



## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

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6525

REAR AXLE FLIP & HANGER KIT – 5 OR 6 INCH LOWERING

14&UP CHEVROLET SILVERADO / GMC SIERRA 1500

THIS KIT MAY REQUIRE MODIFICATION TO EXHAUST TIP FOR CLEARANCE

Thank you for being selective enough to choose our high quality BELLTECH PRODUCT. We have spent many hours developing our line of products so that you will receive maximum performance with minimum difficulty during installation.

- Note: Confirm that all of the hardware listed in the parts list is in the kit. **Do not** begin installation if any part is missing. Read the instructions thoroughly before beginning this installation.
- Warning:** **DO NOT** work under a vehicle supported by only a jack. Place support stands securely under the vehicle in the manufacturer's specified locations unless otherwise instructed.
- Warning:** **DO NOT** drive vehicle until all work has been completed and checked. Torque all hardware to values specified.
- Reminder: Proper use of safety equipment and eye/face/hand protection is absolutely necessary when using these tools to perform procedures!
- Note: It is very helpful to have an assistant available during installation.

### RECOMMENDED TOOLS:

- Properly rated floor jack and six (6) support stands
- Wheel chocks
- Die grinder equipped with abrasive cut-off wheel
- ½" drive torque wrench
- Standard socket wrench set
- Air powered ½" drive impact wrench
- Flat bladed screw driver
- Safety glasses
- Air powered chisel
- Power drill and drill bits
- 3/8-16 Tap

### KIT INSTALLATION

As this is a relatively involved installation, **we recommend** that a qualified mechanic at a properly equipped facility perform it. **We also recommend** that the installation be performed on a firm, flat and level surface, such as seasoned asphalt or concrete. The use of safe and properly maintained equipment is very important! **We recommend** measuring and recording all stock driveline angles prior to installing this kit. This information may be helpful if vibration problems arise after installation.

## 1. JACKING, SUPPORTING AND PREPARING THE VEHICLE

- 1a) Block the front wheels of the vehicle with appropriate wheel chocks. Make sure the vehicle's transmission is in "Park" (automatic) or 1<sup>st</sup> gear (manual). Activate the parking brake.
- 1b) Loosen, but **DO NOT REMOVE** the rear lug nuts.
- 1c) Lift the rear of the vehicle off the ground using a properly rated floor jack, Lift the vehicle so that the rear tires are approximately 6-8 inches off the ground surface.
- 1d) Support the vehicle using four (4) support stands, rated for the vehicle's weight. The stands should be positioned, two on each of the frame rails, just forward of the front leaf spring hangers and just below the rear leaf spring shackle hangers. Prior to lowering the vehicle onto the stands, make sure the supports will securely contact the straight, flat portions of the frame area. **It is very important that the vehicle is properly supported during this installation to prevent frame damage and personal injury! Make sure that the support stands are properly placed prior to performing the following procedures.**
- 1e) Slowly lower the vehicle onto the stands and, before placing the vehicle's weight on them, again check that they properly and securely contact the frame rails described above. Check for possible interference with any lines, wires or cables.
- 1f) Remove the rear wheels

**SAFETY REMINDER:** Check for safe vehicle stability before proceeding under the vehicle to begin the following procedures. Never work under a vehicle supported by only a jack. Always use properly rated support stands to support the vehicle.

## 2. TRAILER HITCH REMOVAL (IF APPLICABLE)

If your vehicle has come equipped with a Trailer Hitch, more than likely, this will interfere with the installation process. This will need to be removed. This makes access easier when mounting the REAR SHACKLE hardware.

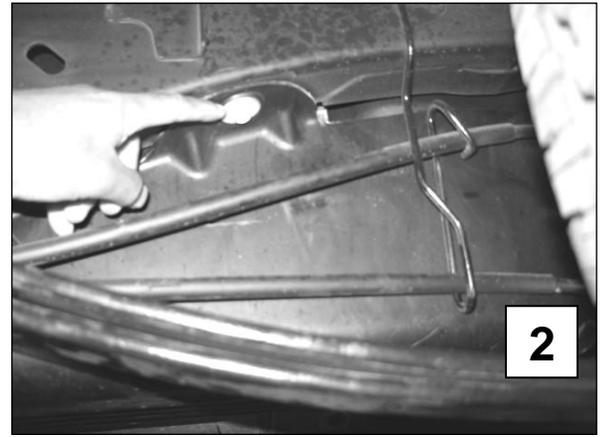
- 2a) Disconnect the wire plug if it is integrated into the hitch (**Photo 1**).
- 2b) Remove all the mounting hardware for the Trailer Hitch.
- 2c) Lower and remove the Trailer Hitch and place out of the way, along with the hardware.



