Reese 49912

Reese 49912 Pro Round Bar Weight Distribution Hitch with Sway Control

8,000 lbs Capacity - User Manual

1. Introduction

This manual provides detailed instructions for the proper installation, operation, and maintenance of your Reese 49912 Pro Round Bar Weight Distribution Hitch with Sway Control. This system is designed to evenly distribute trailer weight and reduce sway, enhancing stability and control during towing. Please read all instructions carefully before installation and use.

2. Safety Information

WARNING: Failure to follow these instructions could result in serious injury or death.

- Always ensure all bolts and nuts are tightened to the specified torque values.
- Never exceed the maximum towing capacity of 8,000 lbs for this hitch or your vehicle's towing capacity, whichever is lower.
- Ensure the truck and trailer are loaded as they will be when towing for accurate setup.
- Always use safety chains when towing.
- Inspect the hitch components for wear or damage before each use.
- For vehicles with air springs, air shocks, or an automatic leveling system, consult your vehicle's owner's manual for specific instructions.

3. Components Included

The Reese 49912 Pro Round Bar Weight Distribution Hitch with Sway Control includes the following components:

- Head with preinstalled 2-5/16-inch hitch ball
- Tapered spring bars
- 8.5-inch-deep drop shank
- Control brackets
- Lift-assist bar

- All necessary hardware (bolts, nuts, washers, pins)



Figure 1: Overview of the Reese 49912 Weight Distribution Hitch components.

4. Specifications

Feature	Specification
Brand	Reese
Model Number	49912
Maximum Towing Capacity	8,000 lbs
Item Weight	100 Pounds
Material	Alloy Steel

Finish Type	Powder Coated
Compatible Vehicle Type	Truck
Trailer Frame Fit	Up to 7-inch trailer frames (no-drill, clamp-on brackets)

