Westfalia 348039900113

Westfalia Detachable Tow Bar and 13-Pin Electrical Kit Instruction Manual

Model: 348039900113

1. Introduction

This instruction manual provides essential information for the safe and correct installation, operation, and maintenance of your Westfalia detachable tow bar and vehicle-specific 13-pin electrical kit. This product is designed for the Subaru Forester SJ model, manufactured from March 2013 onwards. The kit includes an original Westfalia tow bar and a vehicle-specific 13-pin electrical set, offering features such as error message display in the car cockpit, automatic rear fog light shutdown, and trailer stabilization. The tow bar has EC approval, allowing its use throughout the EU without additional TÜV approval, ensuring safe and comfortable driving after installation. When the tow ball is removed, the tow bar is not visible, providing a practical and aesthetically pleasing solution.

2. Safety Information

- Read this manual completely before attempting installation or operation.
- Installation should ideally be performed by qualified personnel or a specialized workshop. Incorrect installation can lead to serious safety hazards and vehicle damage.
- Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment during installation.
- Ensure the vehicle is securely supported and the engine is off before beginning any work. Disconnect the vehicle's battery if instructed by the vehicle manufacturer's manual.
- Adhere to all local traffic laws and regulations regarding towing and trailer use.
- Do not exceed the maximum permissible towing capacity or vertical load specified by your vehicle manufacturer or the tow bar manufacturer.
- Regularly inspect the tow bar and electrical connections for wear, damage, or corrosion.

3. Package Contents

Verify that all components listed below are present and undamaged before beginning installation.



Image 1: Main components of the Westfalia detachable tow bar kit, including the main beam, tow ball, mounting brackets, and fasteners.



Image 2: Components of the 13-pin vehicle-specific electrical kit, including wiring harness, control module, socket, and various connectors and accessories.

- Tow bar main beam
- Detachable tow ball with locking mechanism
- Vehicle-specific mounting brackets and fasteners
- 13-pin electrical wiring harness
- Electrical control module
- 13-pin trailer socket
- Installation hardware and accessories (e.g., cable ties, seals)
- Instruction manual (this document)

4. Setup (Installation)

Installation of the Westfalia tow bar and electrical kit requires specific tools and technical knowledge. It is strongly recommended that installation be carried out by a professional mechanic or a Westfalia authorized service center to ensure proper function and safety. Refer to the detailed installation instructions provided with the physical product for vehicle-specific steps.

4.1. Tow Bar Installation Overview

1. Prepare the vehicle: Park on a level surface, engage the parking brake, and disconnect the battery if required.
2. Remove necessary vehicle components: This may include bumper, rear lights, or trim panels as per vehicle-specific

instructions.

3. Mount the tow bar main beam: Securely attach the main beam to the vehicle's chassis using the provided fasteners and torque specifications.
4. Install the detachable tow ball receiver: Integrate the receiver for the detachable tow ball into the main beam.
5. Reassemble vehicle components: Carefully reattach any removed parts.



Image 3: Diagram illustrating the tow bar main beam and detachable tow ball receiver installed on the rear of a vehicle.

4.2. Electrical Kit Installation Overview

1. Route the wiring harness: Carefully route the vehicle-specific wiring harness from the rear of the vehicle to the designated connection points, typically within the vehicle's interior.
2. Connect the control module: Install the electrical control module in the specified location and connect it to the vehicle's electrical system and the tow bar wiring harness.
3. Install the 13-pin socket: Mount the 13-pin trailer socket near the tow bar receiver and connect the wiring harness to it.
4. Test the electrical system: After installation, reconnect the battery and test all trailer lighting functions (indicators, brake lights, tail lights, reverse light, fog light) and other electrical features.



Image 4: The Westfalia electrical control unit with connected wiring harnesses, ready for installation into the vehicle's electrical system.

5. Operating Instructions

5.1. Attaching the Detachable Tow Ball

1. Ensure the tow ball mechanism is clean and free of debris.

2. Insert the tow ball into its receiver until it clicks securely into place.
3. Verify the locking indicator (usually green) is visible, confirming the tow ball is correctly engaged.
4. Remove the key and store it safely.

5.2. Detaching the Tow Ball

1. Insert the key into the lock and turn it to the unlock position.
2. Pull the release handle or knob as instructed by the specific tow ball design.
3. Remove the tow ball from its receiver.
4. Store the tow ball in a clean, dry place, preferably in the protective bag provided.

5.3. Connecting the 13-Pin Electrical Kit

1. Ensure the 13-pin socket on the vehicle and the plug on the trailer are clean and free of corrosion.
2. Align the plug with the socket, ensuring the keyway matches.
3. Push the plug firmly into the socket and twist clockwise to secure it.
4. Verify all trailer lights and functions are working correctly before driving.

5.4. Electrical Kit Features

- **Error Message Display:** The electrical kit integrates with the vehicle's system to display error messages in the car cockpit if issues with trailer lighting or connections are detected.
- **Automatic Rear Fog Light Shutdown:** When a trailer is connected, the vehicle's rear fog light may automatically deactivate to prevent glare to the driver from the trailer's reflective surfaces.
- **Trailer Stabilization:** The electrical kit supports vehicle systems that enhance trailer stability, reducing sway and improving control during towing.

6. Maintenance

- **Regular Inspection:** Periodically inspect the tow bar, mounting bolts, and electrical connections for signs of wear, damage, corrosion, or looseness. Tighten any loose fasteners to the specified torque.
- **Cleaning:** Keep the tow bar and electrical socket clean from dirt, salt, and road grime. Use a mild detergent and water, then dry thoroughly.
- **Lubrication:** Lubricate the moving parts of the detachable tow ball mechanism (e.g., locking pins, sliding surfaces) with a suitable grease or spray lubricant as recommended by Westfalia.
- **Electrical Contacts:** Ensure the pins of the 13-pin electrical socket are clean and free of corrosion. Use a contact cleaner if necessary.
- **Storage:** When the detachable tow ball is not in use, remove it and store it in a dry, protected place to prevent damage and corrosion.

7. Troubleshooting

- **Tow Ball Not Locking:** Ensure the receiver is clean. Check for any obstructions. Apply lubricant to the mechanism. If the issue persists, do not use and consult a professional.
- **No Trailer Lights:** Check the 13-pin connection for proper seating and cleanliness. Inspect the trailer's wiring and bulbs. Check vehicle fuses related to trailer lighting. If the vehicle's dashboard displays an error, refer to your vehicle's manual.

- **Loose Tow Bar:** Immediately stop using the tow bar. Inspect all mounting bolts for tightness. If any bolts are loose or damaged, have them professionally inspected and tightened/replaced.
- **Corrosion:** Clean affected areas with a wire brush and apply a rust-inhibiting primer and paint. For electrical contacts, use a specialized contact cleaner.

For persistent issues or problems not covered here, contact Westfalia customer support or a qualified service technician.

8. Specifications

Brand	Westfalia
Model Number	348039900113
Product Dimensions	46.6 x 31.61 x 18.67 cm
Item Weight	25 Kilograms
Material	Iron
Finish Type	Powder Coated
Automotive Fit Type	Vehicle-Specific Fit
Compatible Vehicle Type	Trailer
Manufacturer	WESTFALIA Automotive GmbH
Country of Origin	Germany

9. Support and Warranty

For technical assistance, spare parts, or warranty inquiries, please contact Westfalia Automotive GmbH directly. Refer to the contact information provided on the product packaging or the official Westfalia website. Keep your purchase receipt and product model number (348039900113) handy when contacting support.

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