

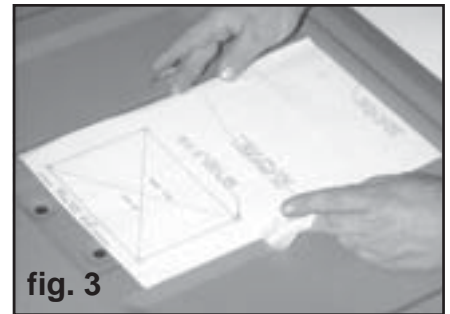
LATCH HANDLE RELOCATOR KIT FOR 67-72 CHEVY/GMC PICKUPS

This kit changes the tailgate latch handle to operate the tailgate latches from inside, or front face, of the tailgate. This modification requires cutting and drilling on the tailgate and should be installed before the tailgate cover. The suggested procedure is as follows.

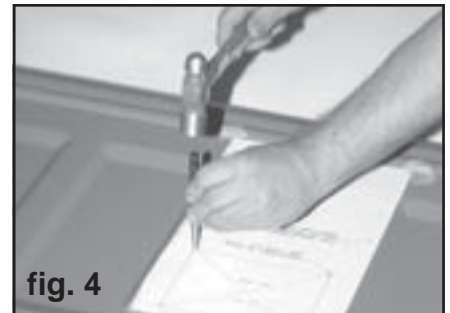
1. Remove the original handle, latches, and rods from the tailgate. See figures 1 and 2.
2. Assemble the new handle mechanism into the adapter plate as shown in the attached instructions on page 4.



3. Use the paper template as a guide for locating the area to be cut out on the front face, or inside surface, of the tailgate. Align the outline of the paper template to the embossed ribs on the tailgate. The upper edge of the cut out area should be 5 1/4" from the top of the tailgate. Hold the paper flat even though the tailgate surface is curved. Secure it with masking tape. See figure 3 and drawing on page 5.



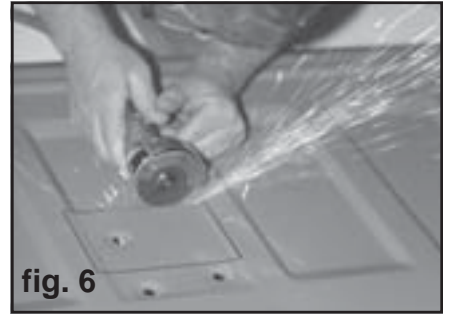
4. Center punch through the paper to mark the four corners of the area to be cut out. Remove the paper template and use a felt marking pen to draw four straight lines connecting the center punched corners. This is the outline of the area to be cut out for the new handle mechanism. The opening is **6" wide and 4-3/8" tall**. See figures 4 and 5.



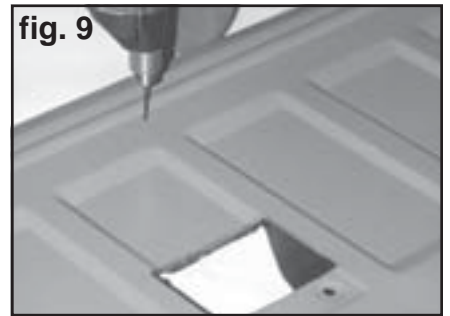
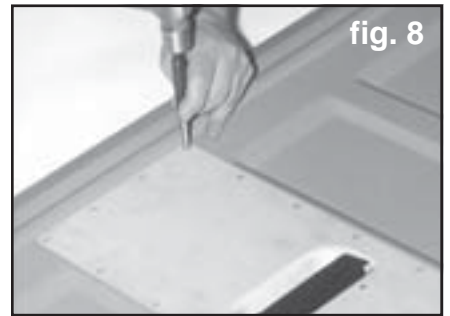
Another Outstanding Part Manufactured in
Oklahoma City, USA by



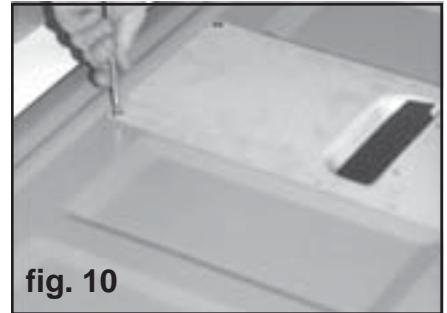
5. Using a suitable saw, grinder, or perhaps a plasma cutter, cut out the rectangular opening marked in #4 above. The curved surface makes this difficult and a small grinder may be needed to smooth the opening. The lower edge of the new opening is even with the lower edge of the original tailgate handle cutout on the other side of the tailgate. See figure 6.



