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Dorman 697-551

Dorman 697-551 Rear Differential End Yoke Instruction Manual

Model: 697-551

1. INTRODUCTION

The Dorman 697-551 Rear Differential End Yoke is a direct replacement component designed to address issues caused by worn or damaged original equipment end yokes, such as driveline vibrations. This part is engineered to match the fit and construction of the original yoke, ensuring a reliable repair and consistent performance in compatible Chevrolet and GMC models.

2. PRODUCT FEATURES

- Direct Replacement:** Engineered to match the fit and construction of the original equipment yoke.
- Quality Materials:** Machined from cast iron for strength and precision, ensuring reliability.
- Validated Fit:** Tested to confirm accurate fitment for specified vehicles.
- Cost-Effective Solution:** Offers original equipment quality at a competitive price compared to dealer parts.

3. COMPATIBILITY INFORMATION

This Dorman 697-551 Rear Differential End Yoke is compatible with a wide range of Chevrolet and GMC models. To ensure proper fitment for your specific vehicle, it is crucial to verify your vehicle's make, model, and year against the list below. Always consult your vehicle's service manual for precise part requirements.

Compatible Vehicle Models and Years

Make	Model	Years
Chevrolet	Avalanche 1500	2002-2006
Chevrolet	Avalanche 2500	2002-2006
Chevrolet	C10 Suburban	1973-1986

Make	Model	Years
Chevrolet	C1500 Suburban	1992-1999
Chevrolet	C20, C2500	1973-2000 (various models)
Chevrolet	Express 2500/3500/4500	1996-2015 (various models)
Chevrolet	K10 Suburban, K1500 Suburban	1973-1999 (various models)
Chevrolet	Silverado 2500/3500	1999-2015 (various models)
GMC	C1500 Suburban	1973-1999 (various models)
GMC	Savana 2500/3500/4500	1996-2015 (various models)
GMC	Sierra 2500/3500	1999-2015 (various models)
GMC	Yukon XL 2500, Yukon	1992-2015 (various models)

This is a partial list. For a complete and accurate list of compatible vehicles, please refer to the product packaging or the manufacturer's official website.

4. SETUP AND INSTALLATION

Installation of a differential end yoke requires specialized tools and automotive knowledge. It is highly recommended that this component be installed by a qualified professional mechanic. Improper installation can lead to severe driveline damage, vehicle malfunction, and safety hazards.

Safety Precautions:

- Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including safety glasses and gloves.
- Ensure the vehicle is securely supported on jack stands or a lift before beginning work.
- Disconnect the vehicle's battery to prevent accidental electrical discharge.
- Refer to your vehicle's specific service manual for detailed, step-by-step instructions, torque specifications, and any special tools required for differential component replacement.
- Properly dispose of old fluids and parts according to local regulations.



Image 1: Front view of the Dorman 697-551 Rear Differential End Yoke. This image shows the overall shape and design of the yoke, including the U-joint mounting points and the splined shaft connection.

5. FUNCTION AND OPERATION

The rear differential end yoke is a critical component of a vehicle's driveline. It connects the driveshaft to the differential, transmitting rotational power from the transmission to the differential gears. The yoke provides a mounting point for the universal joint (U-joint) at the differential end of the driveshaft. Its primary function is to ensure smooth and efficient transfer of torque while accommodating changes in driveline angle during vehicle operation. A properly functioning end yoke is essential for maintaining driveline balance and preventing vibrations.

6. MAINTENANCE

While the differential end yoke itself typically requires minimal direct maintenance, it is part of a larger system that benefits from regular inspection and care. Adhering to your vehicle manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedule for the differential and driveline components is crucial for longevity.

General Maintenance Tips:

- **Regular Inspection:** Periodically inspect the end yoke, U-joints, and driveshaft for signs of wear, damage, or looseness. Look for rust, cracks, excessive play, or grease leakage around the U-joints.

- **Lubrication:** Ensure U-joints are properly lubricated if they are serviceable (have grease fittings). Follow the vehicle manufacturer's recommendations for lubricant type and frequency.
- **Fluid Levels:** Check and maintain the correct fluid level in the differential according to your vehicle's service manual. Low or contaminated differential fluid can lead to premature wear of internal components, which can indirectly affect the yoke.
- **Address Vibrations Promptly:** Any new or unusual driveline vibrations should be investigated immediately by a qualified technician.



Image 2: Back view of the Dorman 697-551 Rear Differential End Yoke. This perspective highlights the splined bore where the yoke connects to the differential pinion shaft, and the U-joint strap bolt holes.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

A worn or damaged differential end yoke can manifest several symptoms. Promptly addressing these issues can prevent further damage to the driveline and ensure vehicle safety.

Common Symptoms of a Faulty End Yoke:

- **Driveline Vibrations:** The most common symptom. Vibrations may be felt through the floorboard, steering

wheel, or seat, and often increase with vehicle speed.

- **Clunking or Clicking Noises:** These sounds may occur during acceleration, deceleration, or when shifting gears, indicating excessive play in the U-joint or yoke.
- **Fluid Leaks:** A damaged yoke or worn pinion seal (which the yoke often presses against) can lead to differential fluid leaks.
- **Excessive Play:** If the vehicle is lifted and the driveshaft is manually rotated, excessive rotational play or movement at the yoke connection point may indicate wear.

If you experience any of these symptoms, it is advisable to have your vehicle inspected by a qualified mechanic to diagnose the issue and perform necessary repairs.



Image 3: Top-down view of the Dorman 697-551 Rear Differential End Yoke. This view clearly displays the internal splines designed to engage with the differential pinion shaft, ensuring a secure and precise fit.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

Specification	Detail
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Specification	Detail
Manufacturer	Dorman - OE Solutions
Brand	Dorman
Product Dimensions	11.43 x 11.43 x 11.43 cm
Item Model Number	697-551
Item Weight	1.7 kg
Material	Cast Iron
Assembly Required	No

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Dorman products are manufactured to high-quality standards. For specific warranty information regarding the Dorman 697-551 Rear Differential End Yoke, please refer to the documentation included with your purchase or visit the official Dorman website. For technical support or inquiries, please contact Dorman customer service directly through their official channels.

It is important to retain your proof of purchase for any warranty claims.

This instruction manual is for informational purposes only. Always consult a qualified professional for installation and repair of automotive components.