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Gates 36329

Gates 36329 DriveAlign Belt Drive Idler/Tensioner Pulley Instruction Manual

Model: 36329 | Brand: Gates

1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the Gates 36329 DriveAlign Belt Drive Idler/Tensioner Pulley. This component is designed to ensure the proper function of your vehicle's accessory drive system by maintaining correct belt tension and alignment. It is engineered for OE-quality fit and performance in passenger cars and light trucks, serving as a locked center tensioning pulley, an automatic belt tensioner pulley, or an idler pulley.

What's in the Box:

- Gates 36329 DriveAlign Belt Drive Idler/Tensioner Pulley

2. PRODUCT FEATURES

- **Durable Construction:** Features steel and thermoplastic construction, designed to tight manufacturing tolerances for high durability and quality performance.
- **Corrosion Resistance:** Built to last with superior resistance to dirt, salt, chemicals, and other under-hood contaminants.
- **OE-Quality Fit:** Provides an OE-quality fit for a wide range of domestic and import vehicles.
- **Premium Bearings:** Bearings meet or exceed OE standards, designed to withstand application-specific speed and load requirements, and high under-hood temperatures.
- **Noise Reduction:** Premium bearings are engineered to eliminate bearing noise, contributing to a quieter operation.

3. SPECIFICATIONS

Manufacturer	Gates
Brand	Gates
Model	DriveAlign Belt Drive Idler/Tensioner Pulley
Item Weight	1 pounds
Item Model Number	36329
Exterior	Machined
Manufacturer Part Number	36329
OEM Part Number	3C2Z8678CB
ASIN	B005R5NRYO
Date First Available	August 31, 2011

4. INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

The Gates 36329 DriveAlign Idler/Tensioner Pulley is a critical component of your vehicle's accessory drive system. Proper installation is essential for optimal performance and longevity. It is highly recommended that installation be performed by a qualified automotive technician using appropriate tools and safety procedures.

General Installation Steps (Consult Vehicle Service Manual for Specifics):

- Safety First:** Ensure the vehicle is safely supported and the engine is cool. Disconnect the battery.
- Access the Drive System:** Locate the accessory drive belt and the existing idler/tensioner pulley.
- Relieve Belt Tension:** Use a serpentine belt tool to relieve tension on the drive belt and remove it from the pulleys.
- Remove Old Pulley:** Unbolt and remove the old idler/tensioner pulley. Note its orientation and mounting hardware.
- Install New Pulley:** Mount the new Gates 36329 pulley in the correct orientation, ensuring all mounting bolts are tightened to the manufacturer's specified torque.
- Reinstall Drive Belt:** Route the serpentine belt correctly over all pulleys. Use the serpentine belt tool to apply tension and seat the belt properly.
- Final Checks:** Verify that the belt is correctly seated on all pulleys and that the new pulley rotates freely without wobble. Reconnect the battery.
- Test Operation:** Start the engine and check for proper belt operation, unusual noises, or vibrations.

Important: Always refer to your vehicle's specific service manual for detailed, model-specific installation instructions and torque specifications.



Figure 1: Side view of the Gates 36329 DriveAlign Idler/Tensioner Pulley, showing the ribbed surface and mounting bolt.



Figure 2: Front view of the Gates 36329 DriveAlign Idler/Tensioner Pulley, highlighting the central bolt and smooth face.



Figure 3: Rear view of the Gates 36329 DriveAlign Idler/Tensioner Pulley, showing the mounting shaft and "MADE IN CANADA" inscription.

5. OPERATION

The Gates 36329 DriveAlign Idler/Tensioner Pulley operates as a passive component within the vehicle's accessory drive system. Its primary function is to guide the serpentine belt and maintain consistent tension, ensuring that power is efficiently transferred from the engine's crankshaft to various accessories such as the alternator, power steering pump, air conditioning compressor, and water pump. The pulley's smooth rotation and precise alignment are crucial for preventing belt slippage, reducing wear on the belt and other components, and minimizing operational noise.

6. MAINTENANCE

Regular inspection and maintenance of the idler/tensioner pulley are vital for the overall health of your vehicle's accessory drive system. While the Gates 36329 pulley is designed for durability, wear can occur over time.

Recommended Maintenance Schedule:

- **Every 12,000 miles or 12 months:** Inspect the pulley for signs of wear, cracks, or damage. Check for excessive play in the bearing by attempting to wiggle the pulley.
- **Every 60,000-90,000 miles:** Consider replacing the idler/tensioner pulley along with the serpentine belt as part of a comprehensive accessory drive system service. This proactive replacement helps prevent unexpected failures.

Signs of Wear:

- Squealing or grinding noises coming from the pulley area.
- Visible cracks, chips, or excessive wear on the pulley surface.
- Wobbling or uneven rotation of the pulley when the engine is running.
- Loss of proper belt tension, leading to belt slippage.

If any of these signs are observed, it is advisable to have the pulley inspected and replaced by a professional technician.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

Issues with an idler/tensioner pulley can often manifest as problems with the entire accessory drive system. Here are some common symptoms and potential causes:

- **Squealing Noise:** Often indicates a loose or worn belt, or a failing pulley bearing. Inspect the belt tensioner and all pulleys for proper function.
- **Grinding or Growling Noise:** Typically points to a severely worn or seized pulley bearing. Immediate inspection and replacement are recommended to prevent further damage.
- **Accessory Malfunction (e.g., weak AC, dim lights):** Can be caused by insufficient belt tension due to a failing tensioner pulley, leading to belt slippage and reduced power to accessories.
- **Belt Slippage or Shredding:** May indicate improper pulley alignment, a worn pulley surface, or a failing tensioner.

If you experience any of these symptoms, consult a qualified automotive technician for diagnosis and repair. Attempting to operate a vehicle with a faulty idler/tensioner pulley can lead to significant damage to other engine components.

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Gates products are manufactured to high-quality standards. For specific warranty information regarding your Gates 36329 DriveAlign Belt Drive Idler/Tensioner Pulley, please refer to the warranty documentation included with your purchase or visit the official Gates website. For technical support or further assistance, please contact Gates customer service through their official channels.