Reese 44174

Reese Towpower 44174 Class III Custom-Fit Hitch User Manual

Model: 44174 | Brand: Reese Towpower

1. Product Overview

The Reese Towpower 44174 Class III Custom-Fit Hitch is engineered for maximum strength and safety, designed for specific vehicle applications. It features a 2-inch square receiver opening and is constructed with solid all-welded components. The hitch undergoes computer-aided design, fatigue, and stress testing to ensure robust performance and a lifetime of reliable towing. Its METALSHIELD protective coating process provides superior corrosion protection.



Image 1.1: Front view of the Reese Towpower 44174 Class III Custom-Fit Hitch. This image displays the main body of the hitch with its 2-inch square receiver opening.

2. Important Safety Information

Always read and understand all instructions and warnings before installing or using this product. Failure to follow these instructions could result in serious injury or property damage.

- **Vehicle's Owner's Manual:** Always consult your vehicle's owner's manual for maximum towing capacity and specific towing recommendations. Do not exceed the lowest rated component of your towing system.
- **Weight Capacity:** This hitch has a maximum tongue weight of 350 pounds and a gross towing weight of 3500 pounds. Ensure your trailer and cargo do not exceed these limits.

- **Proper Installation:** Installation must be performed by a qualified individual using appropriate tools and safety equipment. Ensure all fasteners are tightened to the specified torque values.
- **Regular Inspection:** Before each towing trip, inspect the hitch, hitch ball, and all connections for wear, damage, or loose fasteners. Replace any worn or damaged components immediately.
- **Safety Chains:** Always use safety chains between the tow vehicle and the trailer, crossing them under the trailer tongue to prevent the tongue from dropping to the road if the hitch disconnects.
- **Hitch Plug Cover:** The included hitch plug cover helps protect the receiver opening from dirt and debris when not in use.

3. Components Included

The Reese Towpower 44174 Class III Custom-Fit Hitch package typically includes the following components:

- Custom-Fit Trailer Hitch (Model 44174)
- 2-inch Receiver Opening
- Hitch Plug Cover
- Installation Hardware (bolts, washers, nuts - specific to vehicle application)

Note: Specific hardware may vary based on the vehicle model and year. Refer to the detailed installation manual for a complete list of parts.

4. Product Specifications

Specification	Value
Brand	Reese
Model Number	44174
Hitch Class	Class III
Receiver Opening	2 inches square
Maximum Tongue Weight	350 pounds
Gross Towing Weight	3500 pounds
Material	Alloy Steel
Finish Type	Powder Coated (METALSHIELD process)
Item Weight	44 pounds
Product Dimensions	59 x 25.75 x 7 inches
Vehicle Service Type	Car, Sport-Utility-Vehicles, Trailer, Truck, Van

