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› Thule Brink 481900 Tow Bar User Manual

Thule 481900

Thule Brink 481900 Tow Bar User Manual

Model: 481900 | Brand: Thule

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the safe and effective installation, operation, and maintenance of your Thule Brink 481900 Tow Bar. Please read this manual thoroughly before attempting any installation or use to ensure proper function and safety. The Thule Brink 481900 Tow Bar is designed for specific vehicle models, including Fiat Ducato Box, Fiat Ducato Platform/Chassis, Fiat Ducato Bus, Citroën Jumper Box, and others. Always verify compatibility with your vehicle before installation.

SAFETY INFORMATION

- Always ensure the tow bar is correctly installed and secured according to these instructions and any vehicle-specific guidelines.
- Regularly inspect the tow bar for any signs of wear, damage, or corrosion. Do not use if damaged.
- Adhere to the maximum towing load and D-value specifications. Exceeding these limits can lead to serious accidents.
- Ensure all fasteners are tightened to the specified torque settings. Re-check torque after the first 500 miles of use and periodically thereafter.
- When towing, always ensure the trailer coupling is properly secured to the tow ball.
- Be aware of increased vehicle length and weight when towing, especially when maneuvering and braking.
- Professional installation is highly recommended for safety and proper function.

PACKAGE CONTENTS

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



Figure 1: Complete Tow Bar Kit. This image displays all components included in the Thule Brink 481900 Tow Bar package, laid out for inspection. It includes the main tow bar beam, the tow ball with its cover, various mounting brackets, and a comprehensive set of bolts, nuts, and washers.



Figure 2: Fasteners and Hardware. A close-up view of the various bolts, nuts, and washers supplied for securing the tow bar to the vehicle chassis and assembling the tow ball. Different sizes and types of fasteners are visible, indicating specific uses during installation.



Figure 3: Tow Ball and Cover. This image shows the detachable tow ball component, which is typically bolted to the main tow bar beam. Next to it is a black protective cap, branded "BRINK", designed to cover the tow ball when not in use, protecting it from elements and preventing accidental contact.



Figure 4: Main Tow Bar Beam. A detailed view of the primary structural component of the tow bar. This long, black, powder-coated metal beam is designed to attach directly to the vehicle's chassis, providing the robust foundation for towing. It features pre-drilled holes for mounting the tow ball and connecting to the vehicle's frame.

SETUP AND INSTALLATION

Installation of the Thule Brink 481900 Tow Bar requires mechanical aptitude and specific tools. It is highly recommended that installation be performed by a qualified professional to ensure safety and compliance with local regulations.

1. **Prepare the Vehicle:** Park the vehicle on a level surface and engage the parking brake. If necessary, lift the vehicle using a suitable jack and secure it with jack stands. Disconnect the vehicle's battery if working near electrical components.
2. **Access Mounting Points:** Depending on the vehicle model, it may be necessary to remove or temporarily lower components such as the bumper, exhaust, or heat shields to access the chassis mounting points. Refer to your vehicle's service manual for specific instructions.
3. **Position the Tow Bar:** Carefully lift the main tow bar beam into position against the vehicle's chassis. Align the pre-drilled holes on the tow bar with the corresponding mounting points on the vehicle frame.
4. **Secure the Tow Bar:** Insert the appropriate bolts, washers, and nuts (refer to Figure 2) through the aligned holes. Hand-tighten all fasteners initially.
5. **Torque Fasteners:** Using a torque wrench, tighten all bolts to the specifications provided in the detailed installation guide (usually included with the product or available from Thule). Ensure even tightening across all mounting points.
6. **Attach Tow Ball:** Secure the tow ball (Figure 3) to the tow bar beam using the designated bolts and nuts. Apply the specified torque.
7. **Electrical Connection (if applicable):** If installing towing electrics, connect the wiring harness according to the

vehicle and wiring kit instructions. Test all lighting functions (brake lights, turn signals, tail lights).

