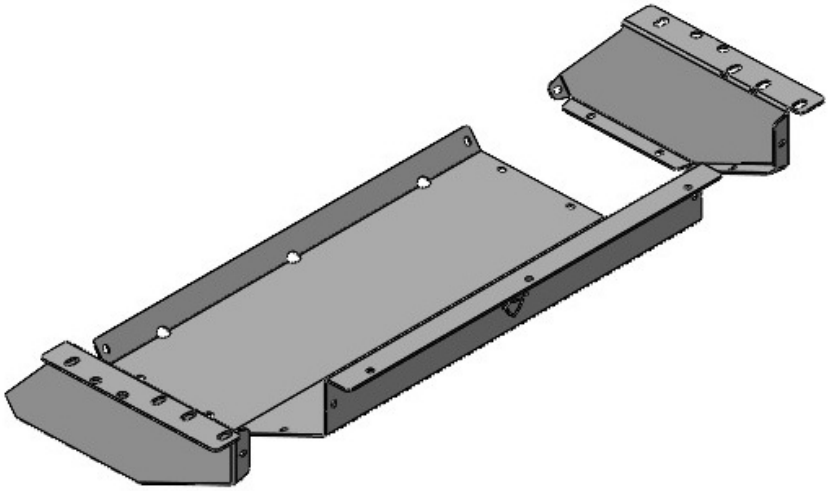
Step 1 Gas Tank Skid Plate Install Instructions



Step by step on how to install the JCR Offroad Cherokee XJ Gas Tank Skid Plate. Please read all steps carefully before starting the install.
Installation Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YReVHzY8XuM
Questions or Support:
Phone: 269-353-1184
Email: info@jcroffroad.com

Step 2 Included Parts





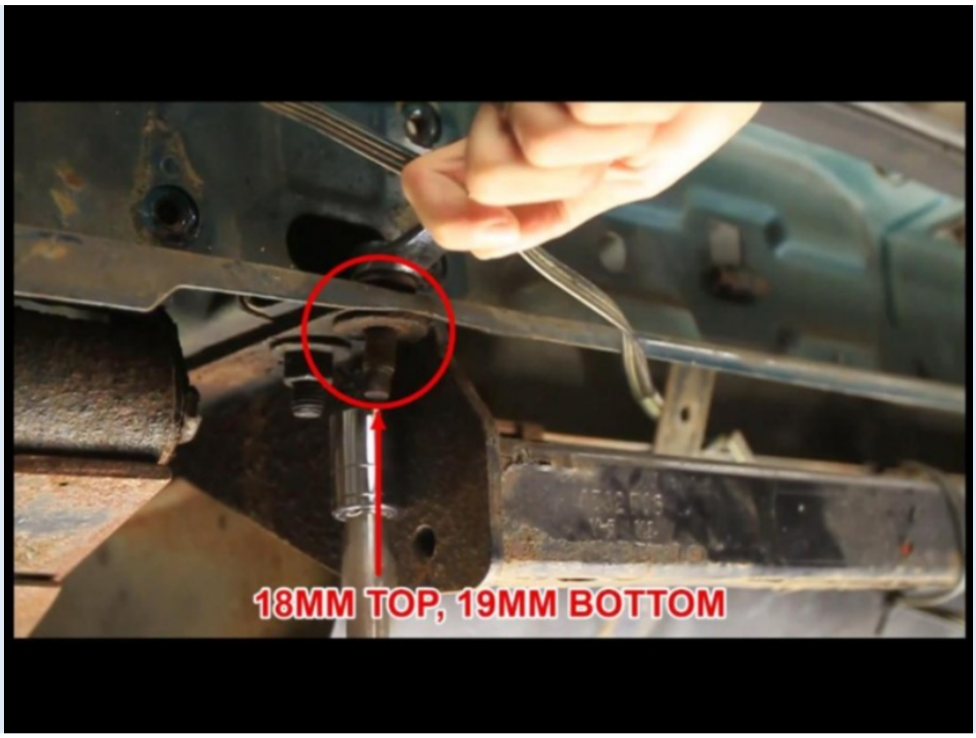
Included: (1) 3-Piece JCR Offroad Cherokee XJ Gas Tank Skid Plate.
Note: this skid plate is heavy duty, so have a helper and a floor jack ready.
XJ frame nut strips are recommended for this install and are sold separately.
Link to Nut Strips : https://www.jcroffroad.com/product/XJNTSP.html
Video timestamp: 1:12

