



BX2142 Installation Instructions 1997-03 Ford Escort ZX2 Sport

Installation of this baseplate requires removal of the lower rock guard under the radiator (this piece is attached to the passenger side rock guard). The passenger side rock guard needs to be loosened with a 1/2" gap.

1. Remove the rock guard directly behind the radiator cross member, which is connected to the passenger side rock guard, surrounding the tow hook.
2. Loosen the passenger side plastic surrounding the tow hook and unplug the running lights.
3. Insert the baseplate through the bottom opening of the bumper molding making sure the attachment tabs protrude through the top outside openings in the grill. Be careful not to scratch the grill area while inserting the attachment tabs. Note: Tape the top and bottom parts of the grill pieces so not to scratch these areas.
4. The tow hooks have four existing holes punched in them. Mount the baseplate to the two center holes (do not use the slotted holes) with the 7/16" Hex bolts, flat and lock washers and Hex nuts included in the bolt bag (Items 2, 3, 4 and 5). Use **Loctite Blue or Red with each bolt and nut to ensure that the bolts do not loosen while the car is being towed.** Tighten bolts according to the Bolt Torque Specification Charts in the General Installation Instruction Sheet.
5. Plug the running lights back in and fasten the lower plastic pieces.
6. Install the tow bar and safety cables according to the instructions included in their packages. Do not substitute other devices if the tow bar pin and clip are lost.
7. **DEALER OR INSTALLER: BE CERTAIN THE USER RECEIVES THE INSTRUCTION SHEET.**

The dimensional variations between otherwise identical cars can be considerable. The location and size of the holes in the baseplate were designed to allow for easy installation, it may be necessary to file a hole slightly.

Tools Required

5/8" Wrench

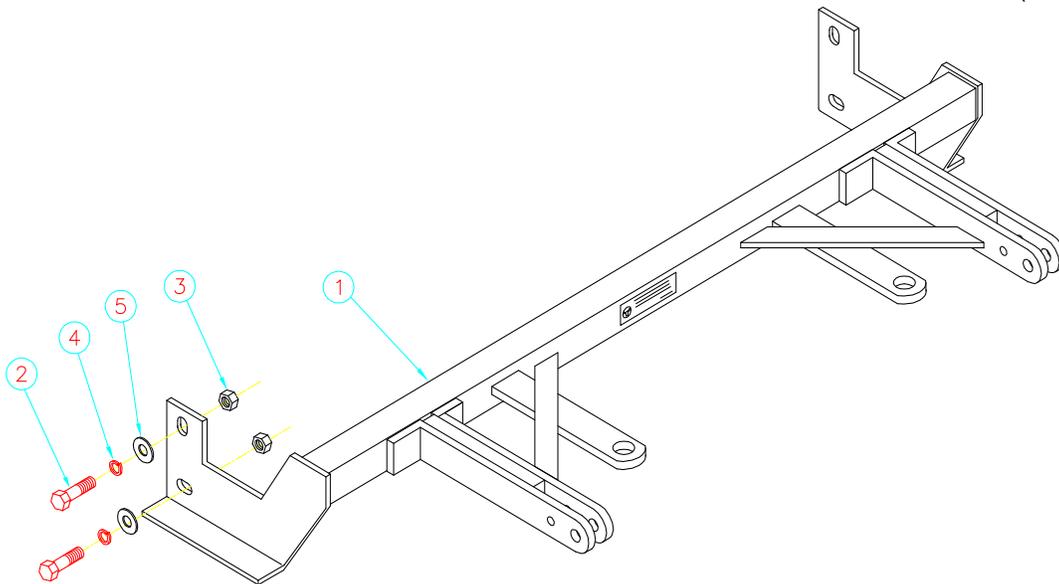
10MM Wrench

Loctite

Masking Tape

Parts List

Ref. No.	Qty.	Part No.	Description
1	1	61-5240.....	Baseplate, BX2142
2	4	201-0451.....	7/16 - 14 x 1 1/4 Hex Bolt
3	4	202-0004.....	7/16 - 14 Hex Nut
4	4	203-0011.....	7/16 Lock Washer
5	4	203-0004.....	7/16 Flat Washer
	2	226-0046.....	Baseplate Safety Cable, 36" CL III (Not Shown)
	2	229-0359.....	Quicklink, 3/8, ZP (Not Shown)



Automatic

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

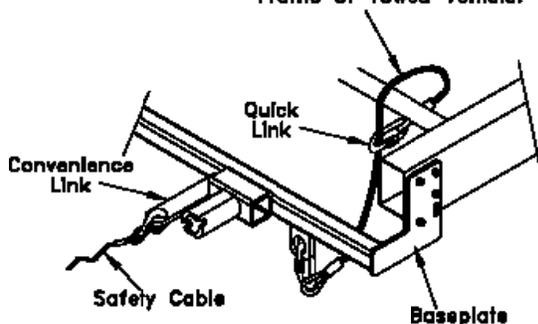
Permanent baseplate safety cables are strongly recommended when towing a vehicle with a tow bar. The principle function of the permanent baseplate safety cables is to prevent the towed vehicle from breaking loose in the event the connection between the frame of the towed vehicle and the baseplate fails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

