UTILIMASTER

DRIVING INTELLIGENT VEHICLE SOLUTIONS

Service Guide

RIM Hood
For Aeromaster Bodies

WARNING: Hood should be opened by releasing the hold-down straps, lifting the hood, and engaging the prop rod. Be sure prop rod is properly engaged before working on the vehicle.

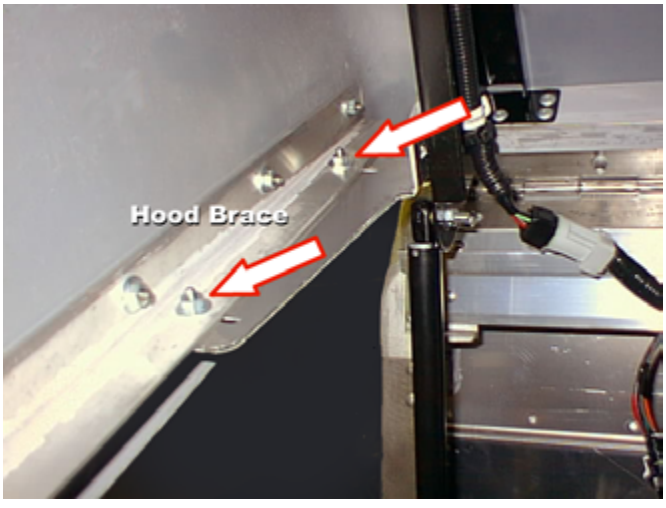
CAUTION: Some trucks have an automatic locking gas strut. Do NOT close the hood without first depressing the orange button on the passenger side gas strut to disengage the safety locking mechanism. Failure to do so could result in damage to the hood.

RIM Hood Adjustment

Fender to Quarter Panel

CAUTION: Loosen fasteners only enough to allow adjustment. Removing the nut completely or repetitive adjustment will damage the two-way locknuts and require replacement of both the nut and the bolt.

1. To align the RIM fender to the quarter panel, loosen the two nuts attaching the hood support strut to the hood brace.
2. Loosen the nut attaching the hood support strut to the upper gas spring support.
3. Loosen the nut attaching the hood bumper to the bumper guide.
4. Adjust the fender to fit the cowl casting and quarter panel and torque all nuts to 5 ft•lb.



Support strut support brace



Upper gas spring support

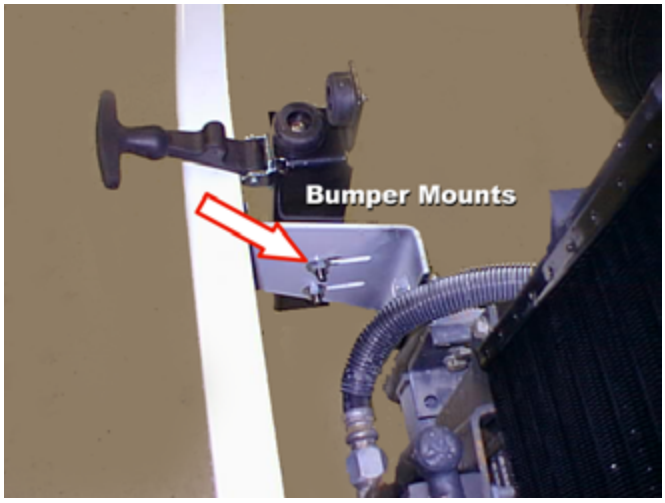
Front Hood Stops

NOTE: The front hood stops set the gap between the quarter panel and fender.

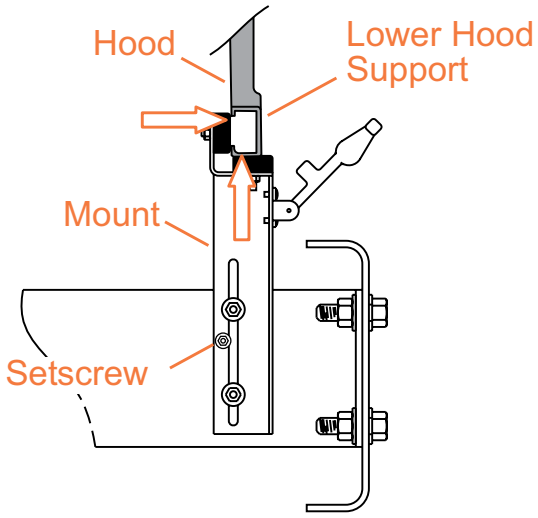
1. To adjust the gap between the quarter panel and fender, loosen the four nuts to the bumper mounts (two each side).

