



Automatic Self-Leveling System



Quick Installation O Guide

Pages 4-5

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# **INSTALLATION GUIDE**

For maximum effectiveness and safety, please read these instructions completely before proceeding with installation.

Failure to read these instructions can result in an incorrect installation.

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# **A. Introduction**

SmartAir II is an automated air management system. It is designed to keep the vehicle at the pre-programmed ride height without user input.

The electronic height sensor (EHS) is mounted to the vehicle frame and the magnet/ bracket is mounted to the axle or leaf spring. When load is added to the vehicle, the magnet rises above the EHS centerline (as the suspension is compressed). If the magnet maintains this position for a minimum of 15-20 seconds, the EHS will turn on the compressor, adding air to the air bags. Air is added until the magnet is re-centered, restoring the vehicle to its pre-programmed ride height.

When the load is removed from the vehicle, the magnet falls below the EHS and, after 15-20 seconds, will energize the exhaust solenoid. This allows the air to escape from the air bags until the magnet is re-centered, restoring the vehicle to its pre-programmed ride height.

## NOTATION EXPLANATION

Hazard notations appear in various locations in this publication. Information which is highlighted by one of these notations must be observed to help minimize risk of personal injury or possible improper installation, which may render the vehicle unsafe. Notes are used to help emphasize areas of procedural importance and provide helpful suggestions. The following definitions explain the use of these notations as they appear throughout this guide.

 DANGER
INDICATES IMMEDIATE HAZARDS WHICH WILL RESULT IN SEVERE PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.
WARNING
INDICATES HAZARDS OR UNSAFE PRACTICES WHICH COULD RESULT IN SEVERE PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.
INDICATES HAZARDS OR UNSAFE PRACTICES WHICH COULD RESULT IN DAMAGE TO THE MACHINE OR MINOR PERSONAL INJURY.
NOTE



NOTE

# **B. Installing the SmartAir II System**

See the Installation Diagram on pages 4-5 for detailed information about installing the SmartAir II system.

## CHOOSE A MOUNTING LOCATION

The electronic height sensor (EHS) and magnet mounting bracket should be mounted as close to the center of the leaf spring as possible, and can be forward or rearward of the axle. The sensor should be attached to the frame rail and can hang down off of the frame rail if necessary to take full advantage of the range of the sensor (Fig. B.1).

KEEP ALL COMPONENTS CLEAR OF ANYTHING THAT MAY COME IN CONTACT WITH **CAUTION** THEM WHILE THE SUSPENSION TRAVELS IN JOUNCE AND COMPRESSION.

When choosing the mounting method, keep in mind that the center of the magnet must align with the height sensor when the vehicle is at ride height. The magnet and the height sensor must be between 1" - 1 1/2" apart.



## CHOOSE HOW TO MOUNT THE MAGNET BRACKET

The magnet bracket can be mounted so it is between the clamp bar and the leaf springs or under one of the bolts holding the clamp bar to the leaf spring.



THIS MAGNET IS VERY STRONG. IT IS POSSIBLE FOR THE MAGNET TO PINCH FINGERS AND SKIN BETWEEN ANOTHER MAGNET OR METAL OBJECT. CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN WHEN HANDLING THE MAGNET.



## MOUNTING THE COMPRESSOR AND EXHAUST SOLENOID

The compressor must be mounted no more than 24 inches from the exhaust solenoid. Mount the exhaust solenoid no more than 68 inches from the EHS (Figs. B.2 & B.3).



The ground wire should be fastened below the compressor bracket so that it is in contact with the frame. Some paint may need to be ground off the frame to make good contact.

fig. B.2

fig. B.3

Compressor



The compressor air line can be installed on either side of the exhaust solenoid.

Exhaust solenoid

**CAUTION** 

LOCATE COMPRESSOR IN DRY, PROTECTED AREA ON VEHICLE. DIRECT SPLASH OR EXCESSIVE MOISTURE CAN DAMAGE THE COMPRESSOR AND CAUSE SYSTEM FAILURE.

- 1. Use the compressor as a template for mounting.
- 2. The compressor can be mounted in any orientation: sideways, upside down or top up.
- 3. Install the compressor using hardware supplied with the compressor.
- 4. Follow middle insert on pages 4-5 for wiring and location recommendations.

NOTE

Figures B.1, B.2 and B.3 show a completed SmartAir II installation on a Chevrolet Silverado.



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W or X

**Compressor and exhaust solenoid** 

Ground

(B

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AB

Wiring to the

battery

**Ignition fuse** 

Connect

source

Apply heat from heat gun to seal butt splice.

to ignition

box and relay

# **C. Quick Installation Guide**

## HARDWARE LIST\*

А	72118	Electronic height sensor (EHS)	1
В	16060	Compressor	1
С	21984	Exhaust solenoid assembly	1
D	26893	Harness	1
Е	20946	1/4" Air line	20 ft.
F	11997	Smart Air II sensor bracket	1

#### **Hardware Pack**

	mare r aen	
G	10966	Magnet1
Н	10967	Magnet mounting bracket1
I	10466	8" Black zip tie12
J	21838	1/4" x 1/4" x 1/4" Union tee2
K	17173	#14-14 x 3/4" Self-tapping screw1
L	18600	#10-24 x 1.25" Flat socket cap screw1
Μ	10583	3/8" x 3.5" x 4.5" U-bolt1
Ν	01426	Clamp bar1
0	18435	3/8"-16 Nylon lock nut2
Р	18444	3/8" Flat washer2
Q	17263	1/4"-14 x 1" Self-tapping screw3
R	17925	#10-24 x 1" Flat socket cap screw2
S	18590	#10 Flat washer1
Т	18591	10-24 Nylon lock nut3
U	11269	1" P-clamp1
V	24561	ATM fuse tap adapter1
W	24594	Insulated female .250" term 14-16GA1
Х	24524	Insulated female .187" term 14-16GA1
Y	24542	ATC fuse tap adapter1
Z	24501	Fuse holder ATM1
AA	24661	Heat-shrinkable butt splice 14-16GA1
AB	24748	3/8" 10-12GA Ring terminal1
AC	24503	Fuse ATM 3A1
AD	24681	3/8" 14-16GA Ring terminal1

\* Dual system doubles all quantities

# ORDER OF

- Install electronic height sensor and magnet bracket.
- 2. Install compressor and exhaust solenoid.
- 3. Route wiring harness and air lines through vehicle and make all connections.
- Connect wiring to battery.