Step 3 Remove Rear Bumper and Receiver Hitch



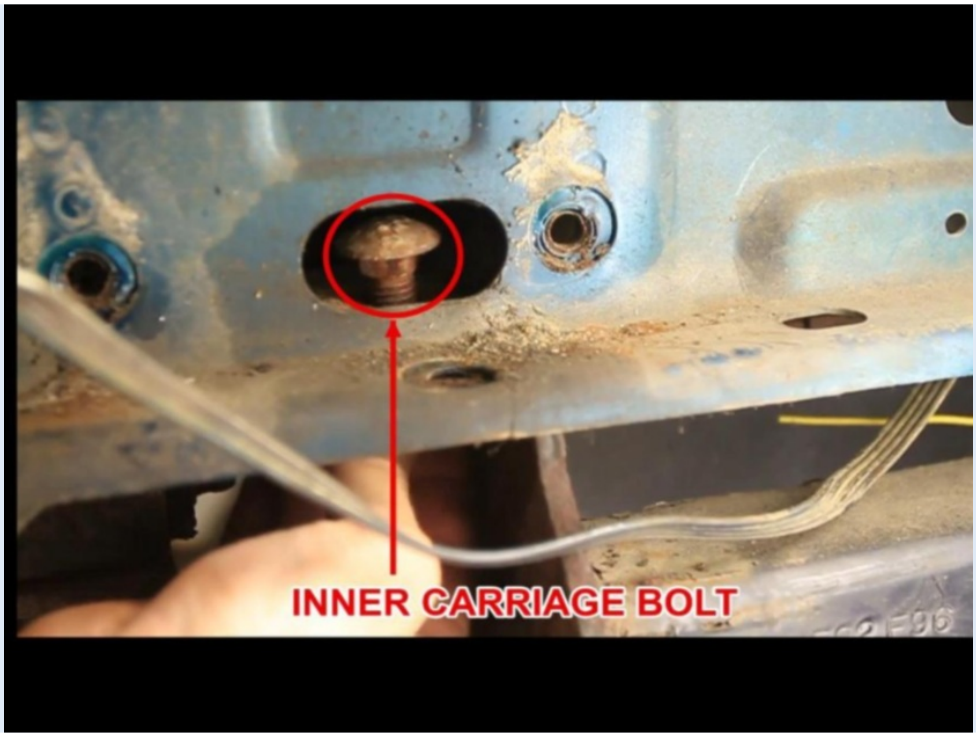
Remove the rear bumper (8 bolts) and the receiver hitch, if equipped. This is especially needed if you are installing the nut strips.
Note: some factory receiver hitches may not refit with the skid installed.
JCR offers a rear bumper with a built-in receiver.
Video timestamp: 1:52

Step 4 Remove Factory Tank Skid Bolts



Spray the factory gas tank skid bolts with penetrating oil (PB Blaster) first. Remove the 6 bolts (3 per side) using an 18mm on top and a 19mm (3/4") on the bottom. An impact wrench makes this easier.
Video timestamp: 2:50

Step 5 Inner Frame Rail Carriage Bolts



The bolts inside the frame rail are carriage-style bolts with a metal tab, so no wrench is needed on top. If a bolt will not cooperate, use a breaker bar.
Video timestamp: 3:15

