



# DISC BRAKES

PREMIUM PERFORMANCE BRAKES

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### Integral Disc Brake

#### CAUTION

- Failure to properly secure or support the trailer weight while servicing could result in serious injury or death. Make certain all lifting and supporting equipment has sufficient capacity, is used properly, and the trailer is securely supported on jack stands.
- A “disc brake ready” actuator must be used with these brakes. Actuators designed for drum brakes will cause disc brakes to work improperly, quickly overheat, and fail, resulting in property damage, serious injury, or death.
- Ensure the brake hydraulic system is properly bled and functioning properly in order to assure adequate braking performance for safe trailer operation.
- Ensure the caliper mounting fasteners and spindle nut are tightened to the specifications below to avoid a caliper locking a wheel, losing braking function, and/or loss of a wheel resulting in a loss of control, property damage, injury or death.

1. Jack up trailer and secure on adequate capacity jack stands. Follow trailer manufacturer’s recommendations for lifting and supporting the unit. Use the jack only to lift the trailer, never for support when servicing. Always fully support the trailer with jack stands, all around; and block the trailer to keep it from rolling, moving, or falling off the stands when being serviced.

#### CAUTION

**Do not lift or support the trailer on any part of the axle or suspension system. Never go under any trailer unless it is properly supported on jack stands which have been rated for the load. Improperly supported vehicles can fall unexpectedly and cause serious injury or death.**

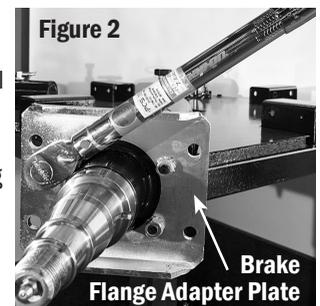
2. Remove the tire and wheel assembly.
3. Remove the existing dust cap or bearing protector by carefully prying it off progressively, or gently tapping it to the side with a mallet as the hub or hub & drum is rotated by hand.
4. Remove the existing hub or hub & drum, retain the existing spindle nut, washer, and any nut retaining hardware. Discard used cotter pins, bearings, and seal that came with the original hub.
5. Remove any existing drum brake backing plates and rigid brake lines that were connected, and cap the brake line(s) temporarily. Clean the axle spindle of



debris or grease, and inspect the bearing surfaces and threads for damage. Carefully inspect the original brake flange for straightness and any weld spatter or imperfections that will affect proper mounting of the brake caliper later (Fig. 1).

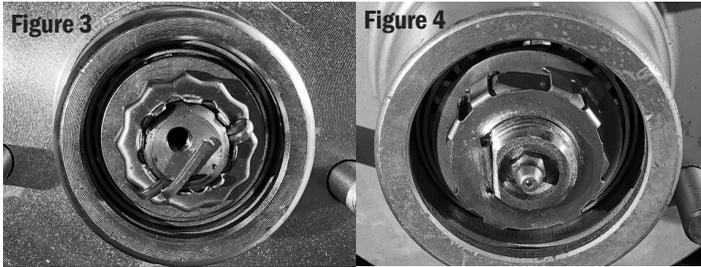
**For 3,500 lbs. disc brake kits, proceed to step 7. For 5,200 lbs. and 6,000 lbs. disc brake kits, proceed to step 6.**

6. 5,200 lbs. and 6,000 lbs. disc brake kits will come with a brake flange adapter plate (Fig. 2). Install the brake flange adapter plate onto the existing axle brake flange, with bent legs of the bracket facing out towards the axle wheel end. The adapter plate mounts with five 3/8”-24 UNF bolts, nuts, and lock washers. Install medium grade (blue) Loctite® 242 or equivalent on the threads and torque the bolts/nuts evenly in a star pattern to 35 ft. lbs..