## 3. GAS TANK REMOVAL/ LOWERING

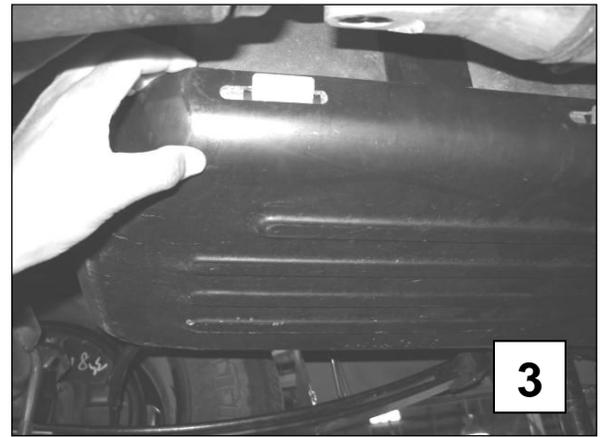
**NOTE:** This step would be easier to do if the GAS TANK was near empty. Otherwise, moving a tank with more fuel will be more difficult.

- 3a)** Remove and set aside the bolts securing the PROTECTIVE SHIELD that shrouds the GAS TANK. There are three (3) mounting bolts on one side (driver's side), that mount directly to the frame. (**Photo 2**)  
**NOTE:** Some '16 & '17 model years do not come with protective shield. Proceed to Step 3c.



- 3b)** Lift the opposite side of the PROTECTIVE SHIELD up to clear the rectangular hooks (**Photo 3**). You should now be able to remove the PROTECTIVE SHIELD. Set this aside. Place the three (3) mounting bolts back in their respective mounting holes for safe keeping.

- 3c)** Support the GAS TANK from underneath.

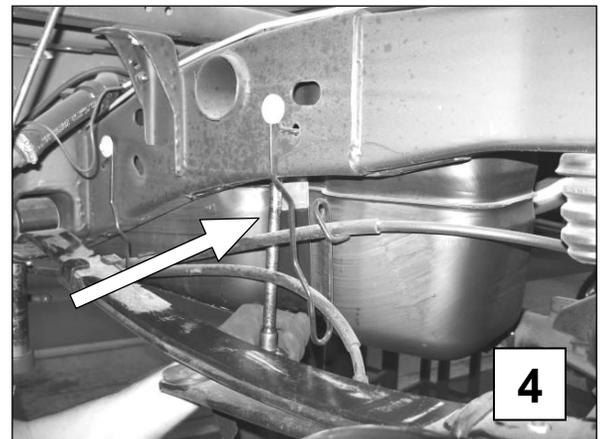


- 3d)** Remove the two mounting bolts holding the GAS TANK straps that are mounted at each end of the TANK (**Photo 4**). These are located on the driver's side of the TANK itself and the inside part of the frame chassis. Each strap is mounted directly to the frame on one end only. The opposite end is attached primarily by a hook attachment.

- 3e)** Pull the straps down from the driver's side and un-hook the straps from the other end

- 3f)** Remove the 3 mounting bolts that secure the GAS NOZZLE INTAKE (**Photo 5**).

- 3g)** Support the GAS TANK from underneath and slowly lower it six 6 to 12 inches, pulling the rubber gas neck down as the GAS TANK travels down



#### **4. LEAF SPRING REMOVAL**

- 4a)** Remove the rear shocks

- 4b)** Support the axle to keep it in place before removing the U-bolts.

- 4c)** Remove the U-BOLTS (two per each LEAF SPRING) that are attached to the rear axle. Set aside all 4 stock U-BOLTS as they will be used with the new kit.

