



U.S. Rack™ Inc. – 2850 Falcon Drive, Madera, CA 93637 – 1-888-877-2257

INSTRUCTIONS for STAKE POCKET RACK 5SEP08

WARNING: Do NOT attempt to install or use this rack without following all instructions.

SPECIFICATIONS and SAFE LOADING REQUIREMENTS

The Stake Pocket Rack is intended to carry ladders and other cargo not exceeding 500 lbs and **ONLY** on pick-up trucks with stake pockets. **This rack is designed to carry loads, which are spread across the width of the support spans and shared evenly between the front and rear spans. It is not designed to carry loads where a force of over 100 lbs. is concentrated on any space less than 12 inches wide along either span or where a force of over 250 lbs overall is loaded on either span. This product is not warranted for use off-road or on unimproved or poorly maintained or bumpy roads, nor is warranted when used contrary to instructions or specified uses.** U.S. Rack does NOT warrant any automotive product and does not warrant truck bed rails against damage or failures caused by the weight of excessive loads being applied to them when the rack is installed on a vehicle. **U.S. Rack is not responsible for injury or property damage resulting from the rack being improperly installed or improperly loaded, nor is it responsible for injury or property damage resulting from loads or parts of loads falling or being blown off a vehicle.** Loads extending beyond the rear bumper of the vehicle must be designated with a red flag during daylight or red light during darkness in accordance with the state vehicle code. Ensure that neither the rack nor any cargo blocks the view of tail or brake lights from rear.

BE SAFE: Carrying any load can be hazardous. All loads must be tied down securely to the rack to prevent them from vibrating or sliding forward, backward, laterally or being blown off or broken by unexpected wind or road hazards such as potholes. Check each time you install the rack, load the rack, as well as daily to ensure that all connections are tight. Periodically check welds for cracking caused by metal fatigue. Avoid roll over by ensuring that loads are not top-heavy. High loads must be transported with GREAT CAUTION to prevent loads from striking low overhead objects or tipping during turns, abrupt stops, or high winds.

INVENTORY

Your safety is paramount. Before assembling the rack, inventory and inspect all parts. Visually check each part to ensure it corresponds to the inventory list and check all welds for signs of cracking or weakness. Manufacturing and shipping mistakes can happen. If you think you have received the wrong product for your model truck, if you do not have all the correct parts, or if any parts appear to be defective, STOP and do NOT install the rack. Contact customer service at 1-888-877-2257 to replace missing or defective parts. If you have any questions about installation, call customer service.

