

Rev 12/21/24

**SPIKER**  
ENGINEERING

# ***ULTIMATE Lift***

## 1993-1998 Toyota T100 Hood Strut Installation Instructions



**NOTE:** The latest version of the installation manual is on our website. Please download it and check its release date against the date of this manual (highlighted in yellow on top of page). Follow the instructions of the latest release date. Link to manual - <https://spikerengineering.com/installation>

Thank you for purchasing the Spiker Engineering ***Ultimate Lift*** hood strut kit. This kit uses premium OEM-quality components, and is designed for easy installation. Please follow this manual carefully to ensure a quality installation and many years of reliable service.

Although only the highest quality parts are used in this kit, the installation of these parts is beyond our control. Therefore, the only warranty provided is for the actual parts.

It is the customer's responsibility to understand all of the work involved in the installation process, and to ensure compatibility with their vehicle. No warranty is implied for the installation, and we will not be responsible for damage to your truck, engine, or other parts, labor, personal injury, or any other damage or injury resulting from use of these products.

Customer understands that all parts are aftermarket parts and have no OEM specifications.

If you have any questions or concerns at any point of the installation process, please contact us at [service@spikerengineering.com](mailto:service@spikerengineering.com) before proceeding, and we'll be happy to help.

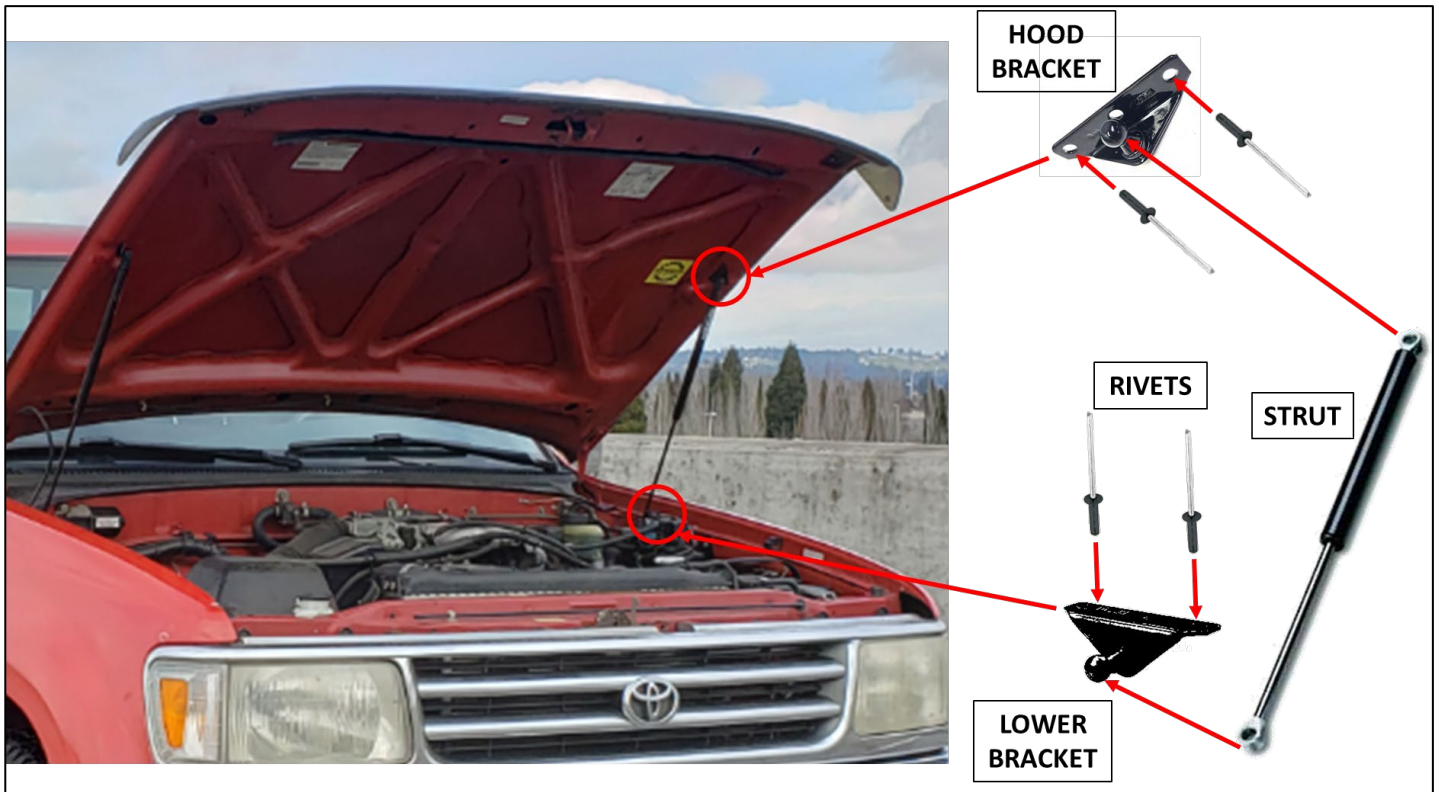
## Quick Start Guide

Below is an overview of the steps involved in installation. The details of these steps are provided in the sections to follow. The typical installation should take less than 30 minutes.

### Installation Overview:

- A. Preparation
- B. Install 90 deg brackets on inner fenders
- C. Install Reversed 90 deg brackets on hood
- D. Confirm proper operation of struts and adequate clearances
- E. Enjoy a beverage of your choice to celebrate!