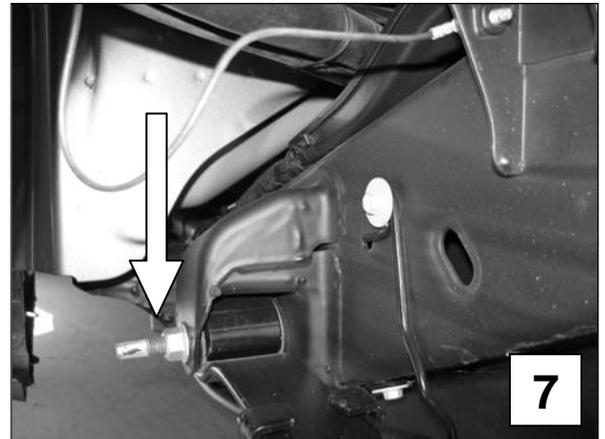
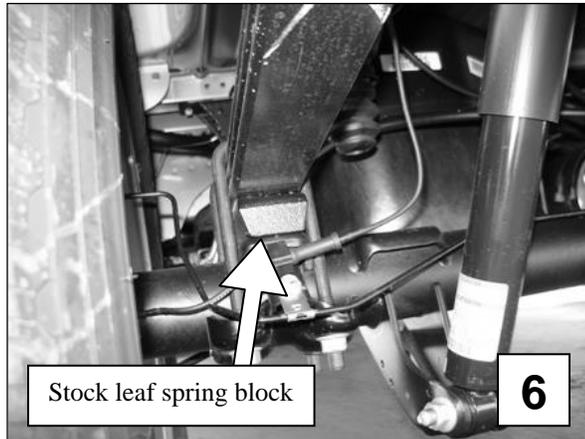


**BE CAREFUL** not to damage the brake hoses/and or driveline when re-locating the rear axle assembly.

**4c)** Lower the rear axle from the leaf spring and support it, making sure not to put tension on any electrical or brake lines/hoses that are attached to it.

**4d)** Remove the stock leaf spring block from the axle (**Photo 6**). The stock spring block will not be used in the Belltech kit.

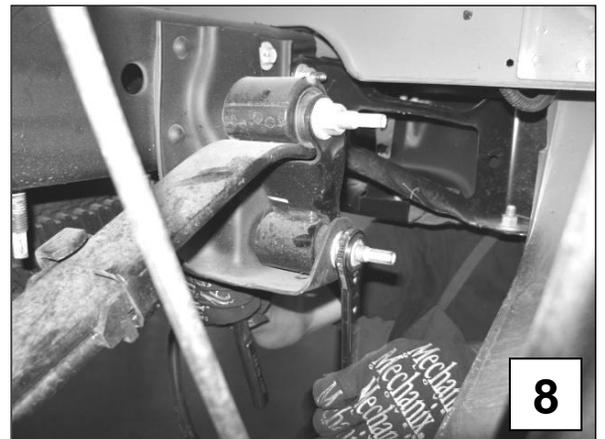
**CAUTION:** LEAF SPRINGS may be under tension. SPRINGS under tension store a great amount of energy. Use caution during the following steps to avoid personal injury and/or damage to the vehicle.



**4e)** Loosen, but do not remove the rear leaf spring mounting bolts as well as the shackle mounting bolts.

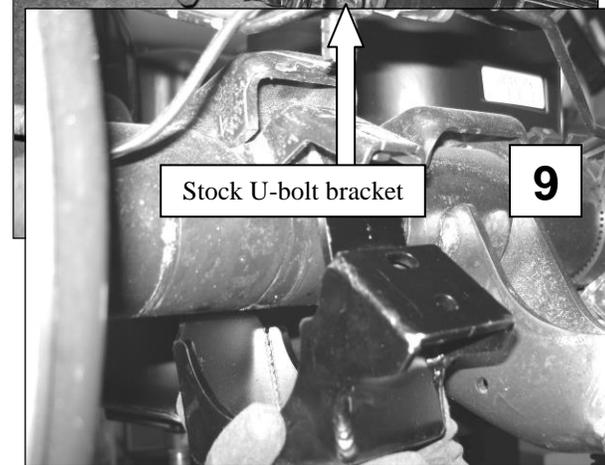
**4f)** Remove the front leaf spring mounting bolt (**Photo 7**). Once the bolt is removed, the LEAF SPRING should be able to sit atop the rear axle.

