

## SKF UJ374

# SKF UJ374 Universal Joint Instruction Manual

Model: UJ374

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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This manual provides essential information for the proper installation, operation, and maintenance of the SKF UJ374 Universal Joint. This component is designed for automotive drive train applications, ensuring reliable power transmission between shafts that may operate at varying angles.

## 2. PRODUCT FEATURES

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The SKF UJ374 Universal Joint incorporates several design elements for enhanced performance and durability:

- **Forged High Strength Steel Cups:** Case hardened for strength and durability. The cup face and outer diameter are precision ground to provide precise fit, lock up, and balance.
- **High Carbon Steel Needle Bearings:** Through hardened and precision ground using an optimized crowning profile for maximum life and load carrying capacity.
- **High Quality Nitrile Rubber Seals:** Designed for optimal grease retention and contaminant exclusion. The multi-lip seal is pliable, yet tough and tear resistant.
- **Pre-lubricated:** All U-Joints are pre-lubricated with a premium, high-temperature grease that performs well in a wide temperature range and provides a long service life.



Image: The SKF UJ374 Universal Joint, showcasing its robust construction and SKF branding on the cross.

### 3. INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

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Proper installation is crucial for the longevity and performance of the universal joint. Always refer to your vehicle's specific service manual for detailed instructions, torque specifications, and safety precautions.

#### General Installation Steps:

1. **Preparation:** Ensure all mating surfaces on the drive shaft yokes are clean, free from burrs, and undamaged.
2. **Bearing Cup Installation:** Carefully press the bearing cups into the yokes. Avoid hammering directly on the cups or the cross, as this can cause damage to the bearings or seals. Use a suitable press tool.
3. **Retaining Clip Placement:** Once the bearing cups are properly seated, install the retaining clips (C-clips) securely into their grooves to prevent the cups from dislodging.
4. **Articulation Check:** After assembly, verify that the universal joint articulates freely without binding or excessive play.
5. **Torque Specifications:** Tighten all fasteners to the vehicle manufacturer's specified torque values.



Image: The SKF UJ374 Universal Joint shown with its four retaining C-clips, essential for secure installation.

## 4. OPERATION

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The SKF UJ374 Universal Joint functions as a critical link in the vehicle's drive train, transmitting torque from the transmission or transfer case to the differential. It accommodates the angular changes that occur as the suspension moves, ensuring continuous and smooth power delivery to the wheels. The pre-lubricated design and robust construction contribute to its reliable operation under various driving conditions.

## 5. MAINTENANCE

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While the SKF UJ374 Universal Joint is designed for a long service life with its pre-lubricated bearings and durable seals, periodic inspection is recommended to ensure optimal performance and identify potential issues early.

### Recommended Inspection Points:

- **Visual Inspection:** Regularly check the universal joint for any signs of physical damage, corrosion, or excessive wear on the cross and bearing cups.
- **Seal Integrity:** Inspect the nitrile rubber seals for cracks, tears, or signs of grease leakage. Damaged seals can allow contaminants to enter the bearings and lead to premature wear.
- **Movement Check:** With the vehicle safely supported, check the joint for any excessive play or stiffness. The joint should articulate smoothly without binding.



Image: A close-up view of a universal joint, highlighting the multi-lip seals and bearing cups, critical components for maintenance inspection.

## 6. TROUBLESHOOTING

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If you experience issues that you suspect are related to the universal joint, consider the following common symptoms and potential causes:

- **Vibration:** This can indicate improper installation, imbalance, or wear in the universal joint. Check for loose components, damaged bearing cups, or excessive play.
- **Noise (e.g., clunking, squeaking):** Often a sign of worn bearings, damaged seals leading to a lack of lubrication, or improper seating of components. A clunking sound during acceleration or deceleration may suggest excessive play.
- **Stiffness or Binding:** Could be due to improper installation, contamination, or excessive wear preventing smooth articulation of the joint.

If troubleshooting steps do not resolve the issue, or if you are unsure about the diagnosis, it is recommended to consult a qualified automotive technician.

## 7. SPECIFICATIONS

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Key specifications for the SKF UJ374 Universal Joint are provided below:

Attribute	Value
Manufacturer	SKF
Model	UJ374
Product Dimensions	10.49 x 10.49 x 4.29 cm
Item Weight	1.02 kg
Exterior	Machined
Position	Front, Rear
Date First Available	June 5 2019

Note: Specifications are subject to change without notice.

## 8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

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Specific warranty details for the SKF UJ374 Universal Joint are not provided within this document. For comprehensive warranty information, technical assistance, or to locate an authorized service center, please refer to the official SKF website or contact SKF customer support directly.

For further support, visit the official SKF website: [www.skf.com](http://www.skf.com)