The figure below shows the components involved in the installation, please refer to it as you go through the steps in the following sections. Note that the exact shape of the components in your kit may vary from those shown in the figure.



## A. Preparation

### 1. Check kit contents:

- (2) Gas Struts
- (2) Reversed 90 deg Brackets (Hood)
- (2) 90 deg Brackets (Lower)
- (1) Drill bit stopper
- (8) 3/16" Rivets (one spare rivet included in kit)
- (1) Window Sticker

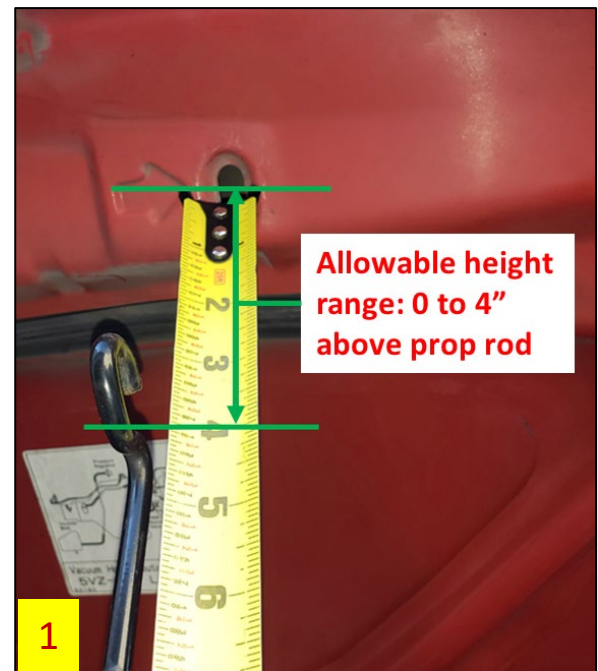
### 2. Required tools:

- Tape measure
- Temporary prop (2"x4", or painter's pole)
- Painter's tape
- Permanent marker
- Center punch
- Power drill
- #9 indexed or 3/16" drill bit
- Rivet gun (3/16" nose piece)
- Touchup primer and paint
- Standard mechanics tool set

3. It is recommended that you watch the videos on our website at <https://spikerengineering.com/installation> for an overview of the installation process. However, this manual contains additional steps, tips and details, so please follow the manual carefully. In case of any conflict between the videos and this manual, follow the instructions in **this manual**.

4. Confirm clearance for the struts. When the hood is closed, the struts are stowed along the inside of the fenders. Stock T100's have the required clearance, but those with aftermarket add-ons along the fenders may need to be modified to provide the needed clearance (also see Step 28). Contact us at [service@spikerengineering.com](mailto:service@spikerengineering.com) if you have questions about potential interference, we can recommend solutions for some common issues.

5. Determine the desired hood open height. This kit was designed to accommodate **any** hood open position between the stock prop rod height and up to 4" higher (**Fig 1**). Once the open position is chosen, and the brackets are permanently installed, this will be the height to which the hood will always open, so make sure you'll be satisfied with the chosen hood height. Be sure to consider any add-on items, such as ditch lights, or low overhead objects, that may limit the open hood height.



