



## 1999-2002 Mercury Cougar QuickLIFT Installation Guide

### Step 1 - Unpack QuickLIFT kit and verify contents.

Remove all items from the packing tube. You should have the following before beginning:

- \* (2) Gas Springs
- \* (4) 3/16" Steel Rivets
- \* (4) 5/16" head sheet metal screws
- \* (2) Fender Steel brackets
- \* (2) Hood Steel brackets (smaller)
- \* Printed Instructions
- \* Gas Spring locking clips - these are installed in the gas springs - remove before assembly .  
DO NOT LOSE THEM , they are very small and are easily lost if dropped.

### Step 2 - Gather the required tools.

Please gather the following tools before you begin the installation:

- \* Power Drill
  - \* 3/16", 9/64" drill bits
  - \* 5/16" socket and socket wrench
  - \* Fine permanent marker or felt tip pen
  - \* Masking tape
  - \* Tape Measure
  - \* Hammer & center punch
  - \* Rivet gun, capable of 3/16" rivets (most brands can handle this size)
- Note: Only use the rivets supplied in the Quick-Lift kit.



*Recommended: Craftsman standard or Swivel Riveter (shown - 974749) - \$9.99 to \$17.99*

### Step 3 - Locate Driver's side upper bracket.

A. Place a piece of masking tape on the edge of the hood as shown to the right. Run the tape along the edge of the hood - this will be used to mark the centerline of the hood bracket.

B. Place a mark at exactly **11"** from the corner of the hood as shown.

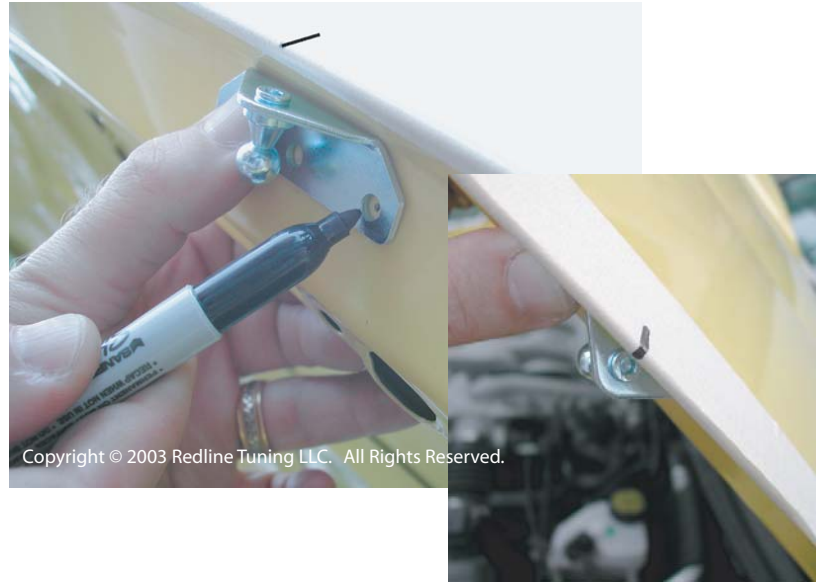


## Step 4 - Align Driver's side hood bracket and mark 1st hole.

A. Hold hood bracket such that the ball stud faces toward the center of the vehicle and bracket is tucked up into the corner as shown to the right.

B. Using a marker, place a dot at the center of the lower hole once the centerline of the ball stud is lined up with your mark.

C. Using a center punch and a hammer, tap the center of the dot you just made (this indentation will help guide the drill bit and keep it from wandering). Place bracket back in place to be sure it is still centered where it should be before moving to Step 5.



## Step 5 - Drill 3/16" hole.

A. Carefully drill the lower bracket hole as shown to the right using a **3/16" drill bit**.

Only use a 3/16" drill bit - the rivet will not work properly with any other size drill bit. Be careful not to drill up through hood!



## Step 6 - Rivet lower end of bracket to hood.

A. Hold the bracket in position.

B. With the bracket lined up again, place a rivet through the bracket and hole with the long stem sticking outward - shown to the right. The rivet may require a few twists while pushing it in. Hold bracket in place using a piece of tape.

C. Check to be sure your rivet gun has the 3/16" rivet head installed, then slide rivet gun onto rivet. While applying force to the rivet and bracket, firmly squeeze riveter handle multiple times until rivet gun pops and snaps off the rivet stem. Be careful when rivet stem snaps off.



## Step 7 - Drill upper hole of hood bracket.

A. Reposition and align bracket into the proper position against hood lip.

B. Carefully drill the second hole through bracket hole and hood.

Be careful not to drill up through top of the hood.