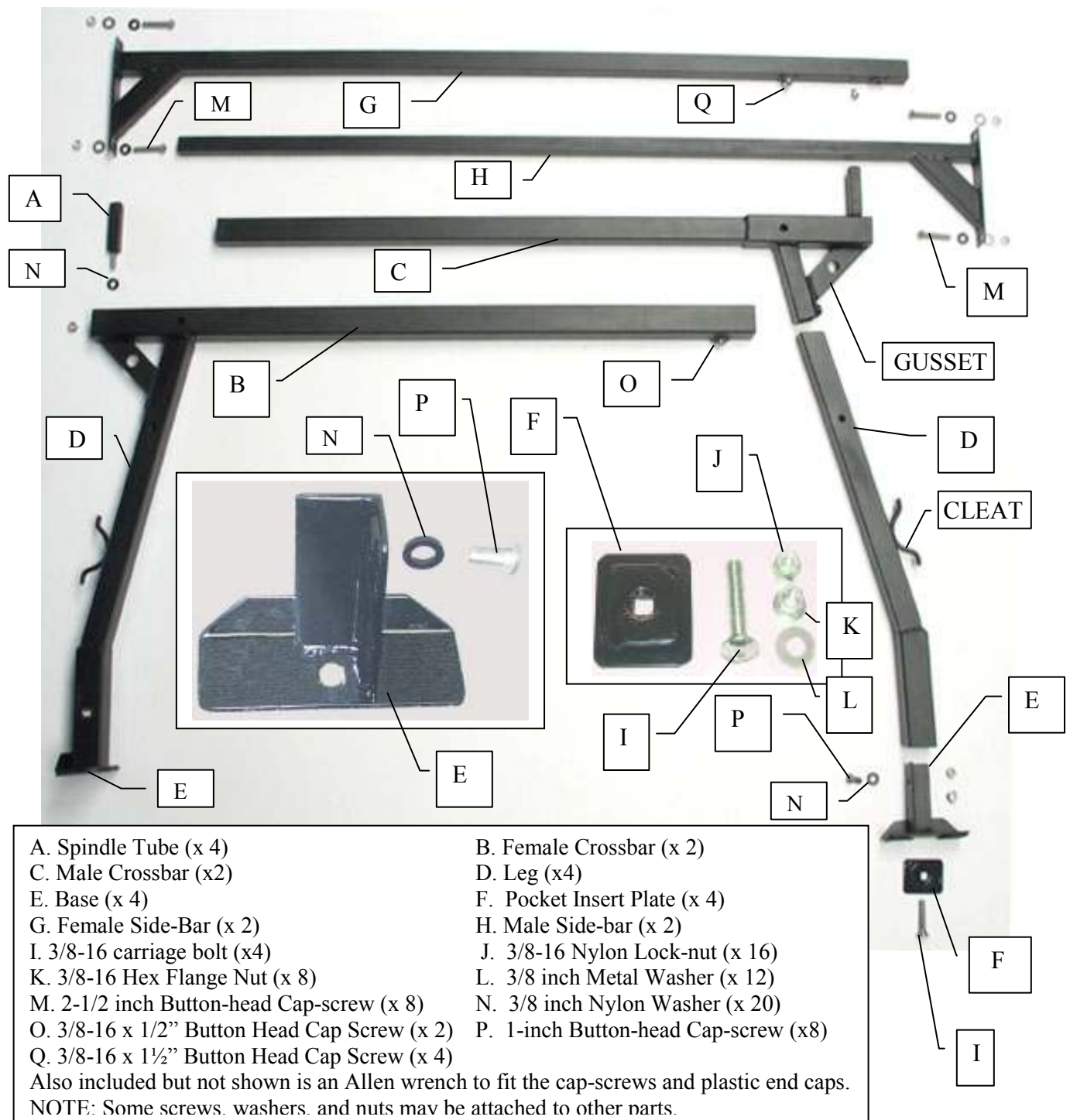


FIG. 1

ASSEMBLY

Read ALL instructions through once BEFORE you do anything!

- 1. Attach Spindle Tubes and Assemble Crossbars.** Pick up and examine both the Female and Male Crossbars (B and C). Notice that there is a hole in the top of each Crossbar near the end. Place a black nylon washer onto the threaded end of the Spindle Tube (A) and then insert the end down through the hole in the top of each Crossbar. Reach inside the open end of each crossbar and place a nylon lock nut onto the end of the spindle and tighten firmly as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Place a black plastic cap on the open end of each Crossbar.
- 2. Attach Crossbars to Legs.** Pick up and examine the Legs (D). Notice that there is a hole near the top on the same side of the Leg as the rope cleat (Fig. 1). Slide a Leg onto the tube projecting down from each Crossbar as far as it will go, and

align the hole in the bottom of the gusset with the hole in the Leg. Place a nylon washer onto a 1-inch long screw and screw it into the hole so that it engages the threads inside as shown in Fig. 5. Secure each Leg to the Crossbar by tightening the screws firmly with the Allen wrench. Lay the Crossbars down with the male side on the right and the female side on the left as shown in Fig. 1. Assemble the Crossbar by inserting the male side into the female side.

3. **Examine the Bases.** Notice that there is a threaded hole in vertical part of the Base (E). If it contains a screw (P) and washer (N), remove them for now.
4. **Examine Stake Pocket Insert Assembly.** Referring to Fig. 3, notice that the assembly contains a carriage bolt (I), metal washer (L), nylon lock nut (J) and flange nut (k). Examine the Pocket Insert Plate (F) and notice that it consists of a rectangular plate with a square hole upon which a smaller plate containing a round hole is welded. The normal configuration of this assembly is to have the smaller plate on top of the larger plate with the carriage bolt inserted from the bottom. When you receive your rack, normally the Pocket Insert Plate, washer and nuts are already attached to the Base, but if not, assemble as shown in Fig. 4. This is how the parts will appear when being inserted into the stake pocket. The nylon lock nut will not be added until later.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