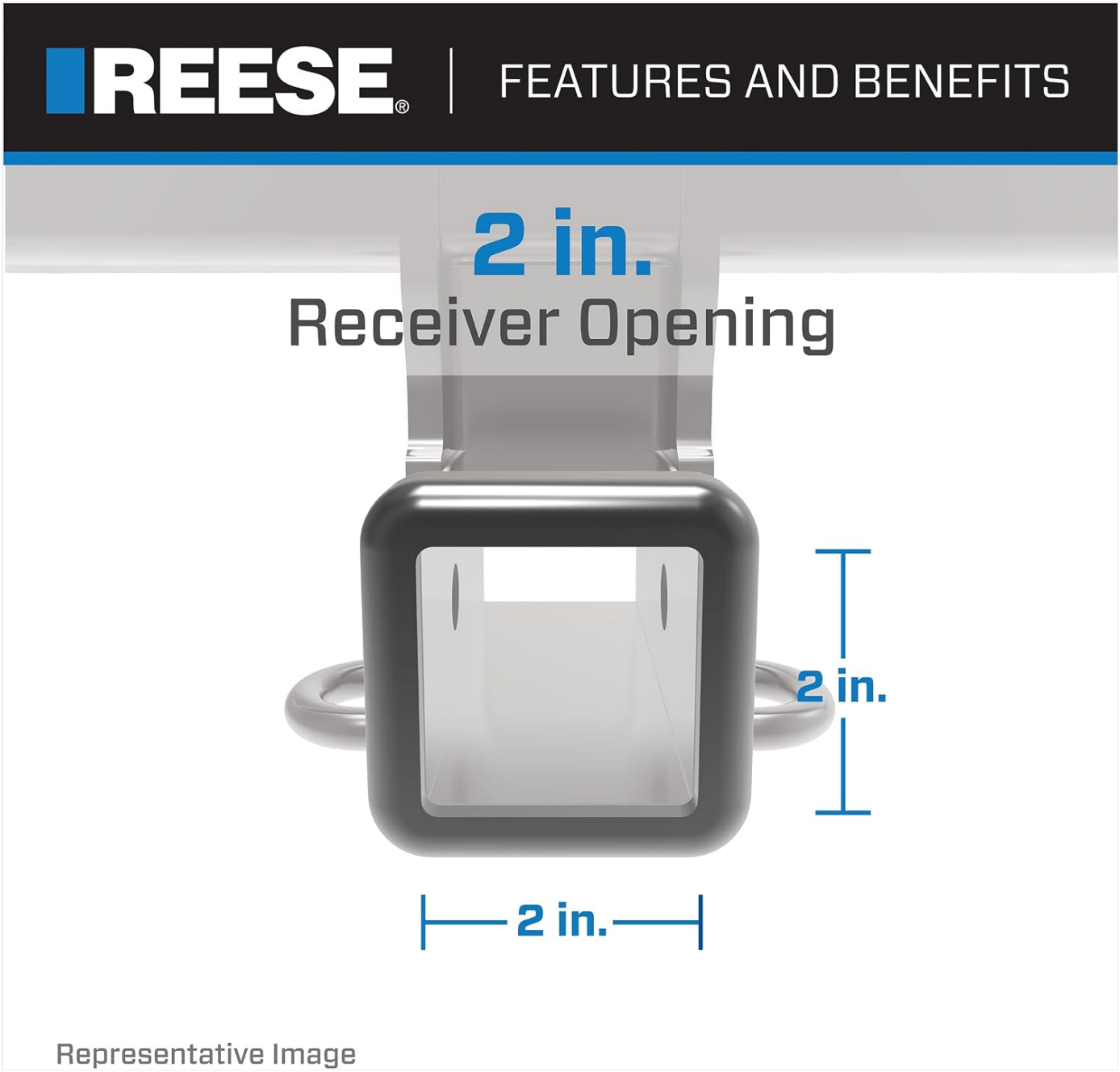


Image 4.1: Diagram illustrating the 2-inch square receiver opening with its dimensions.



Image 4.2: Diagram highlighting key features of the Class III/IV Trailer Hitch, including the receiver opening, safety chain loops, electrical bracket, and black powder coat finish.

5. Setup and Installation

The Reese Towpower 44174 hitch is designed for custom-fit installation on specific vehicle models. While many applications are "no-drill" for easier installation, it is crucial to follow the detailed instructions provided in the official installation manual for your specific vehicle year, make, and model.

5.1. Before You Begin

- Verify all components listed in Section 3 are present.
- Gather necessary tools (e.g., wrenches, torque wrench, safety glasses, jack stands).
- Ensure the vehicle is on a level surface, engine off, and parking brake engaged.
- Review the official installation manual thoroughly. A digital copy is availablehere.

5.2. General Installation Steps (Refer to PDF for specifics)

1. **Prepare Vehicle:** This may involve lowering the exhaust, removing underbody panels, or cleaning weld nuts if present.
2. **Position Hitch:** Carefully lift and position the hitch against the vehicle's frame, aligning the mounting holes.
3. **Install Hardware:** Insert the specified bolts, washers, and nuts according to the manual. Hand-tighten all fasteners initially.
4. **Torque Fasteners:** Using a torque wrench, tighten all fasteners to the torque specifications provided in the installation manual. This is critical for safety.
5. **Reinstall Components:** Reattach any removed exhaust components or underbody panels.

