Reese 8507111

REESE Towpower Brakeman IV Time-Delay Brake Controller (Model 8507111)

User Manual

1. Introduction

The REESE Towpower Brakeman IV is an electric brake controller designed for trailers with 1-4 axles. It features a compact design and plug-and-play connectivity for ease of installation. This controller provides time-delayed braking, adjusting power based on your driving style and road conditions. It is equipped with a digital display for output and sync settings, and includes internal circuit protection to prevent damage. This manual provides detailed instructions for proper installation, operation, and maintenance.

2. Key Features

- **Versatile Compatibility:** Compatible with a wide range of vehicles including Ford, GM, Chevy, Dodge, RAM, Toyota, Jeep, and more, supporting 2, 4, 6, and 8 brake systems (1-4 axles).
- **Time-Delayed Braking:** Applies braking power that gradually increases over time at a fixed rate, suitable for basic towing needs.
- **Easy Installation:** Features a Plug & Play connection for simplified setup. Its compact design allows for flexible mounting above or below the dash, in any direction.
- **Clear LED Indicator:** An LED light display changes from green to red to indicate trailer connectivity and power output.
- **Manual Braking:** Allows for manual application of trailer brakes by moving a control lever to the left, providing power up to the previously set amount.

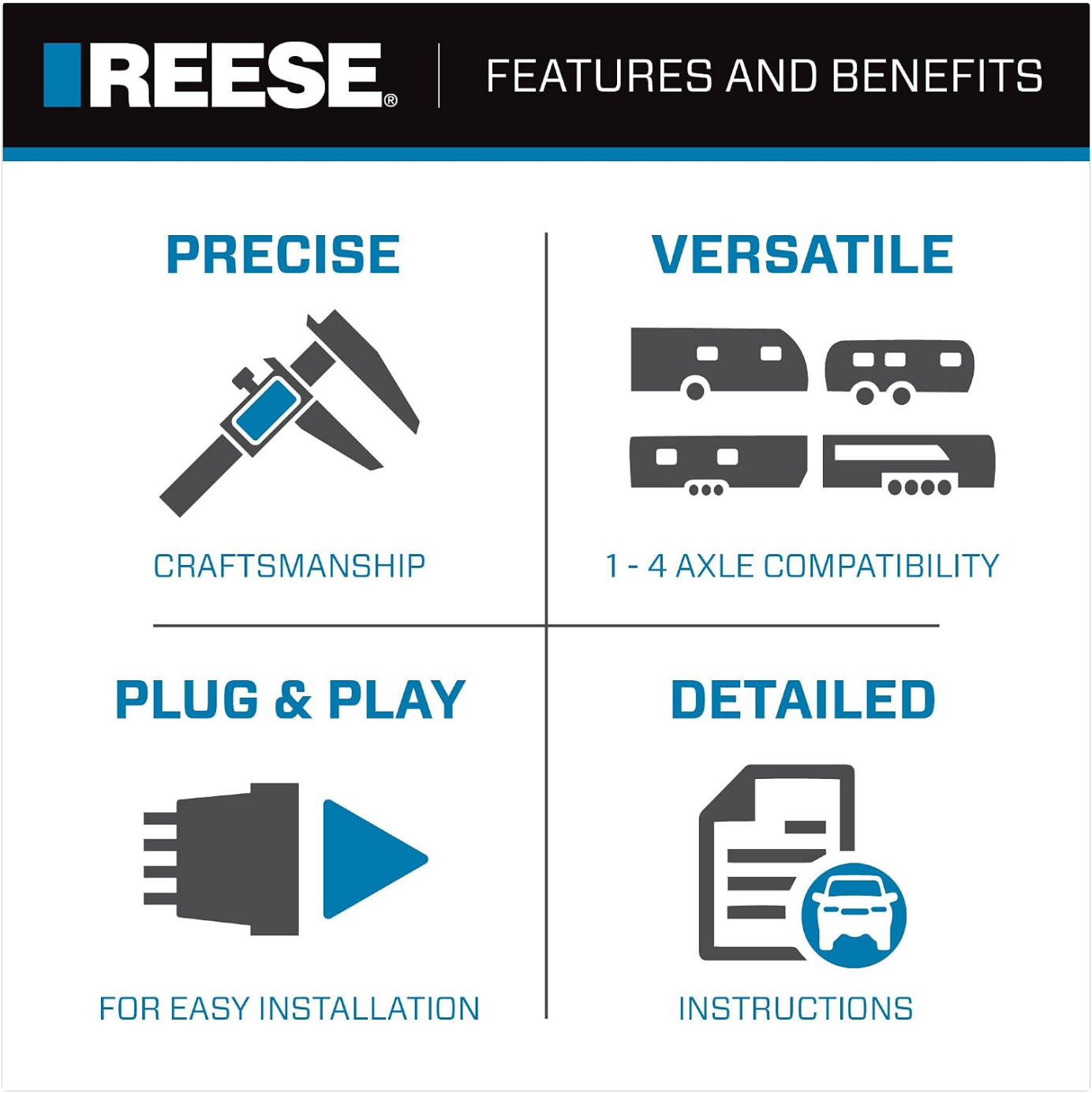


Figure 2.1: Visual representation of the Brakeman IV's key features, including precise craftsmanship, 1-4 axle compatibility, plug & play installation, and detailed instructions.