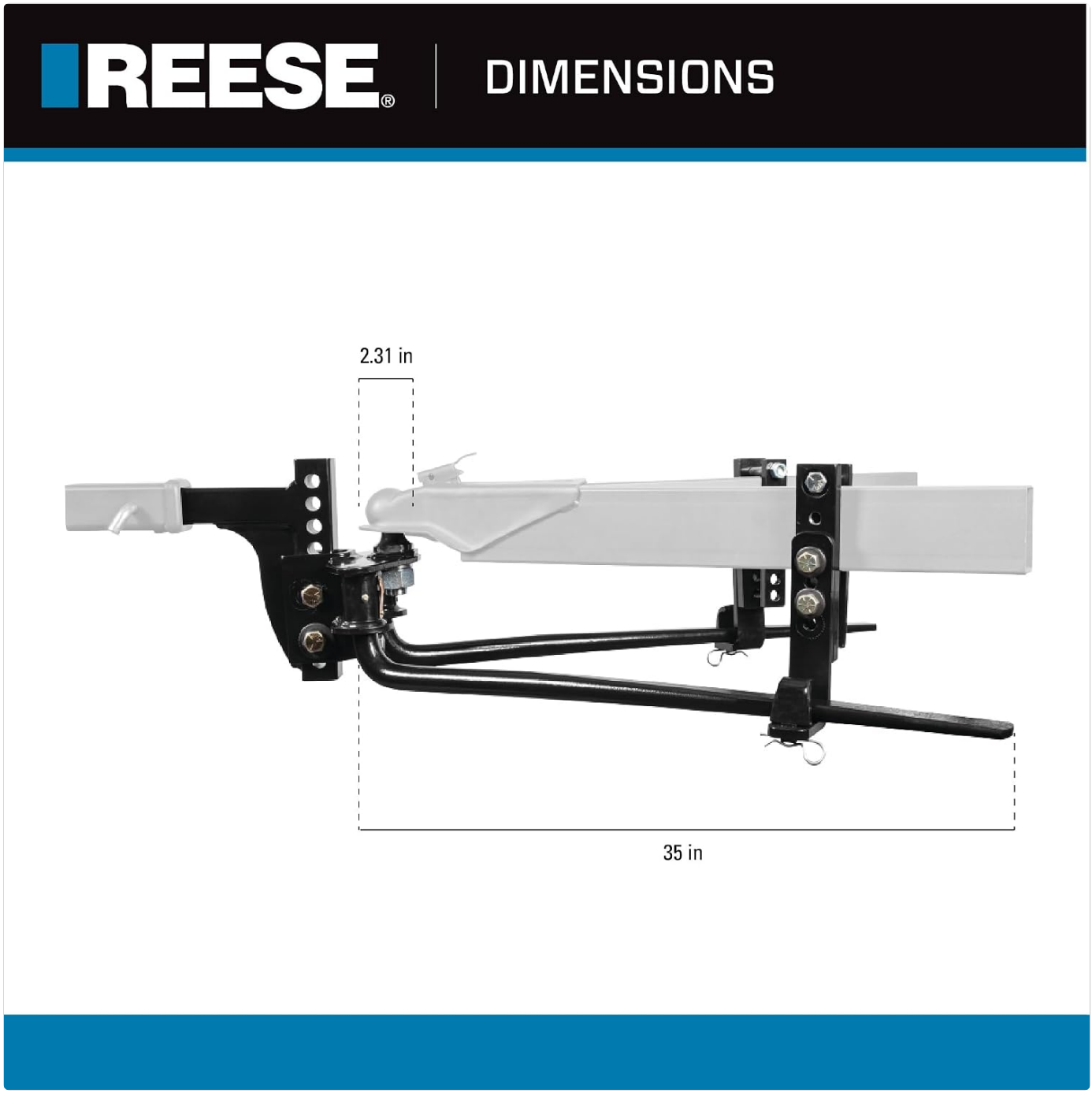


Figure 2: Key dimensions of the Reese 49912 Weight Distribution Hitch.



Figure 3: Features and benefits of the Reese 49912 Hitch, highlighting steel construction, 8,000 lbs capacity, precise craftsmanship, powder coat finish, and detailed instructions.

5. Setup and Installation

Proper installation is crucial for the safe and effective operation of your weight distribution hitch. Follow these steps carefully. For a visual guide, refer to the installation video below.

5.1 Required Tools

- Combination Wrenches (7/8", 3/4", 1 1/8")
- Torque Wrench (sockets: 3/4", 1 1/8")
- Ratcheting Wrench (sockets: 3/4", 1 1/8")
- Measuring Tape

5.2 Pre-Installation Steps

1. Ensure your truck and trailer are uncoupled, on a level surface, and in a straight-ahead position.
2. Load your truck and trailer as they will be when towing to ensure accurate measurements.

3. Measure the distance from the ground to the top of the trailer's coupler while the trailer is level. Record this height.

5.3 Hitch Bar and Ball Mount Installation

1. Insert the hitch bar into your vehicle's hitch receiver. Secure it with a pin and clip. The hitch bar can be used in either the drop or rise position depending on your towing setup.
2. With the hitch ball attached, slide the ball mount up or down the hitch bar. Align the holes on both components until the top of the hitch ball is approximately 3/4" to 1" greater than the recorded coupler height. This compensates for vehicle squat when connected.
3. Insert a bolt into the bottom-most hole of the ball mount and loosely secure it with a provided nut.
4. Thread the rivet through four spacer washers (or three for trailers with bottom-mounted couplers).
5. From the top of the assembly, slide the rivet and washers into the space between the ball mount and the hitch bar, then insert into the 1/2-inch hole.
6. Insert a bolt and serrated washer through the top hole of the ball mount. Thread a second serrated washer over this top bolt and fasten with a provided nut.
7. Tighten the set screw at the base of the ball mount until it is snug.
8. Using a torque wrench, torque the top bolt to 260 ft-lbs.
9. Torque the lower bolt to the same 260 ft-lbs.

