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Model: F4099

1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Fairchild Automotive F4099 is a replacement tailgate latch designed for specific Ford F-150 models. This component is crucial for the secure closing and opening mechanism of your vehicle's tailgate. It is engineered to meet or exceed original equipment manufacturer (OEM) specifications, providing a reliable and durable solution for tailgate functionality.

Compatibility: This tailgate latch is compatible with 1980-1986 Ford F-150 vehicles.



Figure 1: Fairchild Automotive F4099 Tailgate Latch. This image displays the metal construction of the latch, including its spring mechanism and attachment points, designed for secure tailgate operation.

2. INSTALLATION (SETUP)

This section provides general guidance for replacing a tailgate latch. Professional installation is recommended if you are unfamiliar with automotive repairs. Always prioritize safety and consult your vehicle's service manual for specific instructions.

2.1 Safety Precautions

- Ensure the vehicle is parked on a level surface with the parking brake engaged.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, such as gloves and eye protection.
- Disconnect the vehicle's battery if working near electrical components.

2.2 Required Tools (Typical)

- Socket wrench set
- Screwdriver set (Phillips and flathead)
- Pry tool (plastic, to avoid scratching paint)
- Work light

2.3 Installation Steps

1. **Access the Latch:** Carefully remove any interior trim panels or access covers on the tailgate that obstruct access to the existing latch mechanism.
2. **Disconnect Linkages:** Identify and disconnect the rods or cables that connect the tailgate handle to the latch mechanism. Note their orientation for reassembly.
3. **Remove Old Latch:** Unscrew and remove the bolts or fasteners securing the old tailgate latch to the tailgate structure. Carefully extract the old latch.
4. **Install New Latch:** Position the Fairchild Automotive F4099 tailgate latch in the correct orientation. Secure it with the original bolts or fasteners, ensuring they are tightened to the manufacturer's specifications.
5. **Reconnect Linkages:** Reattach the rods or cables to the new latch mechanism. Verify that they are securely connected and operate smoothly.
6. **Test Operation:** Before reassembling trim panels, test the tailgate latch operation multiple times. Ensure the tailgate opens and closes smoothly and latches securely.
7. **Reassemble Trim:** Reinstall any removed trim panels or access covers.

3. OPERATING THE TAILGATE LATCH

The Fairchild Automotive F4099 tailgate latch operates in conjunction with your vehicle's tailgate handle. To open the tailgate, engage the handle mechanism, which will disengage the latch, allowing the tailgate to swing down. To close, simply lift the tailgate until the latch mechanism engages securely with the strike plate on the vehicle body.

- **Opening:** Pull the exterior or interior tailgate handle to release the latch.
- **Closing:** Push the tailgate firmly until you hear and feel the latch engage. Always verify the tailgate is securely closed before driving.

4. MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance can extend the life and ensure the smooth operation of your tailgate latch.

- **Lubrication:** Periodically apply a small amount of automotive-grade grease or silicone spray to the moving parts of the latch mechanism and the strike plate. This helps prevent corrosion and ensures smooth operation.
- **Cleaning:** Keep the latch mechanism free from dirt, dust, and debris. Use a brush or compressed air to remove any buildup.
- **Inspection:** Regularly inspect the latch for any signs of wear, damage, or loose fasteners. Address any issues promptly to

prevent further damage or malfunction.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your tailgate latch, consider the following troubleshooting steps:

- **Latch is Stiff or Hard to Operate:**
 - Check for dirt or debris obstructing the mechanism. Clean thoroughly.
 - Apply lubricant to all moving parts of the latch and the handle linkages.
 - Inspect for bent or damaged rods/cables connecting the handle to the latch.
- **Tailgate Does Not Latch Securely:**
 - Inspect the latch mechanism and the strike plate on the vehicle body for damage or misalignment.
 - Ensure all mounting bolts for the latch are tight.
 - Verify that the handle linkages are correctly adjusted and providing sufficient pull to engage the latch.
- **Tailgate Will Not Open:**
 - Check if the handle mechanism is operating correctly and if the linkages are connected and moving freely.
 - Inspect for any foreign objects jamming the latch.
 - If the issue persists, professional inspection may be required to diagnose internal mechanism failure.

6. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Brand	Fairchild Automotive
Model Number	F4099
Item Weight	1 pound
Product Dimensions	4.9 x 5.2 x 1.5 inches
Manufacturer Part Number	F4099
OEM Part Number	F4099
Vehicle Compatibility	1980-1986 Ford F-150

7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For information regarding product warranty, returns, or technical support, please refer to the official Fairchild Automotive website or contact their customer service directly. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase.

Fairchild Automotive Official Website: www.fairchildautomotive.com (Example link, actual link may vary)

