

# Trailer Receiver Hitch Installation Instructions

## Model/Application:

F55: 2014-xxx F55 Mini Four Door  
F55: 2014-xxx F55 S Mini Four Door  
F56: 2014-xxx F56 Mini Hatchback  
F56: 2014-xxx F56 S Mini Hatchback

**Hitch Capacity:** 1400 lbs gross, 200 lb max tongue

Notes: This hitch allows for a removable ball mount to be attached (which is sold separately) and is required if towing a trailer. This hitch is not intended for use as a weight-distributing hitch. Before towing, the hitch pin and retainer clip **MUST** be in place securing the ball mount to the receiver.

The tools you will need are:

- #2 Phillips Screwdriver
- #2 Regular Screwdriver
- #2 Stubby Phillips Screwdriver
- T-20 Torx Screwdriver
- 8mm + 18mm socket, extension and socket wrench
- Torque Wrench
- Safety Goggles

## Step 1: Removing the bumper

The bumper is attached the car with basic fasteners in a few locations. There are 2 hidden behind the black plastic wheel arches (1 per side), 10 along the bottom and 2 behind the taillights. To remove the 2 hidden behind the wheels arches grab the plastic arch starting from the lower side and pull outward gently but firmly to release the clips. Pull the arches back **JUST** enough (about 3-4 of the clips will be exposed) to get a super short screwdriver or socket with a T20 Torx head to remove the screws.



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Pop off the rear brake light trim rings on both sides by using a plastic pry tool around the inner edge. It's hard to get a grip on these rings so a pry tool is best.



Remove the three T20 screws around the outer edge of each light. Pull off the trunk inside covers on each side. Unplug the tail light harness on each side and pull as far out as possible. To remove the tail lights pull gently, but firmly on the lower inside edge of the light housing. You can also reach in from behind the tail light and push on a clip near the lower inner side of the tail light.



Remove the ten (10) 8mm screws on the bottom edge of the bumper.

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At this point, the bumper will be held in place by the wires that connect to the rear fog lights and the backup sensors (if your MINI has that option). Reach behind the bumper and release the wires by twisting the connector 90 degrees.



With the bumper removed, use a 18mm socket with extension to remove the 4 nuts that hold the aluminum support structure in place.





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## Step 2: Hitch Installation

Remove the rectangle plastic structure in the middle where the vent is.

Install the hitch in place of the aluminum structure. The hitch will be blocked by plastic holders/brackets on each side. With the hitch sitting in the aluminum bumper studs, mark where the plastic holders will need to be cut. Remove the hitch and cut the brackets to allow clearance for the hitch.



Reinstall the hitch on the studs and replace the aluminum bumper on top of the hitch. Tighten the four nuts to hold the bumper and hitch in place. Torque the 4 nuts to 17 ft/lbs.

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Inside the bumper are a series of tabs along the edge of the mesh grill where it connects to the bumper. Pry on these off one by one while pulling on the grill to separate it from the bumper.



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Once removed, mark a 1.25" section in the center of the grill. Cut the grill where marked and you'll end up with 3 pieces. The middle part (1.25 wide) will be discarded.





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Next you will need to cut the glossy black trim that is attached to the bumper. It's best to use a fine hacksaw or a dremel with cutoff wheel. Mark a 1-1/4" wide section on the top and lower trim and a small portion of the bumper as shown and carefully cut out as shown in the picture..



Reattach the mesh grill to the bumper, hang the bumper in place and test fit your drawbar to make sure it slides in and out freely. Trim any parts as necessary.



Trim (or bend out of the way) the soft metal heat shield with shears to allow access to the drawbar hitch pin from either side of the exhaust tips (behind the bumper) and roll the cut edge to keep it from causing injury.

### **Step 3: Reinstall the rear bumper**

Use same steps to remove but in reverse.

### **Step 4: Use it!**

Now that your hitch is installed, you are ready to use it.

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## **LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY**

**Each trailer hitch manufactured is warranted to the original purchaser to be free from defects in material and workmanship for as long as original purchaser owns the vehicle on which the trailer hitch was originally installed. Any defective hitch may be returned freight prepaid with dated proof of purchase receipt and will become the property of the manufacturer. Finishes are not warranted. This warranty does not apply to any hitch damaged as a result of abuse, neglect, improper installation, overloading, or alteration. This warranty is limited to the replacement of the defective hitches only. Installation, removal, incidental or consequential losses or expenses incurred as a result of using a hitch such as towing, telephone, lodging, rental fees, fuel, transportation, or time lost are not covered.**

**Products sold will be subject to the terms and conditions of the original manufacturers warranty.**

**This warranty gives specific legal rights and you may have other rights which vary from state to state. The manufacturer reserves the right to make changes, additions, or improvements to new product without obligation to install same on existing product covered by this warranty.**

**Please be sure to read and follow all assembly and installation instructions.**

**All Trailer Receiver Hitches have a maximum 200 lb tongue weight rating and a maximum 1400 lb gross weight rating. NEVER exceed recommended loading ratings for Trailer Receiver Hitch or Miniature Trailer.**