

Solera 280343

Solera 280343 Gas Strut User Manual

Model: 280343 | Brand: Solera

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the proper installation, operation, and maintenance of your Solera 280343 Gas Strut. This gas strut is designed for use with Solera awning arm assemblies, offering universal compatibility with both manual and power Solera awnings. Please read this manual thoroughly before installation and use to ensure safe and efficient operation.

SAFETY INFORMATION

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

- Always ensure the awning is properly anchored and within its load-bearing capacity.
- Keep hands and other body parts away from moving parts when the awning is in use or being adjusted.
- Do not exceed the awning's weight capacity to prevent accidents.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation, use, and maintenance.
- Gas struts are under high pressure. Do not puncture, heat, or open the strut.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), such as eye protection and gloves, during installation.

PRODUCT FEATURES

FEATURES & BENEFITS



The Solera 280343 Gas Strut offers the following key features:

- **26-inch Reach:** Extends to a full 26 inches when fully open.
- **Universal Compatibility:** Designed for use with both powered and manual Solera awnings.
- **124 lb. Capacity:** Provides robust support for your awning.
- **Easy Installation:** Engineered for straightforward replacement.
- **Adds Stability:** Helps the awning extend and retract smoothly and securely.

UNIVERSAL FIT

Universal for both power and manual Solera awnings

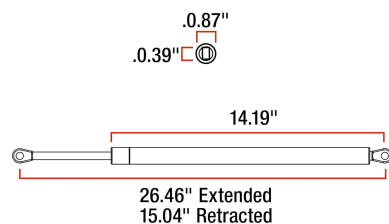


This gas strut is universally compatible with Solera power and manual awnings, ensuring a broad range of applications for RVs, travel trailers, and motorhomes. The image shows a representative Solera awning extended, demonstrating the type of application for this gas strut.

SPECIFICATIONS

APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS

Adds stability and allows awning
to extend and retract with ease



Attribute	Detail
Model Number	280343
Brand	Solera
Manufacturer	Lippert Components
Extended Length	26 inches (26.46" as per diagram)
Retracted Length	15.04 inches (as per diagram)
Capacity	124 lb.
Color	Black
Item Weight	1.2 pounds
Product Dimensions (D x W x H)	3"D x 30"W x 3"H (packaging/overall)
UPC	848150012999

The image provides a visual representation of the approximate dimensions, including extended and retracted lengths, and pin diameters for accurate fitment.

INSTALLATION GUIDE

Replacing the Solera Gas Strut is typically a two-person task due to the tension involved. Follow these steps carefully. Refer to the product images for visual guidance on the strut itself.

Required Tools:

- Ladders, chairs, or other stable platforms for two people
- Needle-nose pliers
- Screwdriver
- Hammer
- 7/16 inch socket

- Duct tape (optional, for securing pushnuts)
- Four 3/8 inch pushnut washers (**not included**, recommended to replace)

Installation Steps:

1. **Prepare Awning:** Fully extend the awning to relieve tension on the strut.
2. **Remove Spacers:** Locate the two snap-in/out plastic spacers on each pin (typically at locations 3 and 4 on the awning arm). Carefully remove these with a screwdriver and save them for reinstallation.
3. **Remove Pushnut Washers:** Using needle-nose pliers or a screwdriver and hammer, carefully remove all four pushnut washers. *Eye protection is highly recommended as these can fly off.* Consider using duct tape to create a "tent" around the pushnut to prevent it from flying.
4. **Support Awning:** Have one person firmly hold the end of the awning to prevent it from collapsing once the strut is removed.
5. **Note Orientation:** Before removal, observe the orientation of the existing gas strut to ensure the new one is installed correctly.
6. **Remove Old Strut:** Remove the pins securing the old strut. You may need a hammer and screwdriver to gently encourage the pins to move. Your helper may need to slightly lift or adjust the awning end to align the holes.
7. **Install New Strut - Pin 1:** Begin by installing the new gas strut in the correct orientation. First, insert and secure the pin at location 1. Use a 7/16 inch socket to press the new pushnut washer onto the pin by hand, while holding the opposite side of the pin.
8. **Install New Strut - Pin 2:** Next, install the pin through the gas strut at location 2 and secure it with a new pushnut washer.
9. **Install New Strut - Pin 3:** Have your helper lift the end of the awning to align the holes for pin 3. Install the pin and secure it with a new pushnut washer.
10. **Install New Strut - Pin 4:** Similarly, have your helper lift the awning end to align the holes for pin 4. Install the pin and secure it with a new pushnut washer.
11. **Replace Spacers:** Reinstall the plastic spacers onto pins 3 and 4.