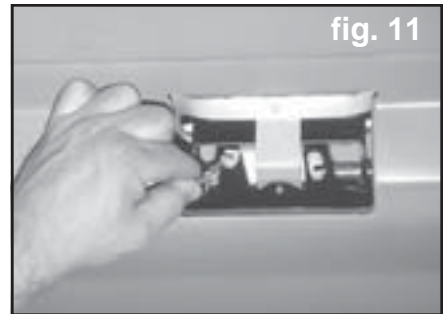
6. Lay the adaptor panel and handle assembly over the opening in the position it will be mounted. Check the position of the adaptor panel to see that it is centered on the embossed pattern of the tailgate. Measure the distance from the edge of the panel to each end of the tailgate to verify both measurements are the same. The top of the adaptor panel is 2-1/2 inches below the top of the tailgate when it is properly mounted. Check that there is clearance around the handle mechanism and that it will operate freely without rubbing the sheet metal. See figure 7.



7. While holding the adaptor panel in its correct position, center punch and drill 2 screw holes in the tailgate through the lower corner holes of the adaptor panel. Use a #24 or 5/32" drill. See figures 8 and 9. Drill an extra hole in the tailgate at the bottom edge of the indented area below the handle opening for water draining. See the sketch for approximate location. This will drain water which would accumulate behind the adaptor panel.

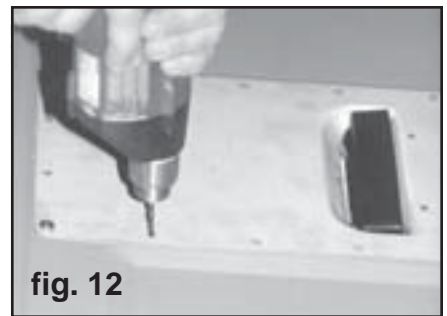


8. Install the adaptor panel using phillips screws in the 2 holes drilled in #7 above. See figure 10.



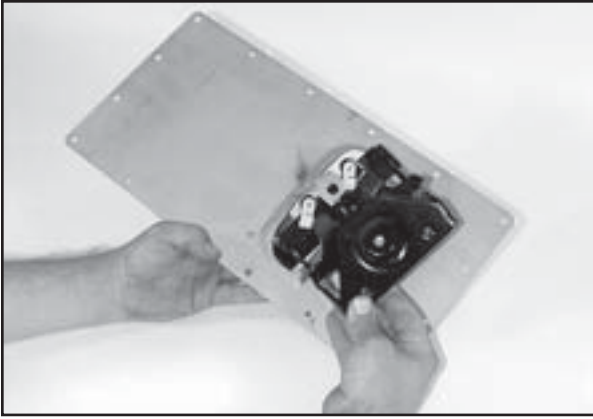
9. Install the new shorter rods on the latches with the bent ends pointed toward the front of the truck. They are labeled driver and passenger. Slide the rods and latches into the tailgate from the ends and bolt the latches in position. The tips of the rods should be visible in the original tailgate handle opening near the new handle mechanism. If not, use a wire or needle nose plier to move the rod tips near the handle connectors.

10. Lift the rod tips and insert them into the plastic retainers on the handle mechanism. Snap the retainers over the rods and check that the handle operates the latches correctly. If the adaptor panel is mounted in the correct location both latches operate smoothly and engage the bed side latch to hold the tailgate closed. If the panel needs to be shifted slightly this is the time to redrill screw holes and make the change. See figure 11.

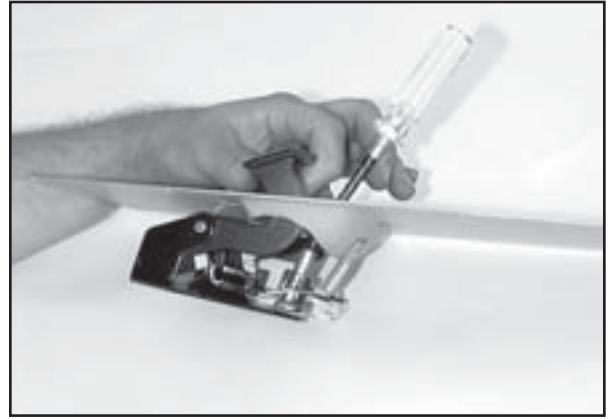


11. Carefully center punch the tailgate through the center of each remaining hole in the adaptor panel. Drill the holes with the #24 or 5/32" drill, being careful not to drill the holes oversize. Install the remaining phillips screws. See figure 12.

