

Parts List

1	Driver / left section headache rack
1	Passenger / right section headache rack
1	Center / middle section headache rack
1	Center / middle section, mesh
2	Stake pocket clamp
8	Hex bolt, M8 - 1.25 x 25mm
8	Hex flange lock nut, M8 - 1.25mm
2	Hex bolt, M14 - 2.0 x 80mm
2	Flat washer, M14
2	Lock washer, M14
8	Adhesive wire ties

Tools Required

Ratchet	Socket, 13mm
Utility knife	Socket, 22mm
Flathead screwdriver	Open end wrench, 13mm
Needle nose pliers	

Torque Specifications

	METRIC	SAE
M6 bolt	3 ft.-lbs.	
M8 bolt	7 ft.-lbs.	
M10 bolt	16 ft.-lbs.	
M12 bolt	28 ft.-lbs.	
1/4" bolt		3 ft.-lbs.
5/16" bolt		7 ft.-lbs.
3/8" bolt		16 ft.-lbs.
7/16" bolt		20 ft.-lbs.
1/2" bolt		28 ft.-lbs.

Use above torque setting unless otherwise noted

Level of Difficulty

Easy



Scan for helpful install tips

Product Image



Notes and Maintenance

Before you begin installation, read all instructions thoroughly.

Proper tools will improve the quality of installation and reduce the time required.

To protect the product, wax after installing. Regular waxing is recommended to add a protective layer over the finish. Do not use any type of polish or wax that may contain abrasives that could damage the finish.

For polished, gloss and other smooth finishes, polish may be used to clear small scratches and scuffs on the finish.

Mild automotive detergent may be used to clean the product. Do not use dish detergent, abrasive cleaners, abrasive pads, wire brushes or other similar products that may damage the finish.

Refer to the table to the left when securing hardware during the installation process to help prevent damage to the product or vehicle.

Step 1

Starting on the driver side, locate and take out the plastic stake pocket cover.

Repeat this for the passenger side stake pocket cover.

Note: Some vehicles have removable stake pocket covers and cutting is not necessary.



Step 2

Insert the flathead screwdriver into the stake pocket and push in the tab to remove the plug.

Repeat for the passenger-side stake pocket plug.

Note: Not all vehicles will have a plug to remove. Removal is only necessary if it interferes with the stake pocket clamps.



Step 3

Locate the driver-side, passenger-side and center sections. Lay them face down on a flat surface. Determine if you wish to install the center mesh or leave the center open.

Align the four mounting holes on the outside driver- and passenger-side assemblies with the four holes in each side of the center assembly (with or without the center mesh).



Step 4

Loosely assemble the headache rack using eight M8 x 25mm hex bolts and eight M8 hex flange lock nuts. The bolts should be inserted from the inside as shown.

With all the hardware loosely installed, ensure the assemblies are aligned properly and fully tighten the hardware to 15 ft-lbs.



Step 5

Prior to installing headache rack check to make sure the stake pocket clamp hooks on both sides of the stake pocket.

If the clamp does not fully open on both sides, bending of the tabs may be required as shown.

Note: Needle nose pliers may be needed to remove clamp from stake pocket.



Step 6

Place the headache rack on a work table with the slotted ends hanging off the sides of the table.

Insert an M14 bolt, M14 lock washer and M14 flat washer through the slot and attach to the stake pocket clamp. The stake pocket clamp should be hanging down off the bottom of the headache rack as shown.

Repeat this process to attach the passenger-side clamp to the headache rack.



Step 7

With assistance, hold the assembled headache rack in position over the stake pockets in the truck bed rails.

Squeeze the stake pocket clamps to a closed position to allow them to be lowered into the stake pockets.

With the clamps lowered into the stake pockets, slide the headache rack into the desired location, ensuring it is centered on the vehicle.

Note: Place something between the headache rack and the cab of the truck or find assistance while inserting and tightening the rack down.



Step 8

With the headache rack in position, carefully tighten the M14 hex bolts. As the stake pocket clamp is tightened, it will expand in the stake pocket and pull up to the top of the bed rail. Ensure the clamp is fully expanded beyond the opening in the bed rail before fully tightening. See image with headache rack removed for clarity.

CAUTION: Only tighten the clamps enough to eliminate movement in the headache rack and fully compress the lock washer. Overtightening the clamps may result in damage to the bed rail and void the warranty.



Step 9

Congratulations on the installation of your new ARIES Switchback™ headache rack.

With the headache rack installed, periodic inspections should be performed to ensure all mounting hardware remains tight.

To protect your investment, see the 'Notes and Maintenance' section on the first page of this instruction manual.