Step 6 Remove Bolt Tabs with a Magnet



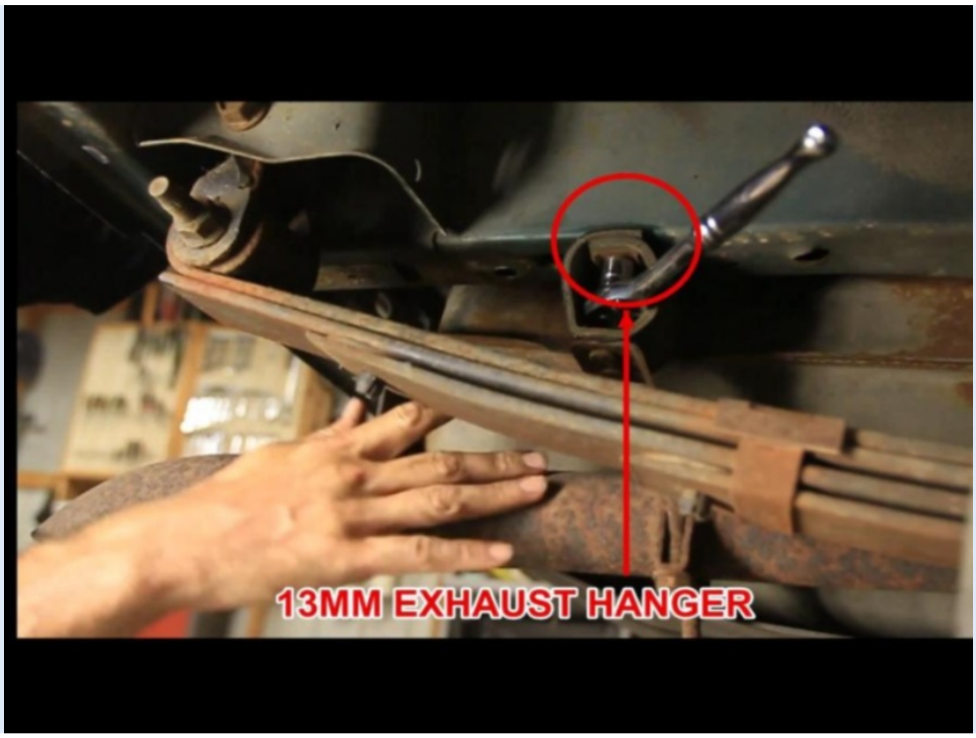
Use a magnet on a stick to fish the metal tabs and old bolts out of the frame rail. The old bolts can be reused, but the JCR nut strips are recommended.
Video timestamp: 3:24

Step 7 Install Nut Strips into Frame Rails



Slide the nut strips into the frame rails through the access hole. The right-pointing strip goes on the right side and the left-pointing strip goes on the left side. Line the nuts up with the bottom frame holes.
The bolts are installed after the skid plate is in place.
Video timestamp: 4:20

Step 8 Remove Exhaust Hanger



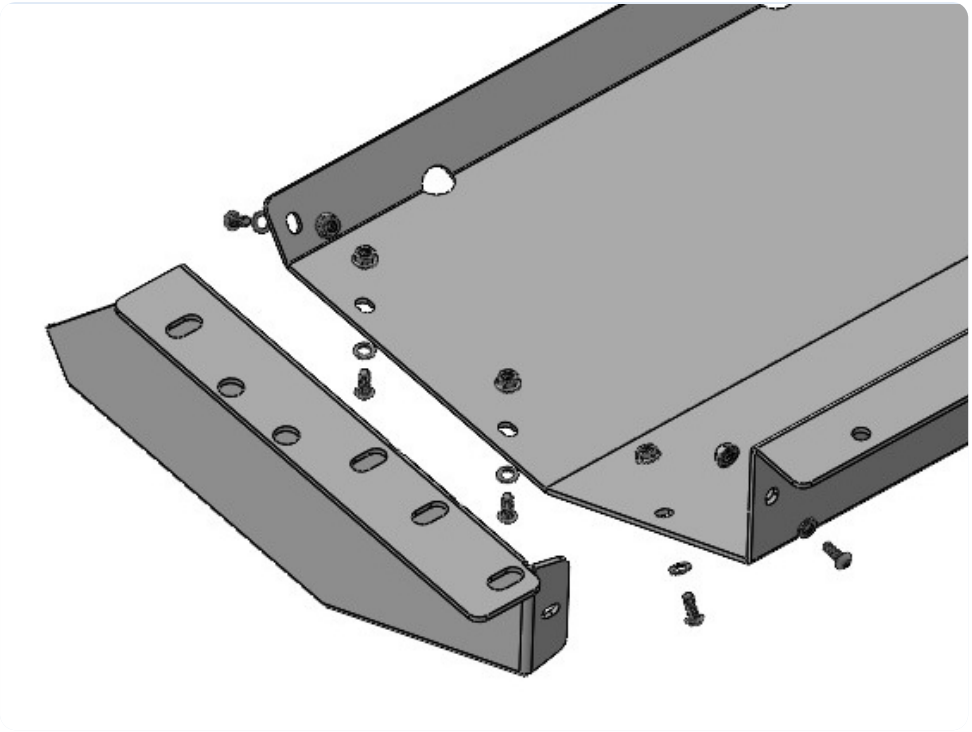
On some Cherokees the exhaust hanger must be modified or relocated to clear the skid plate. Remove the hanger using a 13mm socket.
Video timestamp: 5:00