**4g)** Remove the bolts securing the rear shackle to the hanger (**Photo 8**). Carefully remove the leaf spring.



**4h)** Mark each LEAF SPRING left, right, front or rear to make sure they are re-installed correctly.

**4i)** Reverse the center bolt pin direction on both the LEAF SPRINGS for proper reinstallation after the axle is relocated. Use a c-clamp to keep the leaf spring assembly in tack while reversing the center bolt (**Photo 9**). While the center pin is removed, remove the stock U-bolt positioning bracket as it will not be used with the Belltech kit.



## 5. AXLE SADDLE PREPARATION (if applicable)

- 5a) Locate the bracket under the rear side of the stock saddle that holds the brake line and sensor wire. Detach the brake line and sensor wire from this mount and cut the mount from the axle (**Photo 10**). The new BELLTECH saddle will have an incorporated mounting surface to reattach these components.

## 6. REAR SHACKLE HANGER REMOVAL (STOCK)

- 6a) Use a cut-off wheel or a type of abrasive cutting tool to make slots thru the heads of the rivets on each REAR SHACKLE HANGER. (**Photo 11**) There are three (3) rivets on each side that need to be removed. The slots should be straight thru the rivet heads and flush with the surface they are mounted to

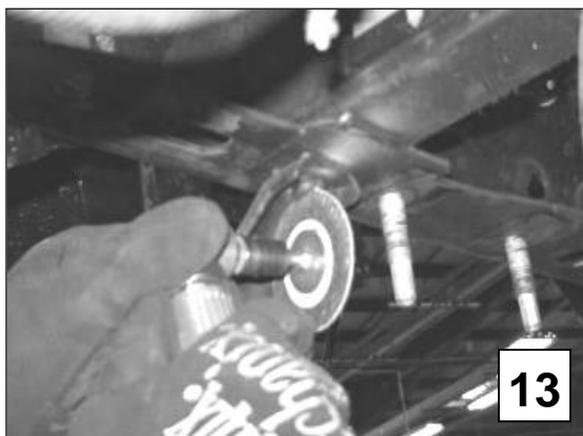
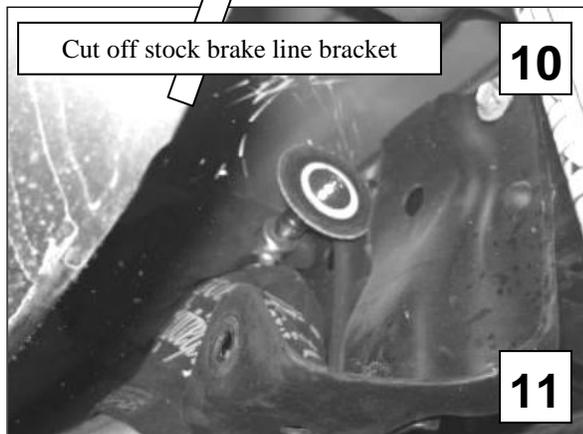
- 6b) Remove the rivet heads with a pneumatic hammer and chisel attachment. (**Photo 12**). It should take no more than a few seconds to chisel each head off. Once all rivet heads have been removed, it is helpful to use a punch and hammer or a punch with the air hammer to push out the remaining portion of the rivets.

**NOTE:** If the rivets heads are not easily chiseled off, the cut thru the center is probably not deep enough. Increasing the depth of the slot thru the center will decrease the time it takes to remove the rivets. DO NOT cut all the way through the hanger bracket.

- 6c) Remove the single bolt that mounts each REAR SHACKLE HANGER.

- 6d) Remove the entire REAR SHACKLE HANGER completely off the chassis.