8. **Reassemble Vehicle:** Reinstall any vehicle components that were removed or lowered during the installation process.
9. **Final Inspection:** Double-check all connections and fasteners for tightness. Ensure there is no interference with other vehicle components.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Once installed, the Thule Brink 481900 Tow Bar is ready for use. Follow these guidelines for safe operation:

- **Connecting a Trailer:**

- a. Ensure the tow ball is clean and free of grease or debris.
- b. Position the trailer coupling directly over the tow ball.
- c. Lower the trailer coupling onto the tow ball until it locks securely. Verify the connection by attempting to lift the trailer coupling.
- d. Attach the safety chain or breakaway cable from the trailer to the designated attachment point on the tow bar or vehicle.
- e. Connect the trailer's electrical plug to the vehicle's towing socket. Test all trailer lights (brake, turn, tail).

- **Driving with a Trailer:**

- Drive at reduced speeds, especially when cornering or in adverse weather conditions.
- Allow for increased braking distances.
- Be mindful of the increased overall length and width of your vehicle and trailer combination.
- Check tire pressures on both the towing vehicle and trailer before each journey.

- **Disconnecting a Trailer:**

- a. Park on a level surface and engage the parking brake on both the vehicle and trailer.
- b. Disconnect the trailer's electrical plug.
- c. Remove the safety chain/breakaway cable.
- d. Release the trailer coupling lock and raise the trailer off the tow ball.

MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and safe operation of your tow bar.

- **Routine Inspection:** Before each towing trip, visually inspect the tow bar, tow ball, and all fasteners for signs of wear, damage, cracks, or corrosion.
- **Fastener Check:** Periodically check the tightness of all mounting bolts, especially after the first few towing trips and then every 3,000 miles or 6 months. Re-torque to specifications if necessary.
- **Cleaning:** Clean the tow bar regularly, especially after exposure to road salt, dirt, or harsh weather. Use mild soap and water, then rinse thoroughly and dry.
- **Lubrication:** Keep the tow ball clean and free of excessive grease, as some trailer couplings are designed to operate on a dry ball. Consult your trailer coupling manual for specific lubrication requirements.
- **Corrosion Protection:** If the tow bar is exposed to harsh conditions, consider applying a rust-inhibiting spray to exposed metal surfaces, avoiding the tow ball surface unless specified by your trailer coupling manufacturer.

TROUBLESHOOTING

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your tow bar.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Tow bar rattling or vibrating	Loose mounting bolts; worn components.	Check and re-torque all mounting bolts. Inspect for worn parts and replace if necessary.
Difficulty connecting trailer coupling	Tow ball or coupling is dirty/damaged; incorrect alignment.	Clean tow ball and coupling. Ensure proper alignment of vehicle and trailer. Inspect coupling for damage.
Visible rust or corrosion	Lack of regular cleaning and protection.	Clean the affected areas thoroughly. Apply rust-inhibiting paint or coating. Ensure regular cleaning.
Trailer lights not working	Faulty electrical connection; blown fuse; damaged wiring.	Check electrical plug connection. Inspect vehicle and trailer fuses. Check for damaged wiring. Consult an auto electrician if needed.

SPECIFICATIONS

Key technical specifications for the Thule Brink 481900 Tow Bar:

Brand	Thule
Model Number	481900
Item Weight	2.87 Kilograms (6.31 pounds)
Product Dimensions	18.35 x 12.44 x 7.35 inches
Material	Aluminum
Finish Type	Powder Coated
Maximum Towing Capacity	7704 Pounds (3500 kg)
D-value	17.2 kN
Trailer Hitch Type	2-hole ball head
Certification	EC

WARRANTY INFORMATION

Thule products are manufactured to the highest quality standards and are rigorously tested. Specific warranty terms and conditions for the Thule Brink 481900 Tow Bar are typically provided with the product packaging or can be found on the official Thule website. Please retain your proof of purchase for any warranty claims.

SUPPORT

For further assistance, technical support, or to inquire about replacement parts, please contact Thule customer service or visit their official website:

Thule Official Website: www.thule.com

Contact Information: Refer to the "Contact Us" section on the Thule website for regional phone numbers and email support.

When contacting support, please have your product model number (481900) and purchase details ready.

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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.

Name

Anonymous

Email

you@example.com

After a successful submission, we securely hash the supplied account or form email before sending it to Microsoft Advertising for conversion attribution. [Privacy details](#).

Question

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.

Submit question