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> TMS 500 Lb Hitch Mount Aluminum Cargo Carrier Basket User Manual

## TMS ALUMCARGOCARRIER#92655

# TMS 500 Lb Hitch Mount Aluminum Cargo Carrier Basket User Manual

Model: ALUMCARGOCARRIER#92655

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential instructions for the safe and effective assembly, operation, and maintenance of your TMS 500 Lb Hitch Mount Aluminum Cargo Carrier Basket. Please read this manual thoroughly before use and retain it for future reference.

The TMS 500 Lb Hitch Mount Aluminum Cargo Carrier Basket is designed to expand vehicle cargo capacity. It features a 500-lb capacity for Class 3 receivers and a 350-lb capacity for Class 2 receivers (including the carrier's 30-lb weight). The carrier includes side rails for cargo retention and an anodized finish for corrosion resistance.

## 2. SAFETY INFORMATION

- Always adhere to your vehicle's hitch receiver weight capacity. Do not exceed the maximum load capacity of the cargo carrier (500 lbs for Class 3, 350 lbs for Class 2).
- Ensure all fasteners are securely tightened before each use. Regularly inspect for loose bolts or damaged components.
- Distribute cargo evenly across the carrier to maintain vehicle stability.
- Secure all items on the carrier using appropriate tie-downs or netting to prevent shifting or loss during transit.
- Be aware of the increased length and width of your vehicle when the carrier is installed, especially when backing up or maneuvering.
- Do not modify the cargo carrier. Unauthorized modifications can compromise safety and void the warranty.
- Ensure vehicle exhaust fumes do not directly contact cargo, especially heat-sensitive items.

### 3. PACKAGE CONTENTS

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Verify that all components are present before beginning assembly. If any parts are missing or damaged, contact customer support.

- Aluminum frame sections (base and side rails)
- Hitch receiver bar
- Mounting hardware (bolts, nuts, washers)
- Reflectors (if included)
- Assembly instructions

### 4. SETUP AND ASSEMBLY

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Assembly of the cargo carrier requires careful attention to detail. It is recommended to lay out all parts before starting. Do not fully tighten all fasteners until the entire unit is assembled to allow for proper alignment.

1. **Unpack Components:** Carefully remove all parts from the packaging and verify against the package contents list.
2. **Assemble Base Frame:** Connect the aluminum base frame sections using the provided bolts, nuts, and washers. Hand-tighten only at this stage.
3. **Attach Side Rails:** Secure the side rails to the assembled base frame. Ensure proper orientation and alignment. Hand-tighten fasteners.
4. **Install Hitch Receiver Bar:** Attach the hitch receiver bar to the underside of the assembled carrier base. Ensure it is centered and securely aligned with the mounting points.
5. **Final Tightening:** Once all components are loosely assembled and aligned, systematically tighten all bolts and nuts using appropriate tools. Ensure all connections are firm and secure. For fasteners connecting aluminum components, avoid over-tightening to prevent material deformation, but ensure they are snug.
6. **Attach Reflectors:** If included, mount the reflectors to the designated areas on the carrier for increased visibility.
7. **Install on Vehicle:** Slide the hitch receiver bar into your vehicle's 2-inch hitch receiver. Secure it with a hitch pin (not included, typically supplied with vehicle hitch). Ensure there is minimal play. Shims may be used if excessive movement is observed.



*Figure 1: An overhead view of the TMS 500 Lb Hitch Mount Aluminum Cargo Carrier Basket, showcasing its silver aluminum frame, grid-patterned base, and red end caps. The hitch receiver mechanism is visible underneath the main basket structure.*

## 5. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

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1. **Pre-Trip Inspection:** Before each use, inspect the carrier for any signs of damage, loose fasteners, or wear. Ensure the hitch pin is securely in place.
2. **Loading Cargo:** Place cargo evenly across the carrier's surface. Position heavier items closer to the vehicle and lower in the basket. Do not exceed the stated weight capacity.
3. **Securing Cargo:** Use appropriate cargo nets, straps, or bungee cords to firmly secure all items within the carrier. Ensure no items can shift, fall out, or obstruct vehicle lights or license plates.
4. **Driving with Carrier:** Drive cautiously, especially when turning, braking, or driving over uneven terrain. The added weight and length will affect vehicle handling.
5. **Rear Access:** Be mindful that the cargo carrier may obstruct access to your vehicle's rear hatch or trunk.

## 6. MAINTENANCE

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- **Regular Inspection:** Periodically check all bolts, nuts, and connections for tightness, especially after the first few uses and after long trips. Aluminum components can compress over time, requiring re-tightening.
- **Cleaning:** Clean the aluminum carrier with mild soap and water. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents that could damage the anodized finish.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the cargo carrier in a dry place to prevent corrosion and prolong its lifespan.
- **Damage:** If any part of the carrier becomes bent, cracked, or severely damaged, discontinue use immediately and replace the affected components or the entire unit.

## 7. TROUBLESHOOTING

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- **Excessive Movement/Rattling:**

- Ensure the hitch pin is fully inserted and secured.
  - Check all assembly bolts for tightness.
  - If there is excessive play between the hitch receiver bar and the vehicle's receiver, consider using an anti-rattle device or shims (not included) to reduce movement.
- **Difficulty Assembling:**
    - Review the assembly instructions carefully.
    - Ensure all bolts are only hand-tightened until the entire structure is aligned, then tighten fully.
    - Verify that all parts are correctly oriented.
  - **Carrier Angling Downward:**
    - This can be normal depending on the vehicle's hitch design and the weight distribution.
    - Ensure the load does not exceed the weight capacity and is evenly distributed.
    - Inspect the vehicle's hitch receiver for any damage or excessive wear.

## 8. SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Brand</b>	TMS
<b>Model Number</b>	ALUMCARGOCARRIER#92655
<b>ASIN</b>	B0041MVALG
<b>Material</b>	Extruded, Anodized Aluminum
<b>Color</b>	Silver
<b>Load Capacity (Class 3 Receiver)</b>	500 lbs
<b>Load Capacity (Class 2 Receiver)</b>	350 lbs (includes 30-lb carrier weight)
<b>Mounting Type</b>	2-inch Hitch Receiver
<b>Overall Outside Dimensions</b>	49" L x 22-1/2" W x 8" H
<b>Foldable</b>	No

## 9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information, product support, or to inquire about replacement parts, please contact TMS customer service directly. Refer to the product packaging or the manufacturer's official website for current contact details.