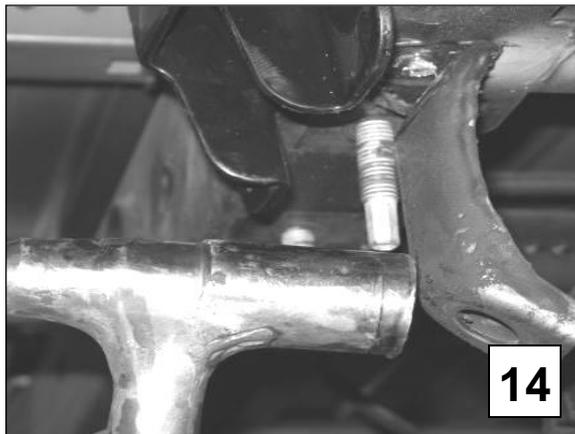
- 6e) Remove the REAR SHACKLE HANGER SUPPORT BRACKET. Use a cut-off wheel or type of abrasive cutting tool to make a slot straight (**Photo 13**) through the rivet head and flush with surface they are mount to. Use a pneumatic hammer to remove the rivet head. The bracket is also held on by a small weld. Use a hammer and pliers to pull and push the SUPPORT BRACKET back and forth until it breaks free. (**Photo 14**)
- NOTE:** Newer models do not have a rivet to cut, only the small welds.



## 7. BUMP STOP INSTALLATION

7a) Removed the stock bump stop and bracket from the chassis to allow for additional travel (**Photo 15**). Unbolt the bump stock stop. To remove the bump stop mount from the chassis use an abrasive cutting wheel to cut thru the welds around the mount. **DO NOT cut into the chassis.**

7b) Use a hammer and chisel to remove the mount from the frame once the welds have been cut (**Photo 16**).



7c) Use an abrasive grinder to remove the excess material on the frame once the bracket has been removed. Use black spray paint to protect the raw exposed metal.

7d) Drill a pilot hole for the supplied bump stop. (Drill size 5/16") Locate the hole centered over the axle so the bump stop will come in contact with the bump pad on the axle (**Photo 17**). Tap the hole using a 3/8-16 tap.



7e) Install the BELLTECH bump stop specified for your lowering amount (**See Chart A**).

## 8. LEAF SPRING INSTALLATION

8a) Pre-assemble the REAR SHACKLE HANGER and the appropriate SPRING SHACKLE. Install but do not completely tighten the mounting bolt. (**See Chart A**)

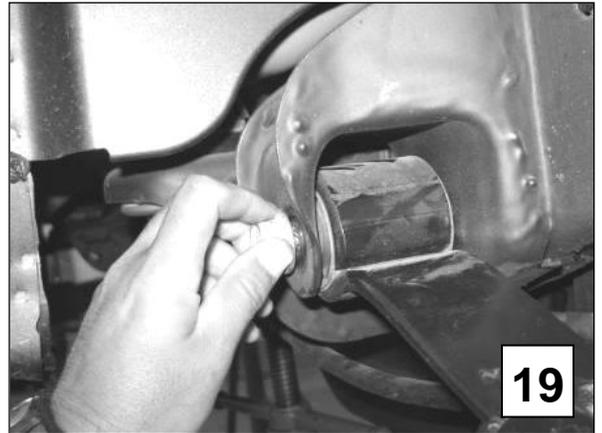
8b) Using the kit supplied hardware, bolt up the new BELLTECH REAR SHACKLE HANGER to the existing holes in the chassis. (**Photo 18**)(**See Chart A**)

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

Located on your new BELLTECH REAR SHACKLE HANGER, are four (4) sets of holes, four (4) on each side of the HANGER. Using the top hole and the third hole from the top, as shown in **Photo 18**, lowers the vehicle 5". For lowering the vehicle 6", use the second and fourth holes from the top. It might be necessary to bend the flange on the underside of the bed to allow for additional clearance when installing the hanger in the 6" position.