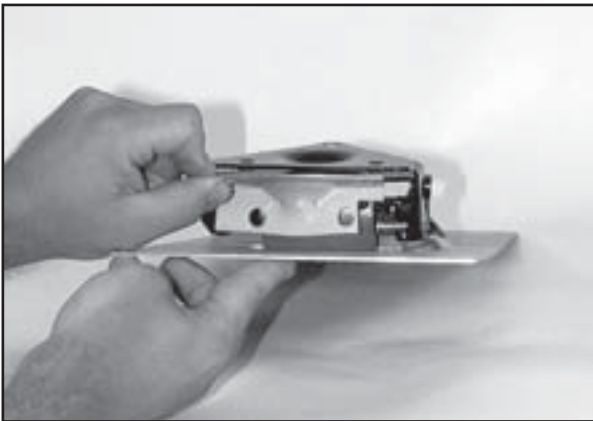
12. The handle relocater installation is complete and the tailgate is ready for a tailgate cover.



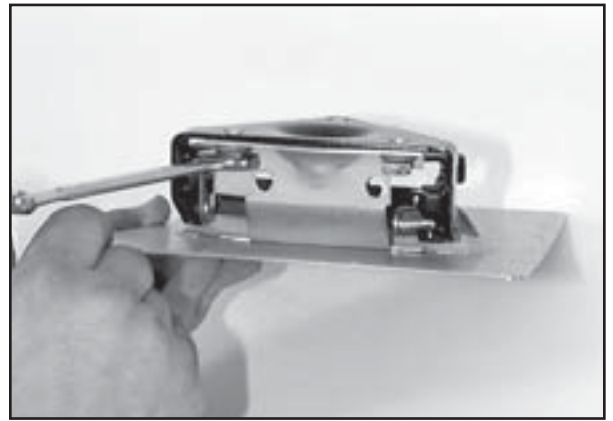
1. Hold the handle in the open position and while holding it open insert it into the opening from the back side. Be careful not to scratch the paint.



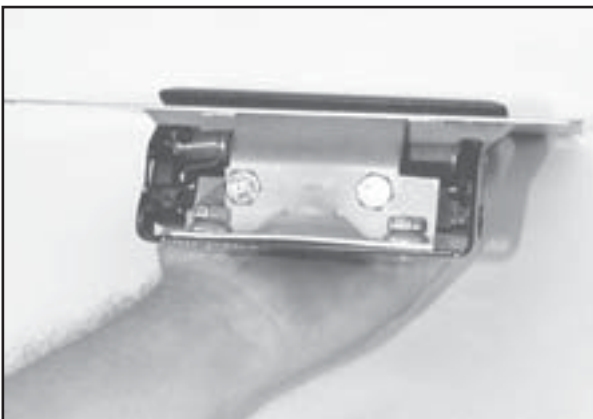
2. Use a cup washer and an 8mm hex head screw to attach the lower mounting point and the handle to the bracket on the adapter plate. Do not tighten the screw at this time.



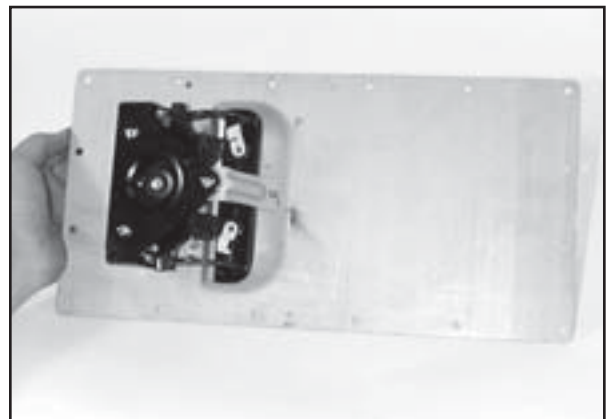
3. Insert the angle bracket between the upper two mounting points and the bracket welded to the adapter plate above the handle opening. The angle bracket should be positioned above the welded bracket.