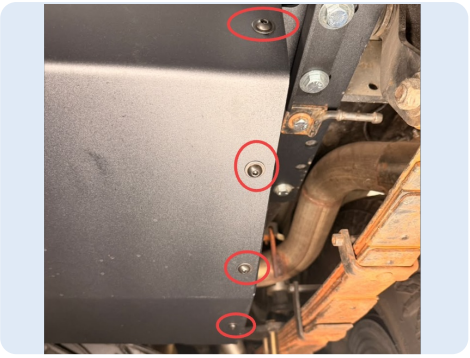
Step 9 Move Fuel Line Cover Plate

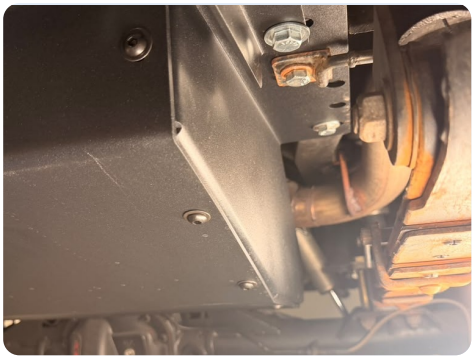


On the driver side near the gas filler neck there is a fuel line cover plate. Remove it or move it out of the way of the skid plate.
Video timestamp: 5:15

Step 10 Assemble Skid







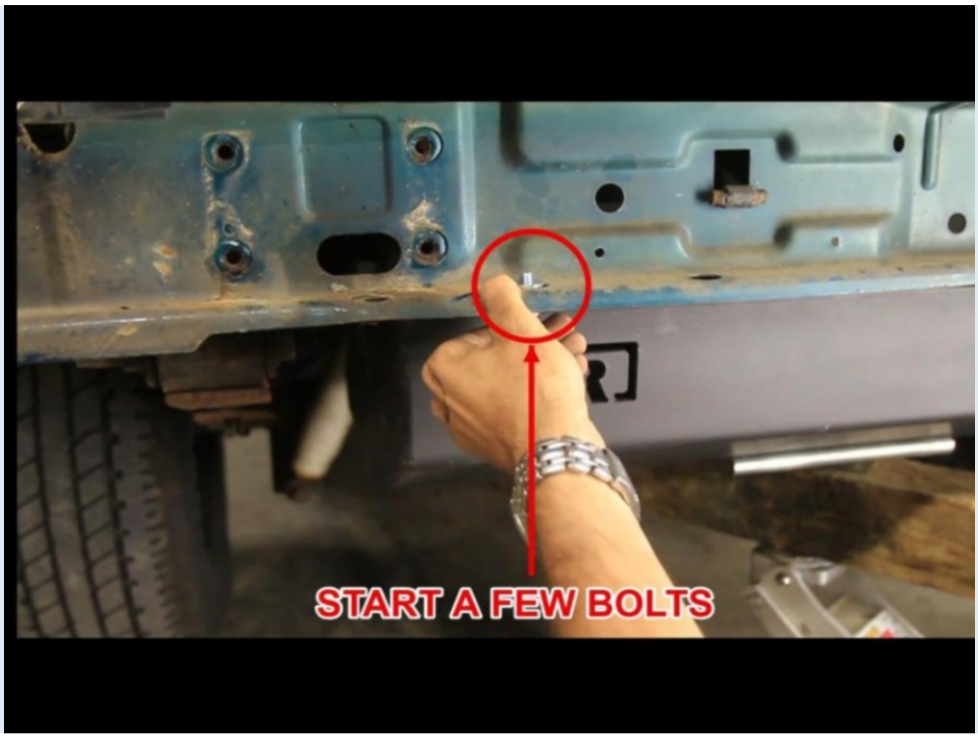
Using the button heads, washers, and nuts install install each side of the skid plate in the 5 mounting locations shown in the images.
Make sure the top flange is facing outwards on each side of the skid, the sides can only go on one way.