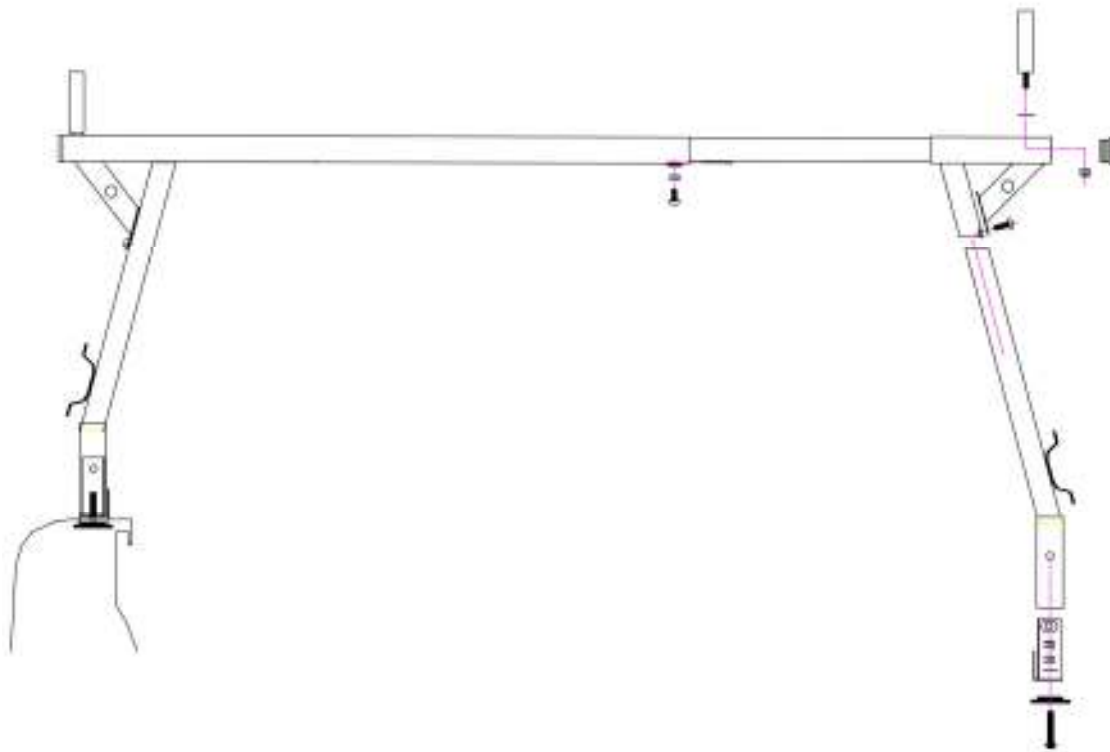


Fig. 5

5. **Attach the Male and Female Leg Crossbars.** Feed the smaller horizontal crossbar into the open end of the larger crossbar until they appear as in Fig. 5. Notice that there is a threaded hole on the bottom side of the female crossbar. Twist a 1-inch long button-head cap screw a couple rotations into this hole, but do not tighten further for now.

6. **Examine Side Bars.** Examine the Female Sidebars (G) and Male Sidebars (H) which come assembled in the package. Notice that there are two threaded holes on the bottom side of each Female Sidebar. Each contains 1.5-inch long button head cap screw (Q) which serves as a set screw. A flange nut (K) is also threaded on the screw and this can serve as a jam nut. Loosen each flange nut and thread it up until it nearly reaches the head of the screw and notice how the screws can then turn.

INSTALLATION

7. **Install Bases.** Begin installation by picking up one of the bases. Hanging from it by the carriage bolt should be the Insert Plate. Notice that there is a vertical portion of the base which is cut on both sides at a 45 degree angle. Orient the base so that this portion of the base is always facing the outside of the truck as shown in Fig. 6. Place the Pocket Insert Plate into the stake pocket as shown in Fig. 7 and 8. Examine Fig. 9 carefully. Ensure that the larger portion of the plate is fully seated below the rim of the stake pocket and the smaller raised portion of the Stake Pocket fits and is seated within the profile of the rectangular hole. It is critical that the raised portion of the small plate fits within this profile and that not edge of the larger plate is visible from above, even when the smaller plate is moved around within the profile of the pocket. This will ensure that when the nuts are tightened the carriage bolt and plate cannot spin, slide to one side, or come out of the pocket. If you cannot seat the plate in accordance with these directions, STOP, and contact customer service at 1-888-877-2257 before proceeding with installation. After the Pocket Insert Plate is properly seated, continue to pull up gently on the base to keep the plate from falling back down into the pocket as you tighten the nut. Tighten until the Base is firmly seated on the bedrail as shown in Fig. 10 but not so tightly that the truck sheet metal is bent or the bolt threads are stripped. To prevent loosening, screw a nylon lock nut onto the bolt as in Fig. 11.