3. Product Overview



Figure 3.1: The REESE Towpower Brakeman IV Time-Delay Brake Controller shown with its retail packaging, highlighting its compact design and pre-wired connector.



Figure 3.2: Detailed dimensions of the REESE Towpower Brakeman IV, indicating its compact size for flexible installation.



Figure 3.3: The LED indicator on the Brakeman IV, showing a green light for a secure connection and a red light for increased power to trailer brakes.

4. Setup and Installation

4.1 Mounting

The Brakeman IV is designed for flexible mounting. It can be installed under the dash, on top of the dash, vertically, or at any angle, ensuring it remains within easy reach of the driver. Use the provided bracket and screws for secure attachment. Ensure the mounting location allows for clear visibility of the digital display and does not interfere with vehicle operation.

4.2 Wiring

The unit comes with a pre-wired harness. A vehicle-specific wiring harness (sold separately) is typically required for direct plug-and-play connection to your vehicle's existing wiring. The standard wiring color code is as follows:

- **Black:** Vehicle Power

- **Red:** Stop Light
- **White:** Vehicle Ground
- **Blue:** Trailer Brakes

Always consult your vehicle's owner's manual and the brake controller's specific wiring diagram for precise connections. Ensure all connections are secure and properly insulated.

4.3 Video: Product Overview and Installation Considerations

Video 4.1: An official product video providing an overview of REESE Towpower products, including various hitches and towing accessories. This video demonstrates the brand's commitment to quality and reliability in towing solutions.

5. Operating Instructions

5.1 Gain Control (Output)

The Output (Gain) Control establishes the maximum amount of power available to the trailer brakes. Increasing the gain provides more aggressive braking. This setting should be adjusted during initial setup and can be fine-tuned for different trailer loads or changing road conditions. The gain setting is displayed digitally and ranges from 0 (minimum power) to 10 (maximum power).

5.2 Sync Control

The Sync Control adjusts the aggressiveness of the trailer brakes relative to the tow vehicle's braking. To view or modify the sync setting, press the vehicle's brake pedal (the trailer must be connected), then press either the '+' or '-' Sync button on the controller. The display will change to Sync mode. The sync setting is shown as 0o (least aggressive) through 9o (most aggressive).

5.3 Manual Control

The manual control lever is located on the front right side of the brake control unit. Sliding this lever to the left will manually apply the trailer brakes. The further the lever is moved, the harder the brakes are applied, up to the maximum setting established by the Output (Gain) Control. Activating the manual control also illuminates all trailer stoplights.

5.4 Digital Display Examples

- **Single Decimal Point (e.g., '.') :** Indicates the control is activated, but no trailer is connected.
- **Output (Gain) Display (e.g., '2.0') :** Shows the current gain setting when the control is activated and a trailer is connected.
- **Sync Display (e.g., '2o') :** Appears when the brake pedal is pushed and the sync control is activated, indicating the current sync setting with a connected trailer.

6. Maintenance

To ensure optimal performance and longevity of your Brakeman IV brake controller, regular maintenance is recommended:

- **Cleaning:** Keep the unit clean and free from dust, dirt, and moisture. Use a soft, dry cloth for cleaning.
- **Connection Inspection:** Periodically check all wiring connections for tightness, corrosion, or damage. Ensure the plug-and-play harness is securely seated.
- **Mounting Security:** Verify that the mounting bracket and the controller itself are securely fastened and have not loosened over time due to vehicle vibrations.
- **Cable Condition:** Inspect the cables for any signs of fraying, cuts, or insulation damage. Replace damaged cables

immediately.

7. Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your REESE Towpower Brakeman IV, refer to the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Display/Power:**
  - Check the vehicle's power supply to the controller.
  - Ensure the ground connection is secure.
  - Verify the vehicle-specific harness is correctly installed and connected.
- **No Trailer Connected Indication (single decimal point):**
  - Confirm the trailer is properly hitched and the trailer connector is fully engaged with the vehicle's receptacle.
  - Inspect the trailer's wiring and connector for any damage or corrosion.
- **Ineffective or Weak Braking:**
  - Increase the Output (Gain) Control setting.
  - Adjust the Sync Control for more aggressive braking.
  - Inspect the trailer's brake system for proper function and adjustment.
- **Over-aggressive or Jerky Braking:**
  - Decrease the Output (Gain) Control setting.
  - Adjust the Sync Control for less aggressive braking.

For issues not resolved by these steps, it is recommended to consult a qualified automotive technician or contact Reese customer support.

8. Specifications

Specification	Detail
Brand	Reese
Model Number	8507111
Material	Plastic
Item Weight	0.35 Pounds
Display Type	Digital
UPC	042899850717
Manufacturer	Reese Towpower
Included Components	Brakeman IV Digital Brake Control

9. Warranty

The REESE Towpower Brakeman IV Time-Delay Brake Controller is backed by a**Lifetime Warranty**. For complete details regarding coverage, terms, and conditions, please refer to the official warranty documentation provided with your

product or visit the Reese official website.

10. Support

For technical assistance, product inquiries, or warranty claims, please contact Reese customer support. You can find contact information and additional resources on the official Reese website. Always provide your product model number (8507111) when seeking support to ensure efficient service.

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