Reese 61422

Reese 61422 Goose Box Elite 5th Wheel Airborn Sidewinder Instruction Manual

Model: 61422

Introduction

This manual provides essential information for the safe and effective installation, operation, and maintenance of your Reese 61422 Goose Box Elite 5th Wheel Airborn Sidewinder. This product is designed to enhance the towing experience of your fifth-wheel trailer by combining air-ride comfort with improved maneuverability, particularly for short-bed trucks. Please read this manual thoroughly before attempting installation or operation. Keep it for future reference.

Important Safety Information

WARNING: Failure to follow these safety instructions could result in serious injury, death, or property damage.

- Always ensure all fasteners are tightened to the manufacturer's specified torque settings.
- Regularly inspect the Goose Box, trailer, and tow vehicle components for wear, damage, or loose connections before each trip.
- Do not exceed the maximum weight capacity of 16,000 lbs.
- Be aware that not all tow vehicle and trailer combinations will allow a 90-degree turn, despite the Sidewinder feature. Always verify clearance in a safe, open area before traveling.
- This product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm (Proposition 65 Warning). Wash hands after handling.
- For service, refer to the warning label on the unit.
- Ensure proper air pressure in the air-ride system as specified in the operating section.

Package Contents

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



Image: The Reese 61422 Goose Box Elite 5th Wheel Airborn Sidewinder main unit, along with a separate bracket, a bag of bolts, washers, and nuts, a circular plate, and a square plate. These components are essential for installation and operation.

- Reese Goose Box Elite Airborn Sidewinder Main Assembly
- Mounting Bracket (for trailer frame attachment)
- Hardware Kit (bolts, washers, nuts)
- Gooseneck Ball Adapter Plate (circular)
- Gooseneck Ball Adapter Plate (square)
- Instruction Manual (this document)

Setup and Installation

Installation of the Reese 61422 Goose Box Elite requires mechanical aptitude and appropriate tools. If you are not comfortable performing this installation, seek assistance from a qualified professional.

1. **Prepare the Trailer:** Park the fifth-wheel trailer on a level surface and secure it with wheel chocks. Disconnect from the tow vehicle. Support the trailer's front end securely using its landing gear.
2. **Remove Existing Pin Box:** Carefully remove the existing fifth-wheel pin box from the trailer's kingpin box. This

typically involves unbolting it from the trailer frame. Retain any reusable hardware if instructed by the original pin box manual.

3. **Position the Goose Box:** Lift the Reese Goose Box Elite main assembly into position, aligning its mounting holes with those on the trailer's kingpin box. It may be necessary to use a jack or hoist for support due to the weight of the unit.
4. **Install Mounting Hardware:** Insert the provided bolts, washers, and nuts through the aligned holes. Hand-tighten all fasteners. Ensure the mounting bracket is correctly oriented and secured.
5. **Torque Fasteners:** Refer to the specific torque specifications provided in the detailed installation guide (often included with the product or available online from Reese) and tighten all bolts to the recommended values. **Do not overtighten or undertighten.**
6. **Install Gooseneck Ball Adapter Plates:** Attach the appropriate gooseneck ball adapter plate(s) to the bottom of the Goose Box assembly, ensuring it is securely fastened and ready to receive the gooseneck ball from your tow vehicle.
7. **Initial Air Pressure Adjustment:** Inflate the air-ride system to the recommended pressure. Refer to the operating section for details.
8. **Final Inspection:** Double-check all connections, ensuring everything is secure and properly installed.

Operating Instructions

The Reese Goose Box Elite combines an air-ride system for a smoother tow and a Sidewinder mechanism for enhanced turning clearance.

1. **Air Pressure Adjustment:**
    - Before each trip, check the air pressure in the air-ride system.
    - The recommended operating pressure will vary based on trailer weight. Consult the label on the unit or the detailed product guide for specific pressure ranges.
    - Adjust air pressure using a standard air compressor and gauge. Proper pressure ensures optimal ride comfort and shock absorption.
2. **Connecting to Tow Vehicle:**
    - Back your tow vehicle, equipped with a gooseneck ball, under the Goose Box Elite.
    - Carefully lower the trailer onto the gooseneck ball, ensuring a secure connection.
    - Engage any locking mechanisms on the gooseneck ball or adapter plate as per their instructions.
    - Connect safety chains and electrical umbilical cord.
3. **Utilizing Sidewinder Feature:**
    - The Sidewinder mechanism allows the pivot point of the trailer to move rearward, providing additional clearance between the trailer and the tow vehicle's cab during turns.
    - This feature is particularly beneficial for short-bed trucks, enabling tighter turns (up to 90 degrees in some configurations) without the need for a sliding fifth-wheel hitch.
    - Always perform a slow, controlled test turn in an open area to confirm clearance before driving in confined spaces.
4. **Disconnecting:**
    - Park on a level surface.
    - Lower the trailer landing gear until it firmly supports the trailer.

- Disengage the gooseneck ball locking mechanism.
- Raise the trailer slightly to clear the gooseneck ball.
- Drive the tow vehicle forward slowly, ensuring the Goose Box clears the gooseneck ball.

Maintenance

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and safe operation of your Reese Goose Box Elite.

- **Pre-Trip Inspection:** Before each trip, visually inspect the entire unit for any signs of wear, cracks, loose bolts, or damage. Check the air-ride system for proper inflation.
- **Fastener Torque:** Periodically re-check the torque on all mounting bolts, especially after the first few hundred miles of towing and then annually. Refer to the installation guide for specific torque values.
- **Lubrication:** Lubricate moving parts of the Sidewinder mechanism as recommended in the detailed product manual. Use appropriate grease for towing applications.
- **Air-Ride System:** Inspect the air bag and air lines for leaks or damage. Maintain correct air pressure.
- **Cleaning:** Keep the unit clean from dirt, road grime, and corrosive materials. A mild soap and water solution is usually sufficient.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Excessive chucking or rough ride	Incorrect air pressure in air-ride system; Worn components.	Check and adjust air pressure to recommended levels. Inspect for worn parts and replace if necessary.
Difficulty turning or limited clearance	Sidewinder mechanism not functioning correctly; Obstruction; Incorrect tow vehicle/trailer combination.	Inspect Sidewinder for proper lubrication and operation. Ensure no obstructions. Verify trailer and tow vehicle compatibility.
Missing parts upon delivery	Packaging error or transit damage.	Immediately contact Reese customer support with your purchase details. Do not attempt installation with incomplete parts.
Unusual noises during towing	Loose fasteners; Worn components; Lack of lubrication.	Stop towing immediately and safely inspect the unit. Check all fasteners for proper torque. Lubricate moving parts. Replace any worn components.

Specifications

- **Model Number:** 61422
- **Brand:** Reese
- **Capacity:** 16,000 lbs.
- **Material:** Metal
- **Finish:** Powder Coated
- **Item Weight:** 0.01 Ounces *(Note: This weight appears to be a data entry error; actual product weight is significantly higher.)*
- **Vehicle Service Type:** Trailer, Truck

- **UPC:** 016118108224
- **Manufacturer Part Number:** 61422

Warranty and Support

Manufacturer Warranty: This Reese product is backed by a Lifetime Manufacturer Warranty. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.
For technical assistance, missing parts, or warranty inquiries, please contact Reese Customer Support. Refer to the official Reese website or your purchase documentation for current contact information.
You can also visit the Reese Store on Amazon for more information.

Ask a question about this manual

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page's manual context to help answer it.

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Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

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