5.4 Spring Bar and Frame Bracket Installation

1. For initial hookup, pick a reference point on the front wheel well of your vehicle and measure the distance to the pavement. Record this measurement.
2. Using your jack, lower the trailer's coupler onto the hitch ball and close the coupler latch.
3. Hold one of the spring bars under the socket on the bottom of the ball mount and firmly push up until it automatically locks into place. Repeat for the other spring bar.
4. From the center of the trailer's coupler, measure 27.5 inches down the A-frame and make a mark. This is where the inner and outer frame brackets will be installed.
5. Loosely assemble the inner and outer frame brackets by sliding a 5/8-inch hex bolt through the top holes and threading a 5/8-inch nut onto the bolt.
6. Slide the assembled frame brackets onto the A-frame at the marked position.
7. Insert the lower 5/8-inch bolt and serrated washer through the inner frame bracket, as close to the bottom of the trailer frame as possible, and into the outer bracket. Tighten this bolt until snug.
8. Using a torque wrench, tighten the frame bracket bolts to 130 ft-lbs.
9. Orient the L-bracket so that its bottom portion is approximately 3 inches above the uploaded spring bar.
10. Fasten the L-bracket to the outer frame bracket using two 5/8-inch hex bolts and lock washers. The bolts should be spaced with either one or two open holes between them.
11. Using a torque wrench, torque the L-bracket bolts to 80 ft-lbs. Repeat for the other side.
12. Extend the trailer's jack until the ends of the spring bars rise above the L-brackets.
13. Swing the spring bars onto the L-brackets and position them as close to the trailer frame as possible.
14. Once the spring bars are in place, install the spring bar covers to the L-brackets and secure them with the provided pins.
15. Retract the trailer's jack and re-measure the front wheel well reference point. The front wheel well height should be equal to or lower than the original measurement taken earlier.

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Video 1: Detailed installation guide for the Reese Pro Weight Distribution System (5:17 duration).

6. Operating Instructions

Once installed, the Reese 49912 hitch will help distribute the weight of your trailer more evenly across your tow vehicle's axles, reducing sag and improving handling. Always ensure the hitch is properly connected and all safety measures are in place before driving.

- **Connecting the Trailer:** Back your tow vehicle to align the hitch ball with the trailer coupler. Lower the coupler onto the ball and secure the latch.
- **Engaging Weight Distribution:** Use the trailer jack to raise the trailer tongue and rear of the tow vehicle slightly. This relieves tension on the spring bars, allowing them to be easily placed onto the L-brackets. Once the spring bars are in place, retract the trailer jack.
- **Disengaging Weight Distribution:** Extend the trailer jack to raise the trailer tongue and rear of the tow vehicle, relieving tension on the spring bars. Remove the spring bars from the L-brackets. Lower the trailer tongue onto the hitch ball and uncouple.

7. Maintenance

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and safe operation of your Reese weight distribution hitch.

- **Lubrication:** Periodically lubricate the hitch ball and the points where the spring bars connect to the ball mount and L-brackets to reduce friction and wear.
- **Inspection:** Before each trip, inspect all components for signs of wear, cracks, bends, or corrosion. Pay close attention to the spring bars, ball mount, and frame brackets.
- **Hardware Check:** Regularly check that all bolts and nuts are tightened to their specified torque values. Re-torque as necessary.
- **Cleaning:** Keep the hitch clean from dirt, mud, and road salt to prevent corrosion. The powder-coated finish helps resist rust, but regular cleaning is still recommended.

8. Troubleshooting

Here are some common issues and potential solutions:

- **Excessive Sway:** Ensure the spring bars are properly tensioned and the hitch is correctly adjusted. Verify trailer loading to ensure proper tongue weight.
- **Front End Lift:** If the front of your tow vehicle is lifting too much, increase the tension on the spring bars by adjusting the L-brackets or adding more spacer washers to the ball mount.
- **Rear End Sag:** If the rear of your tow vehicle is sagging excessively, increase the tension on the spring bars.
- **Noisy Operation:** Lubricate the hitch ball and spring bar contact points. Check for loose hardware.
- **Difficulty Engaging/Disengaging Spring Bars:** Ensure the trailer jack is used to raise the trailer tongue sufficiently to relieve tension on the spring bars.

9. Warranty Information

The Reese 49912 Pro Round Bar Weight Distribution Hitch with Sway Control is backed by a**Limited Lifetime Warranty**. Please retain your proof of purchase for any warranty claims. For specific terms and conditions, refer to the warranty documentation included with your product or visit the official Reese website.

10. Support

For additional assistance, technical support, or to inquire about replacement parts, please contact Reese customer

service. You can also visit the official Reese website for FAQs and further resources.

Reese Official Website: www.reeseproducts.com

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