Note: Without removing pin 4 (or the screw between pin 2 and 4), the gas strut will need to be compressed for installation, which can be very difficult. The method above avoids this by removing all pins.

OPERATION

The Solera 280343 Gas Strut is a passive component designed to assist in the smooth extension and retraction of your Solera awning. Once installed, it works in conjunction with your awning's existing mechanism (manual or powered) to provide stability and ease of movement.

- **Extension:** As the awning extends, the gas strut will smoothly extend, providing support and preventing rapid deployment.
- **Retraction:** When retracting the awning, the gas strut will compress, assisting in the controlled closure of the awning.
- Always operate your awning according to its specific manual (manual or power awning). The gas strut enhances the functionality of the awning arm assembly.

MAINTENANCE

The Solera Gas Strut is largely maintenance-free. However, regular inspection can prolong its lifespan and ensure continued safe operation.

- **Regular Inspection:** Periodically inspect the strut for any signs of damage, corrosion, leaks, or bending. Check the mounting points for looseness or wear.
- **Cleanliness:** Keep the strut clean, especially the rod portion, to prevent dirt and debris from damaging the seal. Wipe with a clean, damp cloth if necessary. Avoid using harsh chemicals.
- **Lubrication:** Do not lubricate the rod or seals unless specifically instructed by the manufacturer. Most gas struts are designed to operate without external lubrication.
- **Storage:** If the RV or awning is stored for extended periods, ensure the awning is retracted and secured to protect the strut from environmental exposure.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you experience issues with your awning's operation after installing or while using the Solera Gas Strut, consider the following common problems and solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Awning difficult to extend or retract	Strut losing pressure; incorrect installation; binding in awning arms.	Check strut for leaks or damage. Verify correct installation and alignment. Inspect awning arms for obstructions or damage.
Awning sags or does not hold position	Strut has failed (lost gas pressure).	Replace the gas strut.
Unusual noises during operation	Loose mounting hardware; binding components; damaged strut.	Tighten all mounting hardware. Inspect awning arms and strut for any rubbing or damage. Replace strut if damaged.

If troubleshooting steps do not resolve the issue, contact Solera customer support or a qualified RV technician.

WHAT'S IN THE BOX

Your Solera 280343 Gas Strut package includes:

- 1 x Solera 280343 Gas Strut

Note: Mounting hardware, such as pushnut washers, are typically not included and may need to be purchased separately.

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information and technical support regarding your Solera 280343 Gas Strut, please contact Lippert Components, the manufacturer of Solera products.





Lippert Components Customer Service:



- Visit the official [Solera Store on Amazon](#) for product information.
- Refer to the contact information provided in your product packaging or on the official Lippert Components website for direct support.

When contacting support, please have your product model number (280343) and purchase details ready.

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Related Documents - 280343

	<p>Solera 7000 Series RV Awning: Installation and Owner's Manual</p> <p>This manual provides comprehensive installation and owner's guidance for the Solera 7000 Series Awning, designed for Recreational Vehicles (RVs). It details setup for both 270-degree and 180-degree configurations, covering parts, preparation, installation procedures, operation, and maintenance. For further assistance, visit Lippert's support resources or use the LippertNOW app.</p>
	<p>Solera 1000XL Series Awning Installation and Owner's Manual</p> <p>This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the installation and ownership of the Solera 1000XL Series Awning, designed for aftermarket applications. It covers preparation, installation steps, operation, fabric replacement, maintenance, and troubleshooting.</p>
	<p>Solera 1000 Series Manual Awning: Installation and Owner's Guide</p> <p>This manual provides detailed instructions for the installation, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of the Solera 1000 Series Manual Awning by Lippert. It is designed for aftermarket applications and includes safety precautions and quick facts.</p>
	<p>Solera Slide Topper Awning Fabric Replacement: Installation and Owner's Manual</p> <p>Detailed installation and owner's manual for the Solera Slide Topper Awning Fabric Replacement kit by Lippert. Covers preparation, fabric replacement, installation into roll tube and awning rail, securing fabric, maintenance, and troubleshooting. Includes part numbers for black and white fabric kits.</p>

	<p>Solera I-Series Solar Area Light SL-MA1-OG-1000634B1-TAA: Installation, Operation, and Maintenance Guide</p> <p>Comprehensive guide for installing, operating, and maintaining the Solera I-Series Solar Area Light (Model SL-MA1-OG-1000634B1-TAA). Covers product features, safety, installation steps, maintenance, and contact information for Solera Solar Lighting.</p>
	<p>Solera CONNECT User's Guide: System Monitoring and Management</p> <p>Comprehensive user's guide for the Solera CONNECT system, detailing login procedures, system information, project management, historical data analysis, alarm handling, and energy reporting for smart lighting solutions.</p>