Important: The provided PDF manual is essential for correct and safe installation. It contains vehicle-specific instructions and torque values.

6. Operating Instructions

Once the Reese Towpower 44174 hitch is securely installed, it is ready for towing applications. This hitch is designed to accommodate various towing accessories.

6.1. Attaching a Trailer or Accessory

1. **Insert Ball Mount/Accessory:** Slide your chosen ball mount, cargo carrier, or bike rack into the 2-inch square receiver opening.
2. **Secure with Pin and Clip:** Align the pinhole in the accessory with the pinhole in the hitch receiver. Insert a hitch pin and secure it with a clip (not included with hitch).
3. **Connect Trailer:** If towing a trailer, lower the trailer coupler onto the hitch ball and secure the coupler latch.
4. **Attach Safety Chains:** Cross the trailer's safety chains under the trailer tongue and attach them to the designated safety chain loops on the hitch. Ensure there is enough slack for turns but not so much that they drag on the ground.
5. **Connect Electrical (if applicable):** Plug in the trailer's electrical connector to the vehicle's wiring harness (if an electrical bracket is installed and wired).
6. **Final Check:** Before driving, double-check all connections, lights, and brakes.



Image 6.1: An illustration demonstrating a truck towing a travel trailer, highlighting the use of a Class III/IV trailer hitch for various accessories like ball mounts, weight distribution systems, cargo carriers, and bike carriers.

7. Maintenance

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and safe operation of your Reese Towpower hitch.

- **Regular Cleaning:** Keep the hitch clean from dirt, salt, and road grime. Wash with mild soap and water, then rinse thoroughly.
- **Corrosion Protection:** The hitch features a METALSHIELD protective coating. While highly durable, inspect for any chips or scratches in the finish and touch up with appropriate rust-inhibiting paint to prevent corrosion.
- **Fastener Check:** Periodically check all mounting bolts and nuts for tightness. Re-torque to specifications if necessary, especially after the first few towing trips.
- **Receiver Opening:** Keep the 2-inch receiver opening clear of debris. Use the included hitch plug cover when the hitch is not in use to prevent accumulation of dirt and moisture.
- **Lubrication:** Lightly lubricate the hitch pin and clip mechanism to ensure smooth operation.

8. Troubleshooting

This section addresses common issues that may arise with your trailer hitch.

- **Difficulty Installing Bolts:** If weld nuts on the vehicle frame are rusted, they may need to be cleaned with a wire brush and rust penetrant, or re-tapped with the correct thread size. Refer to the installation manual for bolt specifications.
- **Hitch Not Aligning with Vehicle Frame:** Ensure the hitch is correctly oriented and that no obstructions are preventing proper alignment. Slight adjustments may be needed, but never force the hitch into place. If significant misalignment occurs, verify the hitch model is correct for your vehicle.
- **Excessive Play in Receiver:** A small amount of play between the receiver and the ball mount shank is normal. If excessive, ensure the hitch pin is fully inserted and secured. Anti-rattle devices can be purchased separately to reduce movement.
- **Corrosion Appears:** Despite the protective coating, prolonged exposure to harsh conditions or damage to the finish can lead to corrosion. Clean the affected area, remove rust, and apply a rust-inhibiting primer and paint.

For issues not covered here, or if you suspect a defect, contact Reese Towpower customer support.

9. Warranty and Support

Reese Towpower products are engineered and "Tested Tough" to deliver high quality and a lifetime of trouble-free towing. For specific warranty details, claims, or technical support, please refer to the official Reese Towpower website or contact their customer service department directly.

Online Resources:

- Official Installation Manual (PDF): Download Here
- Reese Towpower Brand Store: Visit Store

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