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11

8. **Attach Cross-bar Assembly to Base.** Lower the tailgate of your truck and pick up one of the Cross-bar/Leg assemblies. Step up into the truck bed. As shown in Fig. 12, spread the legs apart to the proper distance and place the bottom of the Legs over the vertical portion of the Bases mounted right behind the cab. Note that the hole in each Base aligns with a hole in each Leg. **NOTE: WHEN THE BASES AND LEGS ARE PROPERLY INSTALLED, THE HOLE IN THE VERTICAL PORTION OF EACH BASE AND IN THE HOLE IN EACH LEG ARE ALWAYS ON THE LEFT WHEN VIEWED FROM OUTSIDE THE TRUCK. THIS MEANS THAT THE SCREW HOLES FACE TOWARD THE CAB ON THE DRIVER SIDE OF THE TRUCK AND TOWARD THE TAILGATE ON THE PASSENGER SIDE.** Locate the screws and washers previously removed from the Bases, and insert them through the holes in the Legs into the threads in the Bases and lightly tighten as shown in Figs. 13 and 14. When assembled the front Crossbar assembly should appear as in Fig. 15, below. Install the rear portion of the rack into the stake pockets in the same manner as the front.



Fig. 12



Fig. 13



Fig. 14

9. **Attach the Side Bars to the Legs.** Notice that there are two holes near the top of the Legs on the assembled rack. Notice that the two holes correspond to the two holes in each end of the Sidebars. Place a nylon washer on a 2-1/2 inch screw (M) and pass it through the hole in the front crossbar and then through the top hole in the end of a Female Sidebar. Attach a metal washer and nylon lock nut onto the end of the screw. Attach the male end of the Sidebar to the rear Crossbar in the same manner as the female was attached to the front. Screw the bottoms of the Sidebars to the Legs in the same manner as the tops were attached to the Crossbars. Align the legs to ensure that they are plumb.



Fig. 15



Fig. 16

10. **Fix the length of the Sidebars.** Tighten the screws on the bottom of the female Sidebars until impressions are left in the paint of the male Sidebar. Loosen screws and remove the Male from the Female Sidebar. Using a 3/8" bit, drill a hole in one side of the male Sidebar where each screw left an impression. **DRILL ONLY THROUGH THE FIRST WALL OF THE TUBE, NOT THE SECOND.** After drilling, reassemble the Sidebars and tighten the screws until they pass through the holes in the first wall of the male tube and make contact with the second. Tightening firmly will drive the male tube against female tube. Tighten each flange nut firmly against the tube to keep screws from vibrating loose.

11. **Tighten each screw and nut on the rack firmly**, so the rack cannot move in the stake pockets when pressure is applied, but not so firmly that the sheet metal or threaded parts are damaged. Frequently recheck tightness of threaded parts

Carrying any load can be hazardous. Avoid roll over. As with all racks, ensure that loads are not top-heavy. Loads should be placed so that the center of mass of the load is no closer than 24" from the sides of the rack. High loads must be transported with GREAT CAUTION to prevent loads from striking low overhead objects and from tipping during turns, abrupt stops, or high winds. Loads extending beyond the rear bumper of the vehicle must be designated with a red flag during daylight or red light during darkness in accordance with the state vehicle code.

WARRANTY for STAKE POCKET RACK

U.S. Rack™ products are warranted for a period of one year against all structural defects in materials and workmanship provided that they are assembled, installed, and used in accordance with all manufacturer's specifications and instructions. U.S. Rack **cannot warrant the powder-coating** on its products. Normal use of any powder-coated rack and exposure to weather can result in scratching of the surface, exposing metal below; therefore, maintenance on your rack will be required. To prevent rust, spot paint any scratches or breaks in the surface with a high quality metal paint. **Merchandize must be returned in the original box and packaging.** See return policies and procedures at <http://www.usrack.com/service.shtml>