



## **BX2128 Installation Instructions 1995-97 Ford Explorer Limited**

The belly pan and bumper molding need to be removed and two half inch holes need to be drilled to install the baseplate. Two holes need to be notched out of the bumper molding for the attachment tabs.

1. Remove the three screws that attach the belly pan underneath the radiator. Remove the belly pan by sliding it towards the passenger's side and set it aside.
2. Remove the plastic air dam and plastic bumper from the metal bumper.
3. The lower slots on the end plates of the baseplate (Item 1) will match up with a slot on the bottom of the frame rails. Guide a nut plate up through the slot and position the plate inside the frame rail and over the slot, with the weld nut up.
6. Notice the bumper mounts on the end of the frame rails. There is a horizontal mount welded to the frame rails and a vertical flat to the inside of the frame rails. This vertical flat is bolted to the bumper at each end. Use a 13MM socket to remove the bottom bolt from both vertical mounts. These bolts will not be used again.
7. With an assistant, hold the baseplate up to the bottom of the frame rails. Apply Loctite to the threads of the 10MM x 35MM bolts and start them, along with a 10MM lock washer, into the vertical mount holes just exposed. If these two holes do not appear to be centered on the frame rails of the vehicle, use an 18MM socket to loosen the large bolts on the horizontal, welded mount discussed in the previous step. These bolts are in large horizontal slots so the metal bumper can be moved to the side, if necessary, to center it with the frame rails. There will be two bolts on each mount.
8. Once the 10MM bolts are started, apply Loctite to a 1/2 x 4 1/2 bolt and start it through the slot on the inside of the frame rail. Be sure to include the 1/4" thick washer on the head of the bolt and run the bolt through the frame rail and out through the slot on the side of the baseplate end mount. Secure the bolt with a 1/2 flat washer, lock washer, and nut, but do not tighten yet. Repeat on the other side.
9. Place a 1/2 lock and flat washer on a 1/2 x 1 3/4 bolt, apply Loctite, and start the bolt through the bottom slot and into the nut plate. Repeat on the other side but do not tighten.
10. When all bolts have been started, use a 17MM socket to tighten the 10MM bolts. Then use a 3/4" socket and short extension to tighten the bolts into the nut plates. Finally use the 3/4" socket and a 3/4" wrench to tighten the long bolt in the side of the frame rails. When all bolts are tight, use the 18MM socket to tighten the bolts in the bumper if they were loosened in Step #7.
11. The air dam and plastic bumper can now be reinstalled onto the car. A very small amount of trimming may be necessary. Use a utility knife to trim a small slot in the back of the air dam and front bumper to allow access for the baseplate bumper mounts and attachment tabs.
12. Secure the air dam with the screws and push pins, and then replace the belly pan.
13. The dimensional variations between otherwise identical cars can be considerable. While 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 to allow a bolt to clear.
14. Install the tow bar and safety cables according to the instructions included in their packages.
15. Do not substitute other devices if the tow bar pin and clip are lost.

