2**. Exercise caution when prying on the carrier so that the gasket sealing surface is not damaged. Place shims/adjuster nuts and bearing cups with their respective bearing cap.

Note: Adjuster nuts will stay in the housing in some axles.

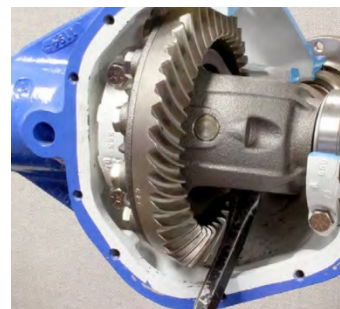


Figure 2

11. Remove and discard the ring gear bolts. With a non-metallic hammer or brass drift punch, drive the ring gear loose from the differential case pilot and remove.
12. Remove anti-lock brake tone wheel if applicable. Consult vehicle service manual for proper procedure.
13. Remove differential bearing cones from the differential using the proper bearing puller and adapter. See **Figure 3**.



Figure 3

14. Clean all parts in a suitable cleaning solvent and dry thoroughly. Clean axle housing by pushing a clean rag through the axle tube with a wooden rod. Push the rag from the end of the axle tube to the center of the axle housing. Wipe down the inside of the housing with a clean rag.

CAUTION: Do not spin-dry the bearings with compressed air. Serious damage or injury may result.

15. Remove any burrs from all machined surfaces in the axle housing, bearing cap and ring gear.
16. Inspect axle shaft bearing surface, bearings and seals. Replace if needed.

17. Inspect differential bearings and replace if needed. Always replace both the cup and cone as a set from the same manufacturer.

18. Thoroughly clean the differential bearing hubs and ring gear mounting flange prior to installation of the bearings and ring gear.

19. Install the differential bearing cones onto the bearing hubs of the differential case using the proper installation tool. See **Figure 4**.

Note: Many Dana® applications use shims between the bearing cone and the differential case bearing hub shoulder. The bearing cones must be removed to make adjustments to the shim pack thickness.



Figure 4

20. For adjuster nuts, skip to Step 23.
21. Install differential with the bearing cups and shims into the differential housing. Adjust the shim pack as necessary to create a slip fit of the differential into the differential housing. A slip fit is the thickest shim pack that can be installed by hand with slight resistance. It will be necessary to rotate the differential case after each shim thickness change to seat the bearings.
22. Remove the differential from the differential housing. Measure the combined

thickness of the shims. This total shim thickness is what is needed for installing the differential (prior to adding preload to the bearings).

23. Heat the ring gear and anti-lock tone wheel (if applicable) with a heat lamp or by submersing in hot water. Do not exceed 300° F. Do not use a torch!

24. Install anti-lock tone wheel (if applicable) while hot onto the outside diameter of the differential ring gear flange as stated in the vehicle service manual.

25. Install the ring gear while hot onto the differential. Use pilot studs to align the ring gear to the differential as shown in **Figure 5**.



Figure 5

26. Using new ring gear bolts, alternately tighten each ring gear bolt to the proper torque:

3/8" Bolts = 50 lb ft

7/16" Bolts = 80 lb ft

1/2" Bolts = 100 lb ft

27. For adjuster nuts, skip to Step 35.

28. Select two shims of approximately equal size whose total thickness is equal to the shim pack thickness determined in Step 21.

29. Place the differential assembly with the ring gear, bearing cups and shims into the differential housing. Install bearing caps and bolts in their proper position and tighten

bolts. While tightening bearing cap bolts, continuously rock the ring gear back and forth to confirm backlash. If at any time the backlash becomes reduced to zero, remove bearing caps and adjust the shim packs by removing .010" from the ring gear side and adding .010" to the opposite side. Repeat as needed until both bearing caps can be torqued to the proper torque value and ring and pinion backlash is confirmed.

30. Rotate the differential case several revolutions to seat the bearings. Check the backlash as described in Step 6.

31. Compare the backlash reading to the original reading taken in Step 6 and adjust as needed. To increase backlash, remove shim thickness from the ring gear side and add an equal amount of shim thickness to the opposite side. To decrease backlash, add shim thickness to the ring gear side and remove an equal amount of shim thickness from the opposite side.

Note: approximately .001" of shim equals .001" of backlash.