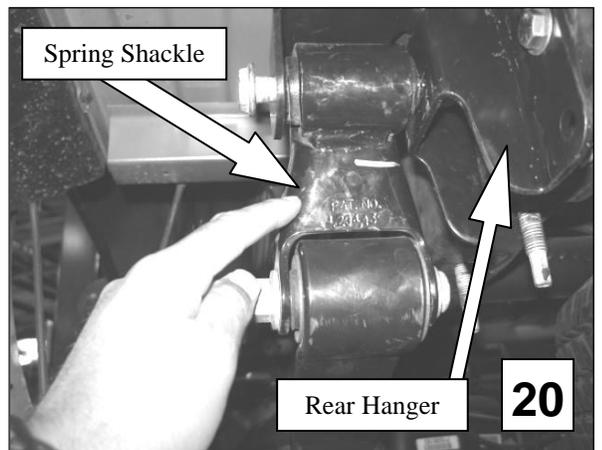


**8c)** Install the front of the leaf spring first using the original hardware. Install the bolt from the GAS TANK side outward towards the driver's side of the vehicle, thru the frame and the LEAF SPRING eye. Start the lock nut, but do not tighten completely. (**Photo 19**)



**8d)** Raise the rear axle up far enough to attach the rear leaf spring mount. Swing the LEAF SPRING upward. The LEAF SPRING will now locate underneath the rear axle.

**8e)** Align the LEAF SPRING eye with the SPRING SHACKLE mount holes. Insert the hardware and but do not tighten completely (**Photo 20**).



**8f)** Tighten the front LEAF SPRING mounting bolts.

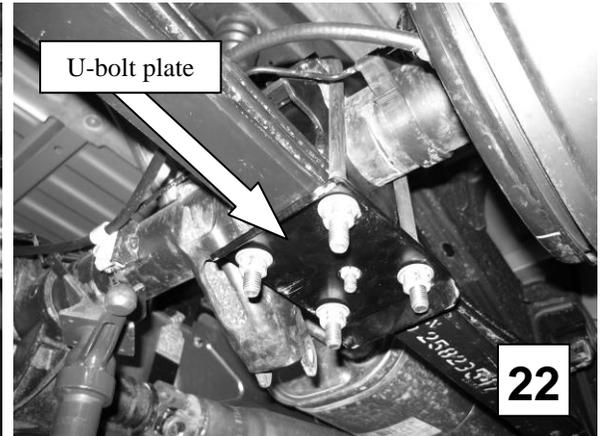
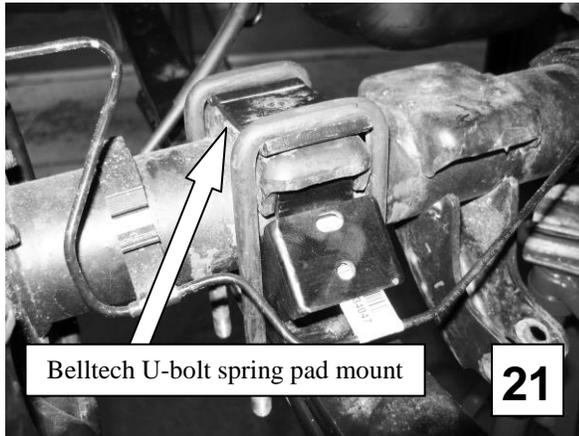
**8g)** Re-install gas tank, nozzle, and cover, making sure not to damage any hoses or fittings when reinstalling.

## **9. AXLE SADDLE AND U-BOLT INSTALLATION**

**9a)** Place the BELLTECH ADAPTER SADDLES on top of the springs with the hole over the head of the spring center bolt. To properly position the axle, the attached mounting plate for the brake line and sensor wire (If Applicable) will face the rear of the vehicle.

**9b)** Lower the rear axle assembly down onto the saddles slowly. The ears should fit into the stock spring perches on the axle tubes. Make sure both ears on each SADDLE locate completely in the perches

- 9c) Place the BELLTECH U-BOLT SPRING PAD MOUNTS on top of the axle spring pad and with the stock U-bolts place the horizontal portion inside the two bent flanges so they are locked in position (**Photo 21**).



- 9d) Install the BELLTECH U-BOLT PLATES (under the LEAF SPRINGS), with the off-set holes forward, so the U-BOLTS pass through the appropriate slots. (**Photo 22**) Attach the PLATES using washers and locknuts. Tighten and torque locknuts to 75 ft./lb.