7. Remove the hub & rotor from its packaging. If it came with the bearings installed and pre-greased, be careful not to let the outer bearing fall out of the hub & rotor when installing it. If bearings were not installed, wipe the hub & rotor bearing cups with a clean cloth, lubricate the inside bearing cone and cup and install the bearing, then press the rear seal flush with the machined top of the seal cavity on the rear of the hub & rotor per the axle manufacturer’s instructions. If not otherwise specified by the axle manufacturer, use a NLGI #2 boat trailer wheel bearing grease and fully work it into all the bearing rollers and cups. Wipe a thin coat of the lubricant on the rubber seal inner lip. Lubricate the spindle bearing journals and lightly lubricate the seal journal. Slide the hub & rotor carefully onto the spindle with a slight rotation to guide the inner bearing cone and seal over the spindle threads, bearing journals, and the seal journal without nicking the seal lip. Lubricate the outer bearing cone and cup and install the cone, along with the original spindle washer and nut, and finger tighten the nut.
8. Use a wrench to tighten the spindle nut to 30 ft. lbs. torque, continuously rotating the hub & rotor slowly while tightening the nut. The bearings should bind, but not lock up. If they lock up, investigate and repair as required.
9. Leave the hub & rotor stationary and slowly loosen the wrench just until the torque on the nut goes to zero. Be ready, the torque will typically go to zero suddenly; don’t loosen past that point.
10. While rotating hub & rotor, finger tighten the spindle nut as the critical final bearing adjustment step. Install any spindle nut retainers or a new cotter pin per the axle manufacturer’s instructions. If necessary, move the nut to install the pin or retainer; loosen the nut only as much as necessary, never tighten the nut

beyond finger tight (Fig. 3 & 4). If the axle manufacturer has different bearing assembly instructions than above, follow them.



11. If the axle has an E-Z Lube® or similar style spindle with the grease fitting installed, properly lubricate the bearings at this time, and re-install the dust cap. If the axle has a pressurized bearing protector, such as a Trailer Buddy, install it using a block of wood and mallet. Add grease through the fitting until the protector's piston just rocks or is in the middle of its travel.
12. Inspect the caliper ensuring that the brake pads are properly installed. The brake pad friction material faces towards the rotor and seats into anchor points and against the caliper piston. Slide the caliper over the rotor and attach the caliper to the brake flange or brake flange adapter plate. The caliper bleeder screw should be oriented to the top, and caliper fluid inlet to the bottom. Typically, the caliper will be mounted with the caliper body/piston and brake lines towards the rear of the axle.
13. Make sure the caliper bleeder screw is facing upward when bolting on the caliper (Fig. 5). Start the two 7/16"-20 UNF caliper bolts through the brake flange or adapter plate into the caliper yoke with medium (blue) Loctite® 242 or equivalent. Install and torque the bolts to 55 ft. lbs.. Ensure the hub & rotor will rotate inside the installed caliper with sufficient clearance and no more than a slight contact with the brake pads, or adjust caliper/pad clearances as required to allow hub & rotor rotation.



14. Use a brake hose with a male 3/16" inverted flare fitting to connect to the caliper with enough flexibility to allow the caliper to move at least 1/2" as the brake pads wear. Tighten the brake line fitting into the brass banjo inlet on the caliper just snug enough not to leak. Reference torque: Only 6 to 7 ft. lbs. or finger tight + 1/2 turn on the brake line. The 5/8" head banjo bolt and fitting is torqued to 30-35 ft.-lbs.; no tighter or the hollow banjo bolt may strip the threads. Connect and secure all brake lines appropriately for the trailer's intended use. Ensure that the caliper and brake inlet line have sufficient clearance to the trailer frame and suspension to avoid contact under any loading scenario. Fill the brake system with new DOT 3 fluid (or if these are replacement brakes, a different fluid may have been specified by the trailer manufacturer in very rare cases; confirm compatible fluid for those) and bleed per the brake actuator manufacturer's instructions. Use a clear bottle with hose at the caliper bleed ports so one can absolutely verify all air bubbles are removed from the system when bleeding.

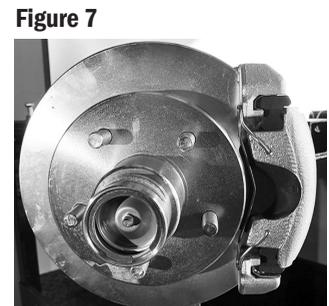
15. Install the trailer wheel and ensure the wheel inside has clearance to the brake caliper body as it rotates. Tighten all lug nuts in a star pattern with an accurate torque wrench to the torque specified by the trailer manufacturer (Fig. 6).



**CAUTION**

When finished with the installation, torque the wheel nuts to the trailer manufacturer's specifications. Re-torque nuts again at 10, 25, and 50 miles to avoid a possible wheel separation, which can result in property damage, serious injury, or death.

16. Road test the trailer in a safe location. After the first few stops, check the brake fluid in the actuator reservoir and top off again to the proper level. Note: brake performance may not be optimum until the brake pads adjust and seat themselves to the rotor. If braking performance still needs improvement, repeat the brake bleeding procedure to resolve.



**CAUTION**

Before road testing, make sure the area is clear of vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Failure to brake safely could result in an accident and personal injury to yourself and/or others.

Additional resources are available at [www.dexteraxle.com](http://www.dexteraxle.com).