32. Once the correct backlash reading has been established, add .004" of shim thickness to both shim packs to preload the differential bearings. It will be necessary to drive the shims into position. Do not hit the bearing cups. It is advantageous to use a Case Spreader to install the differential.

33. Torque the bearing cap bolts to the proper value and rotate the differential case several revolutions to seat the bearings. Recheck the backlash and correct if necessary.

34. Skip to Step 47.

35. Place the differential assembly with ring gear and bearing cups into the differential carrier.

36. Apply a light coat of axle oil to the

bearings and adjuster nut threads.

37. Install the bearing caps in their original position and hand tighten the bearing cap bolts.

38. Install the adjuster nuts (unless still in the differential housing) being careful not to cross thread the adjuster nuts causing thread damage.

39. With the adjuster nuts installed and the bearings in position, torque the bearing cap bolts to the proper torque value.

40. For Chrysler® 8-1/4" & 9-1/4", skip to Step 46.

41. Loosen the RH adjuster nut (opposite the ring gear) until it is away from the bearing cup. Tighten the LH adjuster nut (ring gear side) until the ring gear is slightly forced into the drive pinion (zero backlash). Rotate the differential several revolutions to ensure no binding is present. Recheck RH adjuster nut to be sure that it is not against the RH bearing cup. Use an appropriate tool to turn adjuster nuts.

42. Install indicator as shown in **Figure 6**. Tighten RH adjuster nut until a case spread of .008 - .012 is measured. Rotate drive pinion several times in each direction to seat the bearings and to be sure that binding does not occur. It may be necessary to readjust the case spread by tightening the RH adjuster nut.



Figure 6

43. Measure the backlash as done in Step 6. If necessary, adjust the backlash until it matches the original reading taken in Step 6. Increase backlash by loosening the LH adjuster and tightening the RH adjuster the same amount. Decrease backlash by loosening the RH adjuster nut and tightening the LH adjuster nut the same amount. When making adjustments, always make the final adjustment in the tightening direction. For example, if the adjuster need to be loosened one notch, loosen it two notches and tighten it one. When the proper backlash has been established, install the adjuster nut locks.

44. Install third member into axle housing using a new gasket or silicone sealer and tighten nuts. Reinstall drive shaft.

45. Skip to Step 47.

46. For Chrysler® 8-1/4" and 9-1/4" applications, using tool C-4164, adjust the position of the differential until the proper backlash reading has been established. Refer to Step 6 for the backlash checking procedure and original backlash reading. Alternately tighten each adjuster nut and rotate the differential case several revolutions to seat the bearings. Being careful not to change the backlash, repeat until each adjuster nut has been tightened to 70 lb ft. Recheck backlash and correct if necessary. Install adjuster nut locks.

47. Install axle shafts into housing being careful not to damage the oil seals. If your axles have "C" clips, do the following:

a) Remove the snap ring with snap ring pliers **Figure 7**. Then remove the plug. See **Figure 8**. Next, remove the axle spacer (where applicable) as shown in **Figure 9**.



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

b) With the port now clear, push flanged end of axle shaft toward the center of the housing and install the “C” clip onto the button end of the axle shaft. Pull axle shaft outward so the shaft and washer seat in the counterbore of the side gear. Repeat for other axle shaft.

c) Install the axle spacer (where applicable), the plug and then the snap ring back into the side of the carrier. Make sure snap ring is properly seated before continuing.

If your axles are non-“C” clip style, do the following:

a) Install axle shaft bearing retaining plate and nuts. Tighten nuts to proper torque.

Note: Some axles use shims or adjuster nuts to set the axle shaft end play. Refer to the vehicle service manual for the proper removal and installation procedures for the axle shafts.

48. Using a new gasket or silicone sealant, install axle cover and tighten bolts.

49. Install brake drums or rotors.

50. Install wheels.

51. With the vehicle level, remove the fill plug and fill housing to the proper level with the lubricant described on Page 2.

52. Lower vehicle and test operation of axle.

Warranty Disclaimer

RTS products are made to the highest standards and warrants all products for a period of 12 months from date of purchase for either repair or replacement. Warranty may be voided if the product has been misused, modified, or not used for the correct application. RTS will not be responsible for any damages being incidental or consequential as a result of using an RTS product incorrectly. Any product requiring a warranty appraisal must be returned to the place of purchase with the original invoice.

We reserve the right to change design or specification at any time without notice. If not sure of suitability or compliance, please check with your local distributor prior to purchase.