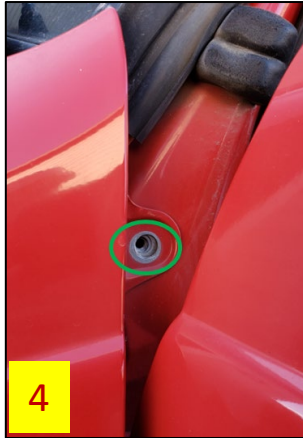
**NOTE:** The hood height **MUST be between 0" and 4"** above stock prop rod height, as shown in **Fig 1** – otherwise damage to struts may result.

6. Prop the hood in the chosen open position using a 2"x4" cut to length, an extension pole, or other suitable means (**Fig 2**). It is recommended that a prop tool be used instead of relying on a helper to hold the hood, because it is important to have the hood stay in the same position throughout the installation process.

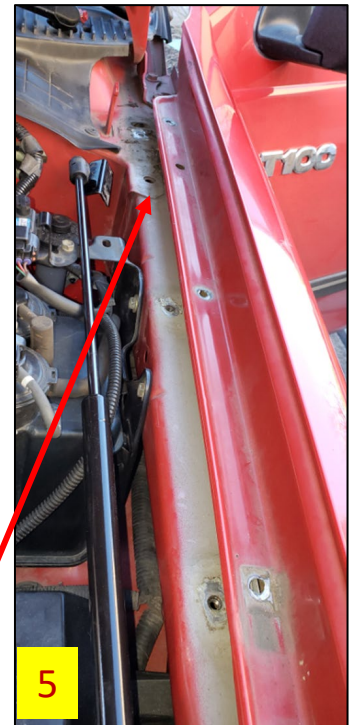


## B. Lower Bracket Installation

7. Loosen the upper portion of the fender by removing the four screws in the engine bay (circled in green in **Fig 3**) and one screw behind the door (**Fig 4**)



8. Lift up on the fender, and move it away from the engine bay slightly to make room for the lower bracket (**Fig 5**).



9. Place one 90 deg bracket on the exposed inner fender, so that the side of the bracket is against the inner fender, and the back of the bracket rests against the reinforced (raised) portion of the inner fender (red arrows) (**Fig 6**).

10. Apply painter's tape to the inner fender at the bracket location (**Fig 7**). Mark the location of the bracket's front hole with a permanent marker. then remove the bracket. Center punch the marked location (**Fig 8**).



11. Install a #9 indexed or 3/16" drill bit into a drill, and place the included drill bit stopper next to the drill bit (note - #9 drill bit is preferred and is available on our website). Mark the stopper with a permanent marker about 3/8" short of the drill bit tip (**Fig 9**), then cut the stopper with a utility knife at that location. Slip the drill bit stopper over the drill bit, confirm that no more than ~3/8" is protruding (**Fig 10**). This will limit the drill bit's reach during drilling.

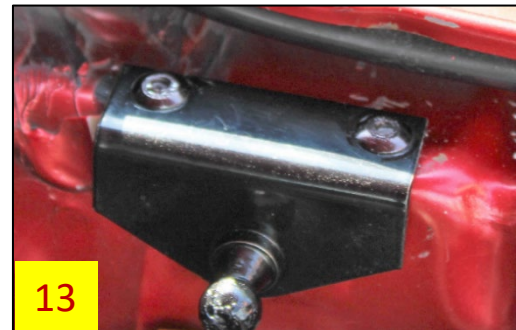
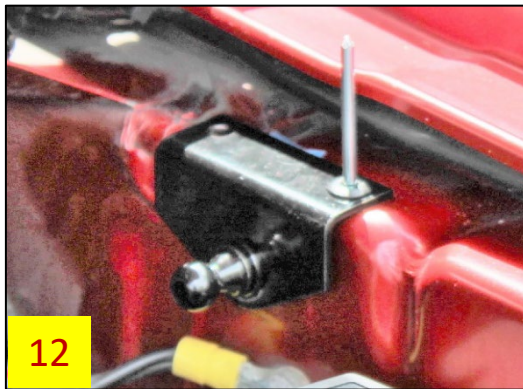
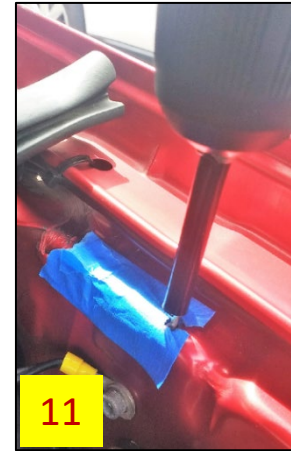


12. Drill a hole at the marked location through the inner fender, using a slow speed and steady pressure on the bit (**Fig 11**). Apply WD-40 as needed to cool the bit. Remove the tape. Touch up the drilled hole with primer and paint to prevent future corrosion.

