DEXTER AXLE K7171500

Dexter Axle 44643 Bearings and Seal Kit Instruction Manual

Model: K7171500

Introduction

This instruction manual provides essential information for the proper installation, operation, and maintenance of your Dexter Axle 44643 Bearings and Seal Kit. Adhering to these guidelines will help ensure the longevity and safe performance of your trailer's axle components. Please read this manual thoroughly before beginning any installation or maintenance procedures.

Product Components

The Dexter Axle 44643 Bearings and Seal Kit is designed to provide comprehensive replacement parts for your trailer's wheel bearings. The kit typically includes the following components:

- 2 - OEHL154A Grease Caps
- 4 - OEL44643 Bearings (1" ID)
- 4 - OEL44610 Races
- 2 - T534823 Seals
- 10 - WPX1023R Nuts
- 2 - KZ90601 1" Spindle Nuts
- 2 - T0A1W Spindle Washers
- 2 - T418X134CP Cotter Pins
- 2 - FRFS622P Torsion Axle Grease Caps w/Rubber Plugs
- 2 - FRFS122 Torsion Axle Tang Washers



Image: Dexter Axle 44643 Bearings and Seal Kit, showing various components including bearings, seals, and hardware.

Installation Instructions

Safety Precautions

- Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including safety glasses and gloves.
- Ensure the trailer is securely supported on jack stands before working underneath. Do not rely solely on a jack.
- Disconnect the trailer from the tow vehicle and block the wheels to prevent movement.
- Use proper tools for each step to avoid injury or damage to components.

Required Tools (Typical)

- Jack and Jack Stands
- Lug Wrench
- Grease Gun and High-Temperature Wheel Bearing Grease
- Hammer and Punch/Bearing Driver
- Pliers (for cotter pins)
- Torque Wrench
- Shop Rags/Clean Cloths
- Brake Cleaner (optional)

Bearing and Seal Installation Steps

1. **Prepare the Hub:** Remove the old bearings, races, and seals. Thoroughly clean the hub interior, removing all old grease and debris. Inspect the hub for any damage or wear.
2. **Install New Races:** Using a bearing driver or a suitable punch, carefully tap the new bearing races (OEL44610) into the hub until they are fully seated against the shoulders. Ensure they are not cocked.
3. **Pack Bearings:** Thoroughly pack the new inner and outer bearings (OEL44643) with high-temperature wheel bearing grease. Ensure grease is forced through all rollers and cages.
4. **Install Inner Bearing and Seal:** Place the packed inner bearing into the inner race in the hub. Install the new seal (T534823) flush with the hub, ensuring it is not damaged during installation.
5. **Mount Hub on Spindle:** Carefully slide the hub assembly onto the axle spindle.
6. **Install Outer Bearing:** Place the packed outer bearing onto the spindle and into the outer race.
7. **Install Washer and Spindle Nut:** Install the spindle washer (T0A1W) and then thread on the spindle nut (KZ90601).

8. **Adjust Bearing Preload:** Tighten the spindle nut to approximately 50 ft-lbs while rotating the hub to seat the bearings. Then, back off the nut until it is finger-tight. Re-tighten the nut to 10-15 ft-lbs. Rotate the hub again to ensure free movement.
9. **Secure Spindle Nut:** Install the tang washer (FRFS122, if applicable for torsion axles) and then the cotter pin (T418X134CP) through the spindle nut and spindle hole to secure it. Bend the ends of the cotter pin to prevent removal.
10. **Install Grease Cap:** Fill the grease cap (OEHL154A or FRFS622P) approximately one-third full with grease and tap it into place on the hub.
11. **Final Checks:** Spin the wheel to ensure it rotates freely without excessive play or binding. Reinstall the wheel and tire, tightening lug nuts (WPX1023R) to the manufacturer's specified torque.

Operation Guidelines

Once installed, the Dexter Axle 44643 Bearings and Seal Kit is designed for reliable performance. During initial operation, especially after installation, it is advisable to perform a short test drive and then re-check the hub temperature. Excessive heat can indicate improper installation or insufficient lubrication. Always ensure your trailer's tires are properly inflated and that the load capacity is not exceeded, as these factors can impact bearing life.

Maintenance

Lubrication

Regular lubrication is crucial for the longevity of your wheel bearings. Use a high-quality, high-temperature wheel bearing grease compatible with your axle system. The frequency of lubrication depends on usage, but generally, bearings should be inspected and re-greased annually or every 12,000 miles, whichever comes first. For marine trailers or heavy-duty use, more frequent lubrication may be necessary.

Inspection

Periodically inspect the wheel bearings and seals for signs of wear, damage, or leakage. Look for:

- Excessive play in the wheel when rocked side-to-side.
- Unusual noises (grinding, humming) coming from the wheel.
- Grease leaking from the seals or grease caps.
- Discoloration or pitting on bearing surfaces during disassembly.

Replace any worn or damaged components immediately to prevent further issues.

Troubleshooting

Symptom	Possible Cause	Solution

Symptom	Possible Cause	Solution
Excessive wheel play	Loose spindle nut, worn bearings	Adjust spindle nut to proper torque; inspect and replace bearings if worn.
Grinding or humming noise	Worn or damaged bearings, insufficient lubrication	Inspect and replace bearings; re-lubricate with proper grease.
Grease leakage from hub	Damaged or improperly installed seal, over-greasing	Replace seal, ensure proper installation; avoid over-greasing.
Hub runs hot	Over-tightened spindle nut, insufficient lubrication, worn bearings	Adjust spindle nut; re-lubricate; inspect and replace bearings.

Product Specifications

Specification	Detail
Brand	DEXTER AXLE
Model Number	K7171500
Bearing Number	44643
Bearing Type	Ball Bearing (Note: Product description indicates tapered roller bearings are typical for trailer axles, but specification lists 'Ball Bearing'. Please verify with product packaging.)
Material	Alloy Steel, Rubber
Item Dimensions (L x W x H)	7 x 6 x 2.25 inches
Item Weight	10.6 ounces
Compatible Lubricant	Grease
UPC	876983004980
Manufacturer Part Number	K71-715-00
Position	Rear (Typical application for trailer axles)

Warranty and Support

For specific warranty information regarding your Dexter Axle 44643 Bearings and Seal Kit, please refer to the

documentation included with your purchase or contact Dexter Axle directly. General product support and technical assistance can be obtained through the manufacturer's official channels.

Manufacturer: DEXTER AXLE

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