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## **2005-2015 Toyota Tacoma Front Hidden Winch Mount**

Start by removing the factory bumper. First the grille should be removed by pulling the plastic clips at the top of the grille and removing the two screws. The grill should pull out toward the front of the truck. The lower headlight trim pieces should be popped outward toward the center of the truck to allow the bumper to move forward. The bumper has several bolts and clips at the bottom and in the wheel wells, be sure all clips and bolts are removed and the bumper will pop out toward the front. There are black “hubs” on either side of the fenders that the bumper clicks into, they should also be removed.

Next step is to remove the factory aluminum crash bumper, it is held on by 6 nuts, 3 on each side. Save the nuts, they will be reused. The crash bumper is often a press fit onto the studs and will require using rubber mallet or dead blow to push the bumper off.

The Winch mount can now be installed. The factory bumper can be mocked up and marked on the inside where the two fairlead holes go. This will allow you to drill thru the bumper and use the holes for alignment of the fairlead. Hold the fairlead in place and trace out the shape. A jigsaw or similar cutting tool can be used to cut the fairlead clearance hole, only cut enough for the rope opening, the fairlead will be placed on the outside and sandwich the remaining plastic. (It is optional to cut around outside of fairlead if desired, we suggest sandwich method)

The winch control solenoid may fit on the winch mounting area depending on the size of the winch being used. Drilling mounting holes to match your winch solenoid will be required if you are mounting solenoid in the winch mount area. Larger motor winches will require that the solenoid be mounted either behind the grill on the center support or in the engine bay. Mounting in the engine bay will require extending the cables but is a great option for a clean finished mount.

Next step is to remove the sway bar brackets if using a sway bar and attach the gusseted backing plates. The factory bolts for the sway bar will be re-used. Place the backing plate under the sway bar mount and replace the sway bar bolts. Feed the supplied 3/8” grade 8 bolt through the bumper and thru the cross-member, through the backing plate. Add the 3/8” washers and nuts and tighten.

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