   NOTE: The hood stops may be set in place with a setscrew. Remove the setscrew before continuing.

2. Adjust the mounts until the surfaces in the gap between the quarter panel and fender are parallel when the hood is closed. Use the vertical slots to widen the gap by raising the mounts or narrow the gap by lowering the mounts.
3. Make the rubber bumpers snug against the lower hood support. They should be flush and perpendicular to the extrusion at all points of contact.
4. Tighten all nuts.



Hood stops



Hood stop alignment

*NOTE: To secure the location after adjustment, dill a **new** 7/32" hole behind the adjustment slot and secure with a **new** self-tapping Torx® screw (P/N 11300177) or use a **new** 1/4-20 x 3/4 bolt and locknut as a setscrew instead of the Torx screw.*

Grille (Stone Guard) Replacement

Removal

1. Using a #11 or 3/16" drill bit, remove the rivets on the screen (be sure to remove all of the rivets).
2. Remove the grille (stone guard).

Installation

1. Attach the new grille with 3/16" POP® rivets with oversize heads.

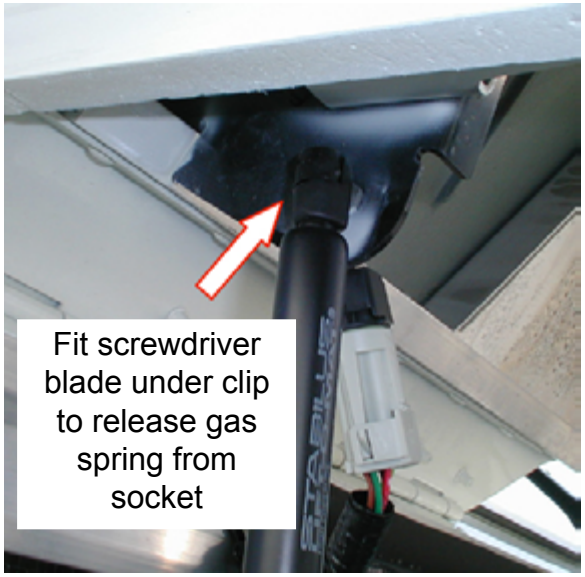
   NOTE: If rivets with oversize heads are not available, use standard rivets with flat washers.

Gas Spring (Strut) Replacement

Removal

1. Lift the hood and secure it so that it will stay open when the gas springs are removed.
2. Carefully insert a small flat-blade screwdriver under the clip at the bottom of the gas spring.
3. Lift up slightly on the clip. The spring will slide off the ball stud.

   NOTE: Do NOT remove the clip from the spring because it is difficult to reattach.
4. Repeat the same steps for the top of the spring.



Release gas spring

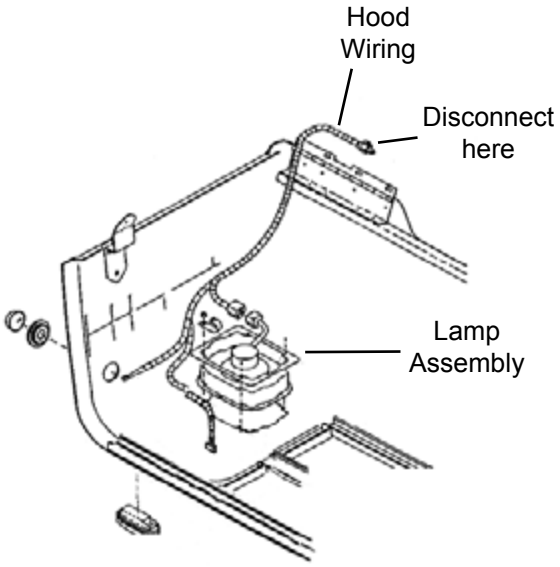
Installation

1. Snap the top of spring onto the ball stud.
2. Repeat for the bottom of the gas spring.

Hood Replacement

Removal

1. Lift the hood and secure it so that it will stay open when the gas springs are removed.
2. Disconnect the hood gas springs.
3. Disconnect the hood wiring (two places) from the cowl harness.
4. Remove the bolts on the hood hinge, working from the center out. Discard all fasteners. (You may have to remove insulation to reach the bolts.)
5. While supporting the hood from both sides, carefully remove the two outside 1/4–20 Torx® screws and move the hood away from the vehicle.