C. Rivet the upper hole as described in the previous step.

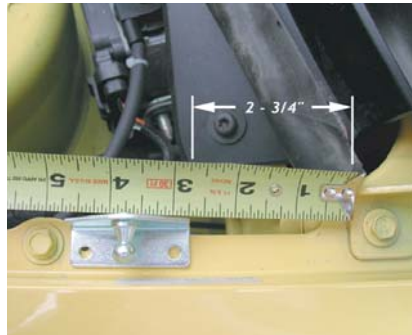


## Step 8 - Repeat steps 3-7 and install the passenger side hood bracket.

A. The Cougar hood has a symmetrical understructure. Repeat Steps 3-7 to install the upper passenger side hood bracket. Take your time and verify the measurements using the bracket you just installed - if you were 1/8" off on the drivers side, put the passenger side bracket at the same distance .

## Step 9 - Position and mark first hole for driver's side fender bracket.

A. Hold the bracket in position as shown to the right. The inside of the bracket should sit **7/8"** from the fender with the ball stud pointing toward the fender and approximately **2-3/4"** from the body bracket to the edge of the ball-stud bracket.



B. Verify measurements and then mark upper hole using a fine permanent marker.

## Step 10 - Mark hole center before drilling.

A. Using a center punch and a hammer, tap the center of the marked hole. This will help guide the drill bit and keep it from wandering.

## Step 11 - Drill lower of left hole using 9/64" drill bit.

A. Drill the lower or left hole at the marked position using a **9/64" drill bit**. Do not ream or over drill the hole - any larger and the threads will not hold securely.



## Step 12 - Attach the lower or left end of the bracket to fender.

A. Using a color matching paint, touch up the area where you just drilled the hole.

B. Using a 5/16" socket and wrench, carefully screw the left or lower screw into the fender using the supplied sheet metal screw.

Apply adequate pressure while screwing the sheet metal screw in - you will be creating threads in the fender and it will require force.



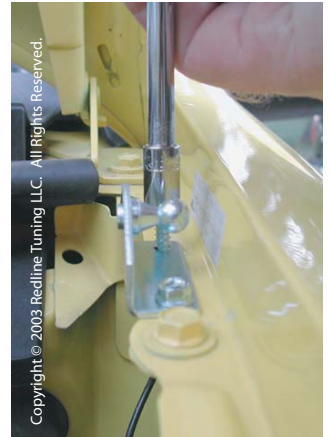
### Step 13 - Mark center with marker and indent with center punch.

- Using a permanent marker, mark the right or upper hole of the fender bracket. **Be sure the bracket is parallel to the fender. Twist to align if necessary.**
- Using a center punch and hammer, tap the center of the marked hole. This will help guide the drill bit and keep it from wandering.

### Step 14 - Drill second hole and attach bracket.

- Drill the second hole through the bracket hole using a **9/64"** drill bit. Do not ream or over drill the hole - any larger and the threads will not hold securely.
- Attach the bracket using the same 5/16" socket and wrench.

Do not over tighten, but secure both screws at this time.



### Step 15 - Repeat steps 9-14 to attach the passenger fender bracket.

- Repeat Steps 9-14 to attach the passenger side fender bracket. The vehicle is symmetrical so the same locators can be used. Feel free to measure off of key areas to ensure a symmetrical installation.

### Step 16 - Cycle both gas springs 3 times

- CYCLE EACH GAS SPRING BEFORE INSTALLING** - firmly hold a gas spring with both hands by the thick cylindrical end - firmly press down on the floor or carpet and compress the spring. Do this to both springs many times to lubricate the rods.

### Step 17 - Install gas springs.

- Have a friend hold the hood up. Remove the stock prop rod assembly at this time.
- Install the driver's side gas-spring with the cylinder at the bottom (large end down and connected to the fender ball stud). Be sure that the strut sockets snap securely onto the ball studs. Continue holding the hood while until Step 18 is completed. **This procedure is most easily completed if the upper ends are snapped onto the ball-studs first and attach the lower ends last.**



## Step 18 - Install the strut locking clips.

A. Insert the strut locking clips as shown below.

Note: Photos below show the fender end of the ball stud - you will find it easier if you first install the hood end of the struts, including locking clips, and then move to the lower fender ends last.



Insert clip into hole.



Slide clip down till it stops.



Rotate clip until it snaps onto shaft.

## Step 19 - Test installation.

A. Remove all tools from engine area. Check that all the steps were followed correctly and that the brackets and struts are securely mounted.

B. Lower hood slowly and check for clearance issues. Once you are certain that the steps were followed correctly, carefully lower the hood. The struts will take a few repetitive operations to get them working properly - lower and raise the hood a few times to lubricate the struts.



Enjoy your new Redline Tuning QuickLIFT kit!