# **Automatic**

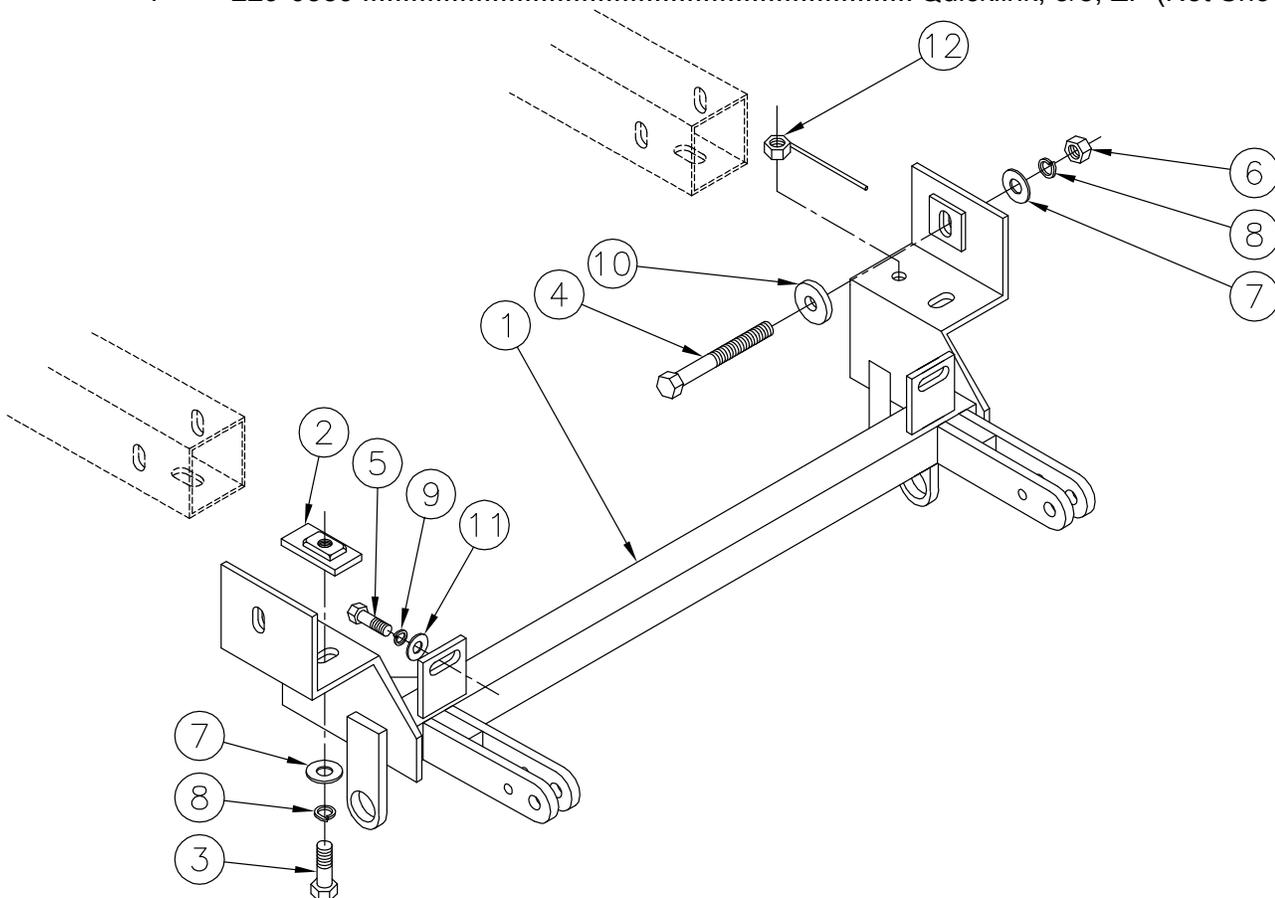
16. DEALER OR INSTALLER: BE CERTAIN THE USER RECEIVES THE INSTRUCTION SHEET.

**Tools Required**

- |                  |               |                 |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 7MM Socket       | 8MM Socket    | 13MM Socket     |
| 17MM Socket      | 18MM Socket   | Short Extension |
| 3/4" Socket      | 3/4" Wrench   | Loctite Blue    |
| Flat Screwdriver | Utility Knife |                 |

**Parts List**

Ref. No.	Qty.	Part No.	Description
1	1	61-4910	Weldment, Baseplate, BX2128
2	2	61-3950	Weldment, Nut Plate
3	4	201-0068	1/2-13 x 1 3/4 Hex Bolt, Grade 5
4	2	201-0147	1/2-13 x 4 1/2 Hex Bolt, Grade 5
5	2	201-0410	10mm-1.5 x 35mm Hex Bolt, Grade 8.8
6	2	202-0005	1/2-13 Hex Nut
7	4	203-0005	1/2 Flat Washer
8	6	203-0012	1/2 Lock Washer
9	2	203-0104	10mm Lock Washer
10	2	203-0127	Washer, 1.5 OD x .531 ID x 1/4
11	2	203-0103	10mm Flat Washer
12	2	61-4029	Whiz Nut with 10" Wire
	2	226-0046	Baseplate Safety Cable, 36" CL III (Not Shown)
	4	229-0359	Quicklink, 3/8, ZP (Not Shown)



# General Information

1. Ensure that your product(s) are registered online at [www.blueox.com](http://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

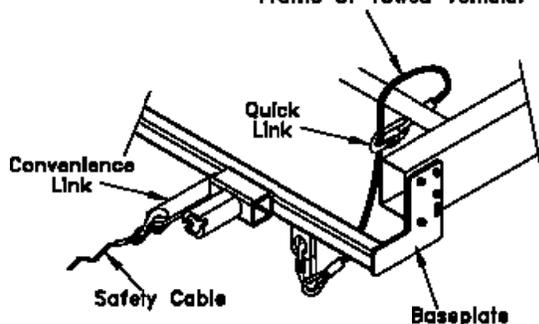
Permanent baseplate safety cables are strongly recommended when towing a vehicle with a tow bar. The principle function of the permanent baseplate safety cables is to prevent the towed vehicle from breaking loose in the event the connection between the frame of the towed vehicle and the baseplate fails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

