



Installation Instructions

For the 2002-2005 4 door Ford Explorer

Congratulations on your purchase of high quality, steel reinforced running boards from Aero-Tec. These boards are designed to install easily, look great and provide years of dependable use and vehicle protection.

Please read thoroughly before you begin the installation process.

Hardware and Materials Enclosed:

- Support Brackets with Screw Pack
- Self-tapping tek-head Screws: (4 sizes)
(5/16" x 5/8" - 5/16" x 1" - 5/16" x 1 1/2" - 3/8" x 1")
- Black Caps and Washers for Wheel Wells
- Die-cut Step Pads

Tools Required:

- Screw Gun or Variable Speed Drill
- 5/16" Hex Head Drive
- 1/8" metal drill bit
- One Pair Locking Pliers or Clamps

Step 1.

Position the Boards on the Rocker Panel of Your Vehicle.

Each side is labeled as either passenger or driver side. Check this first.

- w These boards or steps are designed to mount under and flush with the rocker panel.
- w This style of board has an integrated mud flap in the front. Align the board so that the contoured mud flap is flush with the outside edge of the wheel wells.

Proper alignment is achieved when:

- w The integrated mud flap aligns with the edge of the wheel well.
- w The board is positioned far enough under the rocker panel to allow for attachment with self-tapping screws
- w The board is properly aligned with the side of the vehicle
- w And the in-step is level.

Step 1a.

Clamp or Hold the Boards in Place Onto Your Vehicle.

With the running board positioned as described above, use locking pliers to clamp the back of the front mud flap into the wheel well. Support the rear of the board with either a small floor jack or with the assistance of another individual.

Step 2.

Check For Proper Fit of Support Bracket.

There are two support brackets included with this kit, one for each side, as shown in the diagram to the lower right. Before the boards are attached to your vehicle you must make certain that the position of the boards accommodates the brackets. Refer to step #4 and the diagrams to the right to determine how and where the brackets will attach. If they fit as described, move on to Step #3 (do not attach the brackets at this time).

Step 3.

Attach the Boards to Your Vehicle.

- w Recheck the proper alignment as described in Step #1. Using the longer 5/16" x 1 1/2" self-tapping tek-head screws, drive two screws *with washers* through the front mud flap into the front wheel well approximately 1 1/2" and 4" from the top of the flap. Make certain that the point of attachment insures contact with the steel in the wheel well.

Note: The attachment screws for all Aero-Tec Boards are "tek" head self-tapping. **No pre-drilling is necessary for this step.**

- w Drive 5/16" x 1" screws from the bottom of the board (refer to diagram) into the rocker panel. The screws should be driven through the middle of the back edge of the board. One screw every 10 to 12 inches is all that is necessary. Note: due to the limited space available for this step, it may simplify the process to drill small guide holes in the board to provide a solid anchor point for the screws. Tighten only to the snug position. **DO NOT OVER-TIGHTEN.**

CAUTION

The rocker panels on some vehicles contain electrical wiring and/or air conditioning lines. Before drilling, physically check for this possibility and if either exist, move them out of the way.

Step 4.

Attach the Frame-Mounted Support Brackets:

One support bracket is used for each side. These brackets are mounted toward the rear of the board as shown in the diagram below. They will attach to the steel encased in the fiberglass board and to the frame of the vehicle.

- w Referring to the diagram below, position the back of the bracket against the frame. Slide the bracket upward until the outer end makes contact with the bottom of the running board.

Proper positioning:

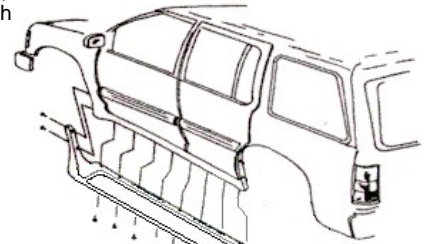
- 1) On this vehicle place the bracket against the frame at the point on the frame just before it begins to curve back toward the center of the vehicle.
- 2) Any two of the four holes on the end of the bracket must line up with the steel (raised ridge) on the underside of the board.

- w With the bracket held in place, mark the hole locations on the vehicle's frame.

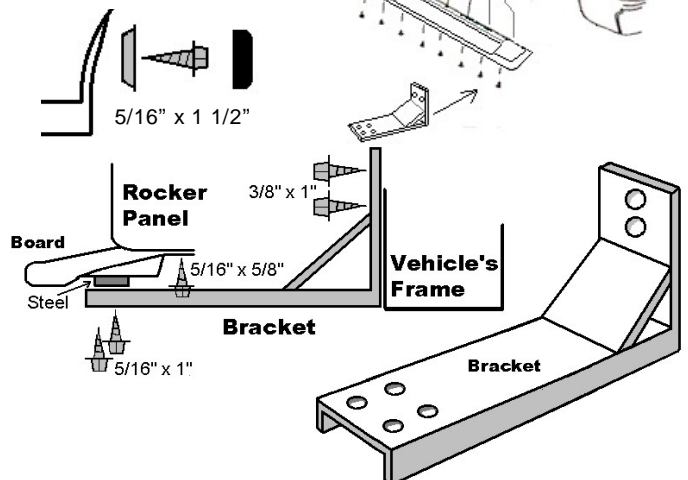
- w Using a 1/8" metal drill bit, drill two guide holes in the locations marked on the frame.

- w Using two 3/8" x 1" screws (thicker shank), attach the back of the bracket to the vehicle's frame.

- w Locate the steel encased in the underside of the running board. This will appear as distinct raised ridge. Using two 5/16" x 5/8" screws, attach the bracket to the running board. There are four holes on the end of the bracket. Any two must line up with the steel in the board.



Washers and black caps in the wheel well



Important: After installation apply full weight pressure to boards throughout the step area. This will properly "seat" the screws into the fiberglass and eliminate future stress sounds.

Step 6.

The Finishing Touches.

- Press black caps onto washers in wheel wells.
- Affix die-cut step pads to molded in-steps. Press firmly.
- Apply "Aero-Tec" emblems in the desired location on boards.

Care and Maintenance: Once attached to your vehicle, these running boards become a part of it and should be maintained as such. Proper care will provide years of beauty and