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› Westfalia Detachable Swan Neck Towbar for Mercedes GLK (X204) - User Manual

Westfalia 313434900113

Westfalia Detachable Swan Neck Towbar

Model: 313434900113 for Mercedes GLK (X204)

1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the safe and correct installation, operation, and maintenance of your Westfalia Detachable Swan Neck Towbar, Model 313434900113, designed specifically for the Mercedes GLK (X204) manufactured between July 2009 and December 2015. It includes a 13-pin vehicle-specific wiring kit. Please read this manual thoroughly before installation and use.

The Westfalia detachable towbar offers a flexible transport solution for occasional trailer use, such as bike carriers or horse trailers. When removed, it becomes almost invisible, preserving the vehicle's aesthetics. The included 13-pin electrical wiring kit ensures full support for all legally required light functions and integrates with the vehicle's electronic systems for enhanced safety.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

WARNING: Improper installation or use can lead to serious injury or damage to the vehicle and trailer. Always adhere to local regulations and safety standards.

- **Professional Installation Recommended:** It is strongly recommended that the towbar and wiring kit be installed by a qualified professional.
- **Vehicle Compatibility:** Ensure this towbar is compatible with your specific Mercedes GLK (X204) model and year.
- **Weight Limits:** Do not exceed the maximum towing capacity of 2500 kg or the nose load of 100 kg. Refer to your vehicle's manual for its specific towing limits.
- **Electrical System:** The 13-pin wiring kit is vehicle-specific. Ensure correct connection to avoid electrical malfunctions.
- **Regular Inspection:** Before each use, inspect the towbar and electrical connections for any signs of wear, damage, or corrosion.
- **Detachable Ball Head:** Ensure the detachable ball head is securely locked in place before towing.

- **Right-Hand Drive:** This wiring kit is designed for right-hand drive vehicles.

3. WHAT'S IN THE BOX

Carefully unpack all components and verify against the list below. If any parts are missing or damaged, contact your supplier immediately.



Figure 3.1: Overview of the complete Westfalia Detachable Swan Neck Towbar kit, including the main towbar beam, detachable ball head, and various mounting hardware.



Figure 3.2: Components of the Westfalia 13-pin vehicle-specific wiring kit, including the control unit, cables, socket, and installation accessories.

- Main Towbar Beam (A40V System)
- Detachable Swan Neck Ball Head
- Mounting Hardware (bolts, nuts, washers, etc.)
- 13-pin Vehicle Specific Electrical Wiring Kit (for right-hand drive)
- Plug Control Unit and Software
- Instruction Manual (this document)

4. SETUP AND INSTALLATION

Installation of the Westfalia towbar and wiring kit requires specialized tools and technical knowledge. **It is highly recommended that installation be performed by a professional installer.** Incorrect installation can compromise vehicle safety and void warranties.

4.1 Pre-Installation Checks

- Verify all components are present and undamaged.
- Ensure the vehicle is parked on a level surface with the engine off and parking brake engaged.
- Disconnect the vehicle's battery before starting any electrical work.
- Consult your vehicle's owner's manual for any specific instructions regarding towbar installation or modifications.

4.2 Mechanical Installation (Towbar)

1. Access the vehicle's chassis according to the specific instructions provided in the detailed installation guide (usually included with the product or available online from Westfalia). This may involve removing the bumper.
2. Mount the main towbar beam to the designated mounting points on the vehicle's chassis using the provided hardware. Ensure all bolts are tightened to the specified torque settings.
3. The towbar system A40V typically involves an invisible bumper cut, meaning modifications to the bumper are minimal or hidden.
4. Once the main beam is secure, the detachable swan neck ball head can be inserted and locked into its housing. Refer to the specific instructions for locking mechanism operation.

4.3 Electrical Installation (Wiring Kit)

1. The 13-pin vehicle-specific wiring kit connects directly to the vehicle's existing electrical system. This typically involves connecting to the rear lights, brake lights, indicators, and potentially other vehicle systems.
2. Install the plug control unit in a suitable location, usually within the vehicle's boot or behind trim panels.
3. Route the wiring harness carefully, ensuring it is secured and protected from abrasion, heat, and moisture.
4. Connect the 13-pin socket to the exterior of the vehicle, typically near the towbar.
5. **Coding:** Coding of the vehicle's electronic control unit (ECU) is necessary after installation of the wiring kit. This step integrates the towbar's electrical functions with the vehicle's systems, enabling features like trailer stabilization and dashboard error displays. This must be performed by a qualified technician with appropriate diagnostic tools.
6. Reconnect the vehicle's battery.

5. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

5.1 Attaching the Detachable Ball Head

1. Ensure the towbar housing is clean and free of debris.
2. Insert the swan neck ball head into the receiver until it clicks securely into place.
3. Verify the locking mechanism indicator (if present) shows a secure connection. A visual and audible confirmation is usually provided.
4. Always test the security of the ball head by attempting to pull it out manually.

5.2 Removing the Detachable Ball Head

1. Follow the specific instructions for your A40V system to unlock and remove the ball head. This typically involves turning a key and/or pressing a release button.
2. Store the ball head in the provided protective bag in a clean, dry place within the vehicle.

5.3 Connecting a Trailer

1. Attach the trailer coupling to the towball, ensuring it is fully engaged and locked.
2. Connect the 13-pin electrical plug from the trailer to the vehicle's 13-pin socket. Ensure a firm

connection.

3. Verify all trailer lights (indicators, brake lights, tail lights) are functioning correctly.
4. Check the trailer's breakaway cable or safety chain is correctly attached to the vehicle.
5. Ensure the trailer's nose weight is within the specified limits (100 kg for this towbar).

5.4 Driving with a Trailer

- Drive cautiously, allowing for increased braking distances and wider turning circles.
- The vehicle's electronic systems will detect the trailer and activate safety features like trailer stabilization.
- Monitor the dashboard for any error messages related to the trailer's electrical system.

6. MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and safe operation of your towbar system.

- **Cleaning:** Keep the towball and its housing clean and free from dirt, rust, and road salt.
- **Lubrication:** Periodically lubricate the moving parts of the detachable mechanism according to Westfalia's recommendations (e.g., with grease or spray lubricant).
- **Inspection:** Regularly inspect the towbar structure, mounting bolts, and electrical wiring for any signs of damage, corrosion, cracks, or loose connections. Replace any damaged components immediately.
- **Electrical Socket:** Keep the 13-pin electrical socket clean and dry. Use a protective cap when not in use.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Trailer lights not working	Loose electrical connection, blown fuse, faulty trailer wiring, vehicle coding issue.	Check 13-pin connection. Inspect fuses in the vehicle and trailer. Verify trailer wiring. If problem persists, consult a professional for vehicle coding diagnosis.
Detachable ball head not locking	Debris in housing, damaged mechanism, incorrect insertion.	Clean the housing. Ensure correct insertion and full engagement. Do not force. If damaged, contact support.
Dashboard error message related to trailer	Electrical fault, incorrect coding, sensor issue.	Check all electrical connections. Ensure vehicle coding was performed correctly. Consult a professional for diagnostic scanning.
Excessive play in towball	Loose mounting bolts, worn components.	Immediately cease towing. Have a professional inspect and tighten all mounting bolts to specification. Replace worn parts if necessary.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

- **Model Number:** 313434900113
- **Vehicle Compatibility:** Mercedes GLK (X204) (07/2009 - 12/2015)
- **Towbar System:** A40V (Detachable Swan Neck)
- **Towing Capacity:** 2500 kg
- **Nose Load:** 100 kg
- **Bumper Cut:** Invisible
- **Wiring Kit:** 13-pin Vehicle Specific (for right-hand drive)
- **Coding:** Necessary
- **Material:** Alloy Steel
- **Finish Type:** Powder Coated
- **Item Weight:** 27 Kilograms
- **Manufacturer:** Westfalia-Automotive
- **Country of Origin:** Germany

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Westfalia-Automotive provides a **Lifetime Warranty** for this product. The exact coverage details may vary and are subject to the terms and conditions provided at the time of purchase or available on the official Westfalia website.

For technical support, warranty claims, or further assistance, please contact your authorized Westfalia dealer or visit the official Westfalia-Automotive website. When contacting support, please have your product model number (313434900113) and purchase details readily available.

Note: Any modifications to the towbar or wiring kit not authorized by Westfalia-Automotive may void the warranty.