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### Barnes 4WD B4WK12414

# Barnes 4WD JEEP JK 1 TON 7075 ALUMINIUM DRAG LINK

Model: B4WK12414 - Installation and Maintenance Manual

## 1. Introduction

This manual provides detailed instructions for the proper installation, operation, and maintenance of your Barnes 4WD 1 Ton 7075 Aluminium Drag Link for Jeep JK and JKU models. This upgrade is designed to enhance the strength and durability of your vehicle's steering system. Please read all instructions carefully before beginning the installation process to ensure safety and correct functionality.

## 2. Safety Information

- Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including safety glasses and gloves, when working on your vehicle.
- Ensure the vehicle is securely supported on jack stands on a level surface before beginning any work. Never rely solely on a jack.
- Disconnect the vehicle's battery before performing any electrical work.
- Use the correct tools for each step and ensure they are in good working condition.
- If you are unsure about any step, consult a qualified mechanic.
- Proper torque specifications are critical for safety. Always use a torque wrench for final tightening.

## 3. Package Contents

Verify that all components are present and undamaged before proceeding with installation:

- 1 x One Ton 7075 Aluminium Drag Link
- 1 x Offset GM 1 Ton Tie Rod End (OS2234L Left Hand)
- 1 x GM 1 Ton Tie Rod End (ES2234R Right Hand)

## 4. Tools Required

The following tools are recommended for installation:

- Socket/Wrench Set (various sizes, including large sizes for tie rod ends)
- Torque Wrench

- Jack and Jack Stands
- Pry Bar (optional, for stubborn components)
- Tie Rod End Puller / Pitman Arm Puller (recommended)
- Grease Gun (for tie rod ends)
- Measuring Tape
- Marker or Paint Pen

## 5. Installation Instructions

This drag link is designed for an 'under the knuckle' installation, similar to your factory drag link. The following steps outline the general installation process:

1. **Prepare Vehicle:** Park the vehicle on a level surface, engage the parking brake, and block the rear wheels. Loosen the front lug nuts. Jack up the front of the vehicle and support it securely with jack stands under the frame. Remove the front wheels.
2. **Remove Factory Drag Link:** Locate the factory drag link. Using a suitable wrench or socket, remove the castle nuts securing the tie rod ends to the pitman arm and the steering knuckle. Use a tie rod end puller to separate the tie rod ends from their tapered seats. Remove the entire factory drag link assembly.
3. **Assemble New Drag Link:** Thread the new tie rod ends onto the 7075 Aluminium Drag Link. Ensure the left-hand thread tie rod end (OS2234L) is on one side and the right-hand thread tie rod end (ES2234R) is on the other. Adjust the length of the new drag link to approximately match the length of the factory drag link you just removed. This will provide a good starting point for alignment.
4. **Install New Drag Link:** Insert the tapered studs of the new tie rod ends into the pitman arm and the steering knuckle. Secure them with the provided castle nuts. Tighten the castle nuts to the manufacturer's recommended torque specifications (refer to your Jeep service manual for exact values, typically around 65-80 ft-lbs for drag link ends). Install cotter pins through the castle nuts and tie rod end studs.
5. **Center Steering Wheel:** With the new drag link installed, adjust its length by rotating the drag link tube until your steering wheel is centered when the front wheels are pointing straight ahead. Once centered, tighten the jam nuts on the tie rod ends securely.
6. **Final Checks:** Reinstall the front wheels and torque the lug nuts to factory specifications. Lower the vehicle to the ground.



Image: The Barnes 4WD 1 Ton 7075 Aluminium Drag Link shown installed on a Jeep JK front axle assembly, illustrating its position under the knuckle. This image provides a visual reference for the product's appearance and general mounting location.

## 6. Post-Installation and Operation

After installation, it is crucial to perform the following steps:

- **Professional Alignment:** Immediately after installing the drag link, have a professional alignment shop perform a full front-

end alignment. This is critical for proper steering, tire wear, and vehicle safety.

- **Test Drive:** Perform a short, cautious test drive in a safe area to ensure proper steering response and no unusual noises or vibrations.
- **Re-torque:** After approximately 50-100 miles of driving, re-check the torque on all fasteners, especially the tie rod end castle nuts and jam nuts, to ensure they remain secure.

## 7. Maintenance

Regular maintenance will ensure the longevity and performance of your drag link:

- **Inspection:** Periodically inspect the drag link, tie rod ends, and all associated hardware for signs of wear, damage, or looseness. Check for torn boots on the tie rod ends.
- **Lubrication:** The tie rod ends are typically greasable. Use a grease gun to lubricate the tie rod ends at regular service intervals or after off-road use, as recommended by the tie rod end manufacturer.
- **Cleaning:** Keep the drag link and tie rod ends free from excessive dirt and debris, especially after off-road excursions.

## 8. Troubleshooting

If you experience issues after installation, consider the following:

- **Loose Steering / Wander:** This often indicates incorrect alignment or loose fasteners. Re-check all torque specifications and ensure a professional alignment has been performed.
- **Steering Wheel Off-Center:** This is a common issue after drag link replacement and requires adjustment of the drag link length to re-center the steering wheel. This should be part of the alignment process.
- **Unusual Noises (Clunking/Rattling):** Check all connections for proper tightness. Ensure tie rod ends are fully seated and cotter pinned. Inspect for any contact between the drag link and other suspension or frame components.

If problems persist, discontinue use and consult a qualified mechanic.

## 9. Specifications

| Feature | Detail |
|---|---|
| Product Model Number | B4WK12414 |
| Material | 7075 Aluminium |
| Compatibility | All Jeep JK and JKU models |
| Installation Type | Under the knuckle |
| Item Weight | Approximately 12 pounds |
| Product Dimensions | Approximately 38 x 4 x 4 inches |

## 10. Warranty Information

For specific warranty terms and conditions, please refer to the official Barnes 4WD website or contact their customer support directly. Warranty coverage typically applies to manufacturing defects and does not cover damage due to improper installation, misuse, or normal wear and tear.

## 11. Customer Support

If you have any questions regarding the installation, operation, or maintenance of your Barnes 4WD 1 Ton 7075 Aluminium Drag Link, please contact Barnes 4WD customer support through their official website or the contact information provided with your purchase.


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