**NOTE:** if using a 3/16" drill bit, you may need to enlarge the hole slightly by rocking the drill back and forth while drilling.

13. Insert a rivet into the drilled hole, and attach the bracket to the inner fender using a rivet gun equipped with a 3/16" nose piece (**Fig 12**).

14. Using the bracket as a guide, center punch and drill the second hole. Install the second rivet to complete the bracket installation (**Fig 13**).



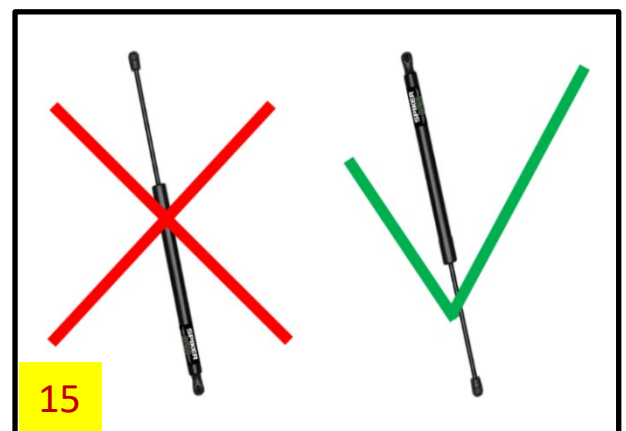
15. Take one gas strut, and check to make sure that both end fittings are threaded tightly onto the tube and rod ends. Push down on the strut against the floor until it is nearly fully compressed. Repeat this a couple of times. This relieves the initial high stiction that is commonly found in brand new struts.

16. Push the rod end fitting of the strut (the smaller diameter rod) onto the driver side bracket ball stud (**Fig 14**).



**NOTE:** Do **NOT** push the tube end fitting of the strut (with the SPIKER sticker) onto the fender ball bracket. See **Fig 15** for correct strut orientation.

17. Repeat Steps 7-16 for the passenger side.



## C. Hood Bracket Installation

18. Take one reversed 90 deg bracket, and push its ball stud into the tube end fitting (the larger diameter tube) of the driver strut (Fig 16).



19. Raise the strut and bracket up until the bracket meets the bottom of the hood reinforcement as shown in Fig 17. The bracket should be centered on the bottom of the reinforcement.

**NOTE: The location of the bracket along the length of the hood may be different from these pictures, depending on the chosen hood height. To answer a question we sometimes get, no measurements are needed for locating the bracket – as long as the hood is at the desired position during bracket installation, simply install the bracket where it meets the hood when the strut is raised.**

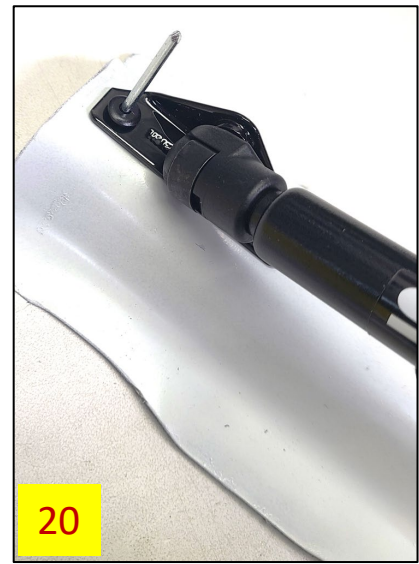
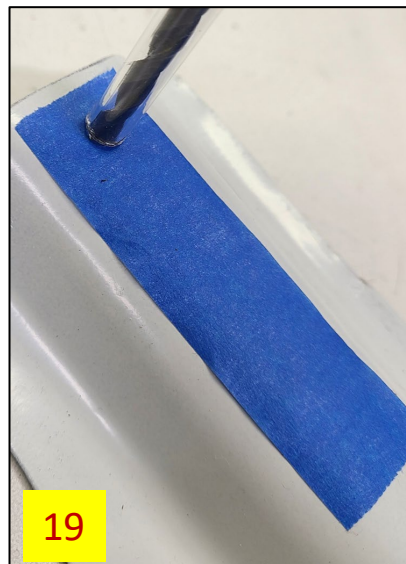
20. Apply some painter's tape to the hood reinforcement behind the bracket, and mark the location of the front hole with a permanent marker (Fig 18). Double check that the hood is still open to the correct height and is level. Lower the strut and bracket. Center punch the marked location.