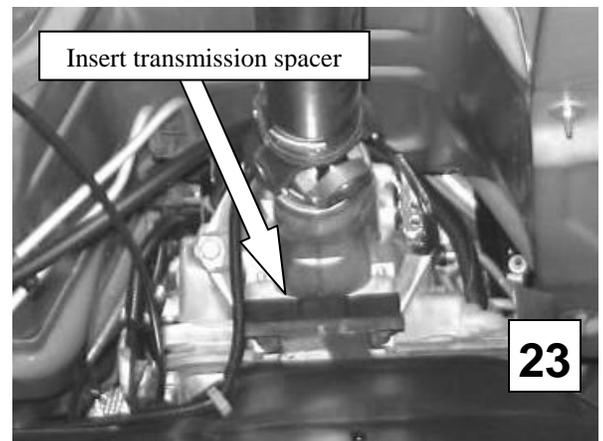
**Note:** The BELLTECH AXLE ADAPTER SADDLES have been designed to properly position the rear axle pinion shaft relative to the driveline so that vibrations are eliminated. If driveline vibrations are experienced, take the vehicle to a driveline service shop immediately for driveline angle inspection and necessary adjustments. **DO NOT** drive vehicles exhibiting driveline vibrations, as U-joint wear could occur prematurely. Be sure to lubricate the U-joints if deemed necessary.

- 9e) Install all brake line and electrical brackets
- 9f) Install trailer hitch and wiring.
- 9g) Install Belltech shocks (**See Chart A**)

## 10. 2WD TRANSMISSION SPACER INSTALLATION

We have included a transmission spacer to correct a small drive line vibration. The spacer will install between the transmission mount and the rubber isolator (**Photo 23**).

- 10a) Remove the two bolts from the isolator to the transmission, lift and insert the spacer, install the two supplied 10mm bolts thru the spacer and back into the transmission.



## 11. COMPLETING INSTALLATION

- 12a) All hardware being fastened to the vehicle's original fastening points should be torqued to the proper specifications. To prevent chassis damage, never over-torque the hardware. The SPRING SHACKLE MOUNTS should remain installed but not tightened until step 12e.

- 12b)** Check that all components have been properly installed, tightened and torqued.
- 12c)** Reinstall the rear wheels. Lift vehicle and remove support stands. Carefully lower vehicle to ground.
- 12d)** Tighten all 4 SPRING SHACKLE bolts to 90 ft./lbs.
- 12e)** Verify adequate clearance of all hoses, lines, and exhaust pipes. Test-drive the vehicle in a remote location so that you can become accustomed to the revised driving characteristics and handling. Be aware that the vehicle will handle substantially different now that it has been modified
- 12f)** Installation is complete. Check all of the hardware and re-torque at intervals for the first 10, 100, 1000 miles.

### Parts List: 6525 Axle flip kit

Part #	Description	Quantity
6525-020	Axle Saddle	2
6525-005	U-Bolt Plate	2
6521-004	U-Bolt Spring Pad Mount	2
6519-010	Rear Leaf Hanger	2
6521-003	Transmission Spacer	1
5922-001	1¼" Bump Stop	2
110645	Flat Washer A325 7/16" ( <i>Hanger</i> )	12
110303	Stover Lock Nut 7/16"-20 ( <i>Hanger</i> )	6
110650	HH Cap Screw 7/16"-20 X 1-1/4" ( <i>Hanger</i> )	6
112002	HHCS 8mm-1.25 x 20 ( <i>Axle Saddle</i> )	2
112280	Flange Nut 8mm x 1.25 ( <i>Axle Saddle</i> )	2
112026	HHCS 10mm-1.5 x 35mm ( <i>Transmission Spacer</i> )	2
110625	Flat Washer 3/8" ( <i>Axle Saddle</i> )	2

### Chart A - Installation Chart For Each Lowering

Application	Spring Shackle	Hanger Position On Vehicle	Bump Stop	Shocks Street Performance / Nitro Drop 2
4" drop	Belltech (6700)	Lowest	2" (4923)	2212FF / 8504
5" drop	Stock	Lowest	1 ¼" (5922)	2210FF / 8510
6" drop	Stock	Highest	1 ¼" (5922)	2210FF / 8510