Step 11 Lift Skid Plate into Place



Using a floor jack (a block of wood on the jack helps), lift the skid plate up into position under the gas tank.
Video timestamp: 5:40

Step 12 Start a Few Bolts



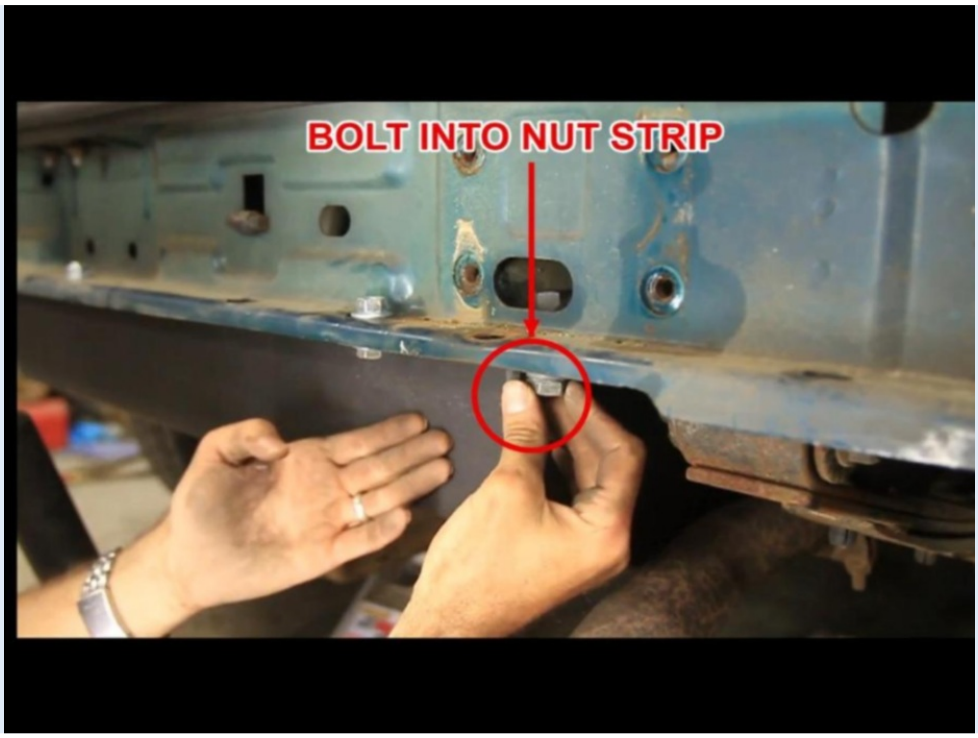
Start a bolt or two and leave them loose. Then reposition the jack and lift the front of the skid plate.
Video timestamp: 6:20

Step 13 Align Skid Plate to Frame



With the front of the skid lifted, line up the remaining skid plate holes with the frame rail holes.
Video timestamp: 6:40

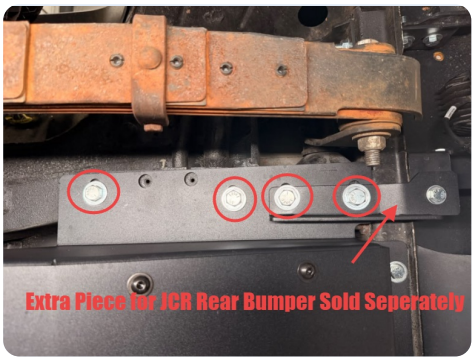
Step 14 Install Bolts into Nut Strips



Install the bolts up through the skid plate, through the frame rail and into the nut strip.
If you are reinstalling the receiver hitch, put it in place before installing these bolts.
Video timestamp: 7:00

Step 15 Tighten All Bolts





Once all bolts are started and the skid plate is aligned, tighten all bolts. Video timestamp: 7:30

Step 16 Reinstall Fuel Line Cover Plate



Bolt the fuel line cover plate back on.
Video timestamp: 7:50

Step 17 Exhaust Hanger (1996 and Earlier)



On the passenger side of 1996 and earlier Cherokees, a different exhaust hanger is needed. JCR recommends a NAPA exhaust hanger, or you can fabricate one using a rubber isolator.
Video timestamp: 8:00

Step 18 Check Clearance and Reinstall Bumper



The installed skid plate sits only about 1/2" lower than the original gas tank.
Reinstall the rear bumper.
Video timestamp: 8:20

Step 19 Installation Complete



Confirm all hardware is tightened. Congrats! Your installation of the JCR Offroad Cherokee XJ Gas Tank Skid Plate is now complete. Enjoy!