(4)

**3** (Y

(V)

To air springs

E)

AD

- 1

For blade (ATC) fuse

For mini (ATM) fuse

Ξ

💻 or

AC

## SmartAIR II





## SUGGESTED COMPONENT LAYOUT

This layout may need modification based on the application. This guide should be used as a general reference. Important considerations include:

> • Keep wiring and air lines away from heat sources such as the exhaust. Install heat shields if heat sources cannot be avoided.

• Avoid routing air lines and wiring near sharp edges. If passing air lines or wiring through holes in the frame, use rubber grommets. Support wiring and air lines every 12" with zip ties or other means.

• Avoid kinking air lines.

• Mount the compressor in a location to avoid water splashing off the tires.



Drawing not to scale. Air bags are for reference only and are not included with SmartAir II.

REMOVE ALL FUSES WHEN JUMP-STARTING OB WEI DING ON



OR WELDING ON THE VEHICLE. FAILURE TO DO SO COULD DAMAGE THE EHS.

fig. C.1



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NOTE

## **TIPS FOR CUTTING AIR LINES**

When cutting air lines, use a sharp knife or a hose cutter and make clean, square cuts (Fig. D.1). Do not use scissors or wire cutters because these tools will deform the air line, causing it to leak around fittings. Do not cut the lines at an angle.

The minimum bend radius for 1/4" air line is 1". Do not bend the air line less than the minimum bend radius or side load the fitting connections. Air lines are to be installed straight into fittings.

Inspect the air line for scratches that run lengthwise prior to installation. Contact Air Lift customer service at **(800) 248-0892** if the air line is damaged.



To watch a video demonstrating proper air line cutting, go to air-lift.co/cuttingairline



## **PUSH-TO-CONNECT FITTINGS**

Air lines should be pushed into the push-to-connect fittings firmly, with a slight sideto-side rotational twist. Check the connection by pulling on each line to verify a robust connection.

To release the air line from the connection (Fig. D.2), first release all air from the system. Push in on the air line (step 1), push the collar in (step 2). With the collar depressed, pull the air line out of the fitting (step 3).



## **CHECKING FOR LEAKS**

- 1. Inflate the air spring to 30 PSI using the Schrader valve.
- 2. Spray all connections and the Schrader valve with a solution of 1/5 liquid dish soap and 4/5 water. Spot leaks easily by looking for bubbles in the soapy water.
- 3. After the test, deflate the springs to the minimum pressure required to restore the system to normal ride height.
- 4. Check the air pressure again after 24 hours. A 2-4 PSI loss after initial installation is normal. Retest for leaks if the loss is more than 5 PSI.

## **FIXING LEAKS**

- 1. If there is a problem with the push-to-connect fitting, remove the air line as described above. Trim 1" off the end of the air line. Be sure the cut is clean and square (see Fig. D.1).
- 2. Reinsert the air line into the push-to-connect fitting as described above.

# E. Calibrating the System

- 1. Pressurize the air springs with 5 PSI using the Schrader valves with the vehicle unloaded.
- 2. Remove the screw in the magnet so you can see the sensor through the hole and center it on the white line.
- 3. Turn the ignition on. Release the pressure from the bags, wait until the compressor turns on and check to ensure it fills back up to 5 PSI. If vehicle doesn't rise, raise the magnet until it will maintain 5 PSI at ride height.

# **F. Troubleshooting Guide**

Problem	Cause	Solution			
The system	The system has a 15- to 20-second delay before the compressor and exhaust solenoid will function.				
Compressor doesn't run.	Blown 15-amp or 3-amp fuse, bad ground, poor connection, bad compres- sor or Electronic Height Sensor (EHS).	Check fuses, grounds and connections. Ground termi- nal at relay to see if compressor runs. Unplug com- pressor and bench test.			
System not exhausting properly.	Blown 3-amp fuse, bad connections, bad solenoid or EHS.	Check fuse and connection. Unplug exhaust solenoid from harness connection. Use jumper wires to vehicle power and ground to check operation by connecting one side of exhaust solenoid connector to power and the other to ground. If it functions, the EHS is bad or there is a bad connection.			
Compressor runs all the time.	Leak in air line, fitting or exhaust sole- noid, bad relay or EHS.	Locate leak, replace relay or check EHS.			
Vehicle does not maintain/reach ride height.	Bad/leaking exhaust solenoid or bad EHS.	Unplug the solenoid and test by jumping power and ground to appropriate circuit in harness to ensure func- tions.			
	The vehicle could be overloaded.	If the air pressure in the system is at its max pressure of 100 PSI, the height the magnet/sensor was set at will not be achieved. Reduce the load to achieve level ride height.			
Nothing happens when the vehicle is	Blown 3-amp fuse, poor ground or connection.	Check fuses, connections and grounds.			
on.	Bad EHS.	Test individual components to verify function. Ground terminal to test compressor and harness.			
	Magnet may not be properly aligned (typically too high), may be backward or may be improper distance from EHS.	Check magnet alignment, distance, and ensure the chamfered side is facing EHS.			

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