21. Place a large piece of cardboard over the engine bay prior to drilling, to catch the metal chips. Drill through the hood reinforcement at the marked location, using a slow speed and steady pressure on the bit (Fig 19). Apply WD-40 as needed to cool the bit. Remove the tape.

22. Touch up the drilled hole with primer and paint.

23. Line up the bracket hole with the drilled hole, and use a 3/16" rivet to attach the bracket (Fig 20). You may have to remove the strut from the bracket to gain access for rivet installation (see step 32).



24. Adjust the bracket to be parallel with the hood reinforcement. Using the bracket as a guide, drill the second hole and install the second rivet to complete the bracket installation (**Fig 21**).



25. If you removed the strut from the bracket in Step 23, push the strut tube end fitting back onto the bracket ball stud.

26. Reinstall the fender, and tighten the screws.

27. Repeat steps 18 through 26 for the passenger side. Do NOT assume that the location of the passenger side hood bracket will be identical to the driver side. Instead of measuring, use the same procedure for installing the bracket on the passenger side as you did for the driver side.



28. On some models, the bracket holding the evap canister may need to be modified to make room for the strut (**Fig 23**). On these models, remove the bracket, and cut off the upper left corner (that supports the wiring harness and connector) with a hacksaw, as shown in **Fig 24**. Reinstall the bracket in place, and use a zip tie to secure to harness to a convenient location (**Fig 25**).



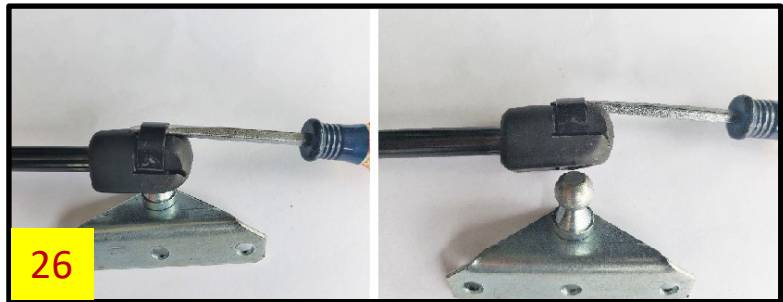
## D. Wrapping Up

29. At this point you can remove the temporary prop and marvel at the improved access to your engine compartment. But don't slam your hood closed yet.

30. During the first closing, watch the struts carefully as you are closing the hood slowly, especially in the last few inches, to ensure that clearance is maintained throughout travel. Check for any potential interferences, and make adjustments as required.

31. Once you've confirmed proper operation, have a beverage of your choice to celebrate your accomplishment!

32. If you ever need to remove a strut from a ball bracket, use a flat blade screwdriver to lift the semi-circular clip at the back of the strut end fitting, until the fitting can be removed from the bracket. Do not fully remove the clip (**Fig 26**).



## E. Additional Notes

After installation, open and close the hood a few times to break in the struts for consistent operation.

During normal operation, you will need to open the hood by hand about 10-15" until the struts take over and fully open the hood.

In some situations, such as when the truck is raised on a jack inside a garage, the high lift configuration may be too tall to clear objects overhead. In those cases, you can use the original hood prop rod to limit the hood opening to the stock opening height.

Once you've installed this kit, we'd love to see a picture of your truck with the hood open, showing off the newly installed hood struts and the open hood. Please email us photos of your truck to [service@spikerengineering.com](mailto:service@spikerengineering.com), and let us know if it's OK to post them on the website or social media.

Finally, please post a product review at our webpage - [https://spikerengineering.com/product/93-98\\_t100#reviews](https://spikerengineering.com/product/93-98_t100#reviews)

**Thank you again for purchasing this kit, we hope you enjoy it for many years to come!**