

Hopkins Towing Solutions 40974

Instruction Manual

Product: Hopkins Towing Solutions Multi-Tow 7 Blade and 4 Flat Connector

Model: 40974

Brand: Hopkins Towing Solutions

1. INTRODUCTION

The Hopkins Towing Solutions 40974 Multi-Tow Connector is designed to simplify your towing experience by providing both 7-blade and 4-flat trailer wiring options in a single, integrated unit. This OEM replacement connector ensures a precise fit and maximum weatherproofing, making it a reliable solution for various towing needs. Its robust construction features impact- and corrosion-resistant materials, along with pre-greased terminals for enhanced protection and longevity. Installation is streamlined with a proprietary Plug-In Simple! design, eliminating the need for cutting or splicing wires.

2. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Multi-Tow connector combines two common trailer wiring standards into one convenient device, allowing compatibility with a wide range of trailers. Its design prioritizes ease of use and durability in demanding towing environments.

2.1. What's Included

- Hopkins Multi-Tow Trailer Connector Plug for 7 Blade and 4 Flat Connections (Model 40974)
- Dielectric Grease Packet (for electrical connections)
- Step-by-step instructions

2.2. Product Features

- Multi-Tow connector provides multiple towing options from one connector.

- Utilizes OEM connectors to create an exact fit and maximum weatherproofing.
- Impact and corrosion resistant construction.
- Pre-greased terminals for added protection against elements.
- Plug-In Simple! design for quick and easy installation.

2.3. Product Visuals

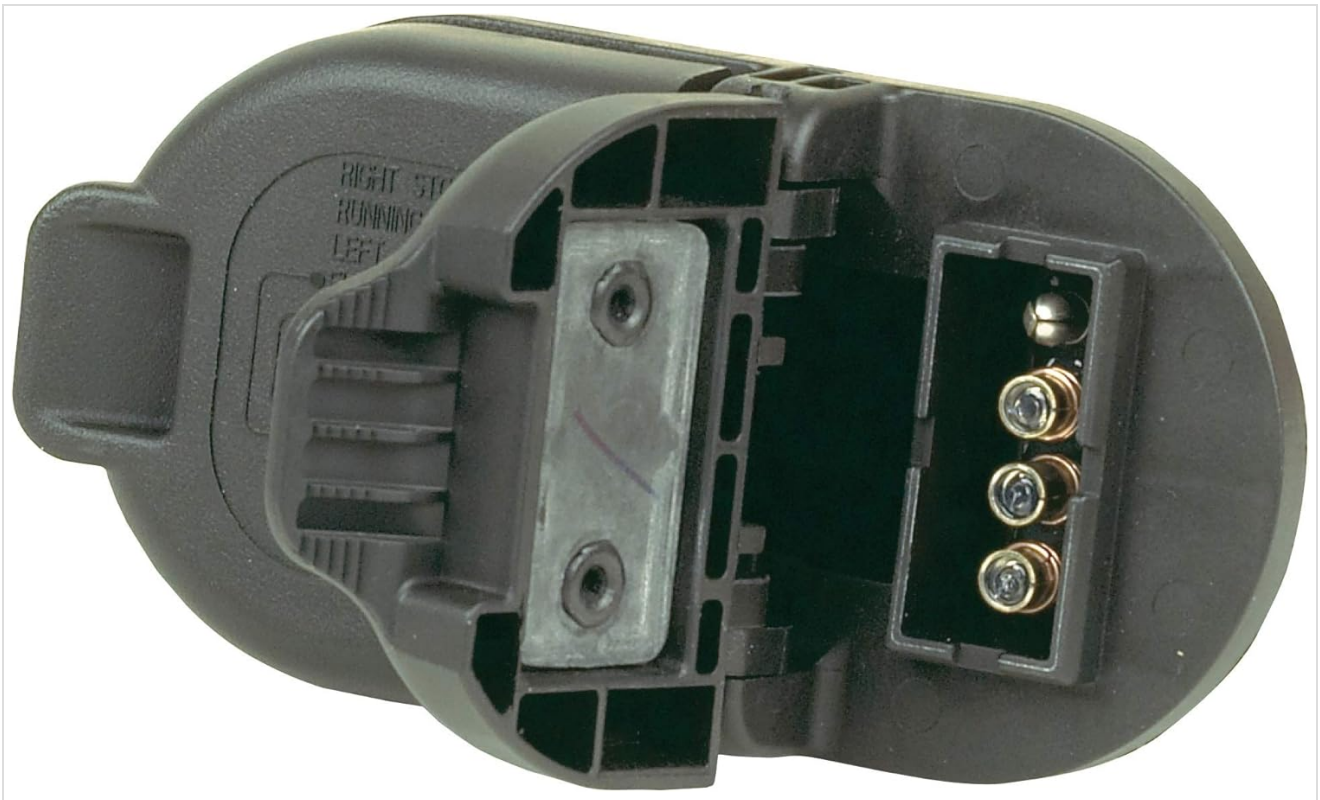


Figure 1: The Hopkins Multi-Tow 7 Blade and 4 Flat Connector, showcasing its compact and durable design.

MULTI-TOW[®]

Tow 7 Blade and 4 Flat Trailers



Figure 2: Top view of the Multi-Tow connector with both the 7-blade and 4-flat covers open, revealing the internal contacts.

PACKAGE INCLUDES

DUST COVERS



CONNECTOR



Figure 3: Close-up view of the 4-flat pin connector, designed for standard trailer lighting functions.



PLUG IN SIMPLE![®] WIRING KIT

**For Quick and Easy
Installation or Replacement**

Figure 4: Close-up view of the 7-blade connector, providing connections for additional trailer functions like electric brakes and auxiliary power.