4. Use the two cup washers and 8mm hex head screws to attach the angle bracket to the upper two handle mounting points. Tighten the screws securely.

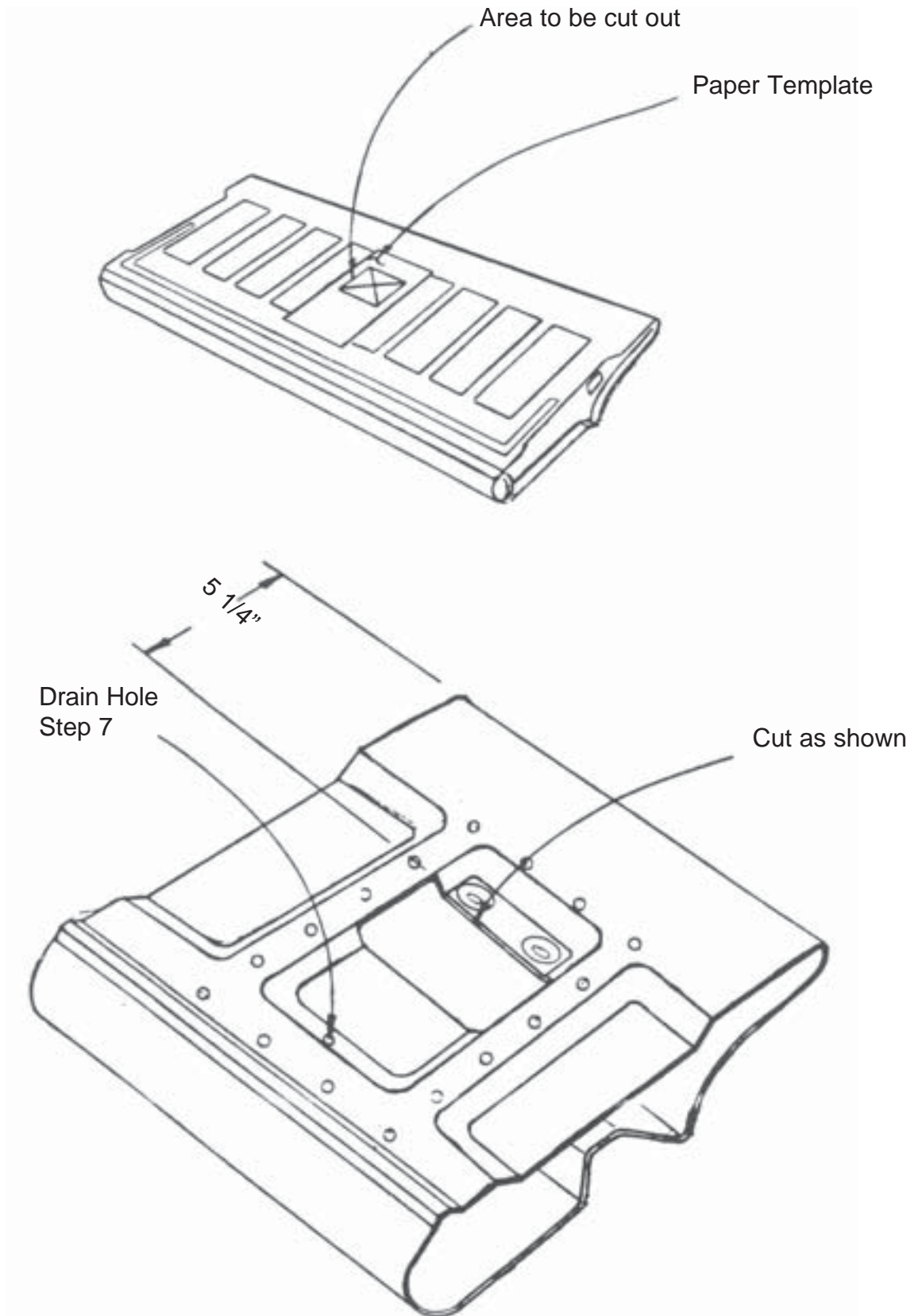


5. Attach the angle bracket to the welded bracket above the handle opening using two 8mm hex head screws and nuts. Tighten the bolts slightly to permit aligning the handle.



6. Shift the handle as needed to align it to the adaptor plate opening. When the alignment is correct tighten all bolts. The assembly is ready to install.

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This page reserved for tailgate template which is included with the tailgate handle relocater kit.