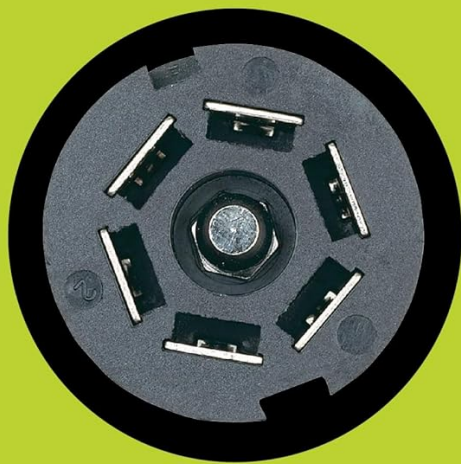
Figure 5: Illustration of the Plug-In Simple! wiring kit, highlighting the ease of connecting the new unit without complex wiring procedures.

MULTI-TOW®

One Connector - Multiple Towing Options



CONNECTS TO TRAILERS WITH



7 BLADE OR 4 FLAT

Figure 6: Depiction of the OEM connectors, ensuring a perfect match and weather-resistant seal with the tow vehicle's existing wiring.

3. SETUP AND INSTALLATION

The Hopkins 40974 Multi-Tow Connector is designed for a straightforward installation process, often requiring no specialized tools or wire cutting. It is intended as an OEM replacement for compatible Ford, GM, and RAM vehicles.

3.1. Pre-Installation Steps

1. Ensure your vehicle's ignition is off and the parking brake is engaged.
2. Locate the existing trailer wiring connector on your vehicle, typically near the bumper or hitch receiver.
3. Inspect the area for any debris or corrosion that might hinder installation.

3.2. Removing the Existing Connector (if applicable)

If replacing an existing connector, you will need to detach it from the vehicle's bumper or mounting bracket. Many OEM connectors are held in place by metal clips or tabs that require pinching or pressing to release. Accessing these clips may require reaching behind the bumper. Once the clips are disengaged, the old connector can be pulled out.

3.3. Installing the New Multi-Tow Connector

1. Before connecting, apply the provided dielectric grease to the electrical terminals of the new connector to ensure optimal conductivity and protection against moisture and corrosion.
2. Align the new Hopkins Multi-Tow connector with the vehicle's wiring harness. The Plug-In Simple! design ensures a secure and exact fit with OEM connectors.
3. Push the new connector firmly into place until it clicks, indicating that the internal clips have engaged and secured the unit.
4. Verify that the connector is securely mounted and does not wobble.

For detailed visual instructions, please refer to the official Installation Manual (PDF) provided with your product or available online: [Installation Manual \(PDF\)](#).

4. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The Multi-Tow connector allows you to connect trailers equipped with either a 7-blade or a 4-flat wiring plug.

4.1. Connecting a 7-Blade Trailer

1. Open the cover for the 7-blade receptacle on the Multi-Tow connector.
2. Align the 7-blade plug from your trailer with the receptacle, ensuring the keyway aligns correctly.
3. Push the trailer plug firmly into the receptacle until it is fully seated. The connection should feel secure.
4. Close the cover over the connected plug to help protect against elements.

4.2. Connecting a 4-Flat Trailer

1. Open the cover for the 4-flat receptacle on the Multi-Tow connector.
2. Align the 4-flat plug from your trailer with the receptacle.
3. Push the trailer plug firmly into the receptacle until it is fully seated.
4. Close the cover over the connected plug for protection.

4.3. Testing Connections

After connecting your trailer, always perform a functional test of all lights (tail lights, brake lights, turn signals) and any other trailer functions (e.g., electric brakes) before driving. Ensure all signals are working correctly.

5. MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance will ensure the longevity and reliable performance of your Multi-Tow connector.

- **Cleaning:** Periodically clean the connector's exterior and internal terminals to remove dirt, dust, and road grime. Use a soft cloth and a mild cleaning solution if necessary.

- **Lubrication:** Reapply dielectric grease to the electrical terminals as needed, especially after exposure to harsh weather conditions or frequent use. This helps prevent corrosion and ensures good electrical contact.
- **Inspection:** Regularly inspect the connector for any signs of physical damage, cracks, or excessive wear. Check the integrity of the covers and ensure they close securely to maintain weatherproofing.
- **Storage:** When not in use, keep the connector covers closed to protect the terminals from moisture and debris.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you experience issues with your trailer lights or other electrical functions, consider the following troubleshooting steps:

- **No Power/Lights:**
 - Ensure the trailer plug is fully seated in the vehicle's connector.
 - Check the vehicle's fuses related to trailer wiring.
 - Inspect the trailer's wiring and lights for any damage or burnt-out bulbs.
 - Verify that the vehicle's battery has sufficient charge.
- **Intermittent Connection:**
 - Clean the terminals on both the vehicle and trailer connectors. Apply dielectric grease.
 - Check for loose wires or damaged pins within the connector.
- **Corrosion:**
 - Clean corroded terminals with a wire brush or fine-grit sandpaper. Reapply dielectric grease.
 - Ensure covers are always closed when not in use to minimize moisture exposure.

If issues persist after basic troubleshooting, it is recommended to consult a qualified automotive technician.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Attribute	Detail
Manufacturer	Hopkins Manufacturing
Brand	Hopkins Towing Solutions
Model Number	40974
Item Weight	7 ounces
Product Dimensions	3.25 x 3.88 x 6.88 inches
Voltage	12 Volts

Attribute	Detail
Connector Type	7 Blade and 4 Flat
Material	Impact and Corrosion Resistant

8. SUPPORT

For further assistance or inquiries regarding your Hopkins Towing Solutions product, please contact our dedicated support team.

Our Towing Support Team is available:

- **Monday - Friday:** 8 AM - 5 PM CT

Please refer to the product packaging for the toll-free support number.