Hood wiring

Installation

CAUTION: Lifting the hood too high can damage the wiper arms or even break the windshield. Use extreme caution in this process.

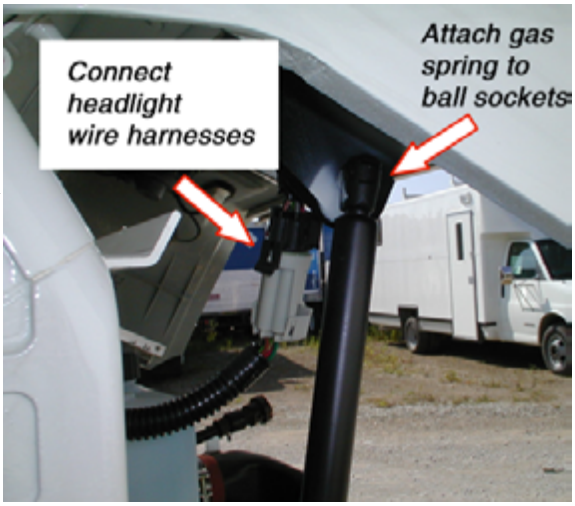
WARNING: Hood should be opened by releasing the hold-down straps, lifting the hood, and engaging the prop rod. Be sure the prop rod is properly engaged before working on the vehicle.

1. Position the hood on the front of the vehicle.
2. Align the hinge holes with the holes on the cowl.
3. Insert ***new*** Torx screws with washers in each outside hinge hole. Do NOT tighten completely.



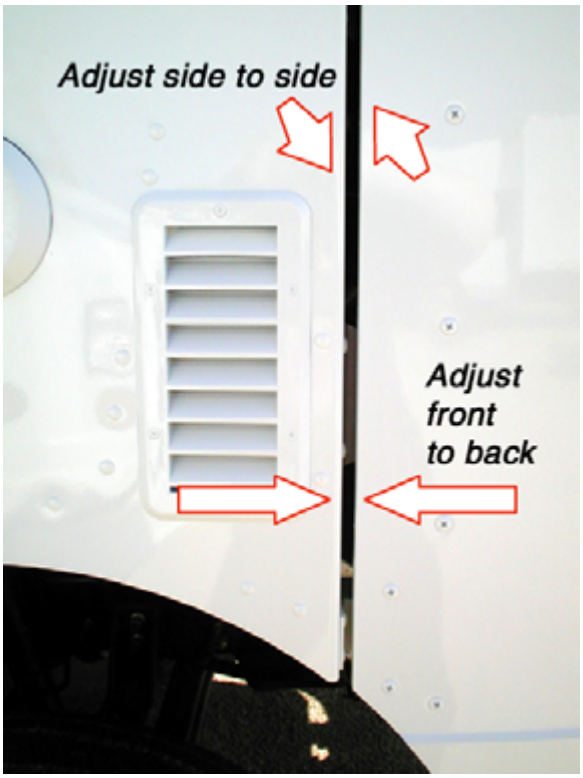
Use Torx screws to center hood on truck body

4. Fasten ***new*** bolts and ***new*** two-way locknuts and washers on the cowl side of each of bolt.
5. Snug the bolts but do not tighten completely at this time.
6. Lower the hood gently and check the alignment with the fender guides.
7. Check the hood to ensure that it is centered on the structure. If the hood is not centered on the body, loosen the hood hinge bolts and reposition the hood.
8. Lift both sides of the hood straight up simultaneously.
9. Tighten the two outside Torx screws.
10. Tighten the remaining bolts across the hood hinges.
11. Connect the headlight wire harnesses.
12. Attach the hood gas springs on either side.



Connect electrical harnesses and gas springs

13. Lower the hood again to check for the alignment of the hood guide bumpers with the hood guide brackets.
14. See the RIM Hood Adjustment section to align as necessary.



Check hood alignment

RIM Fender Replacement

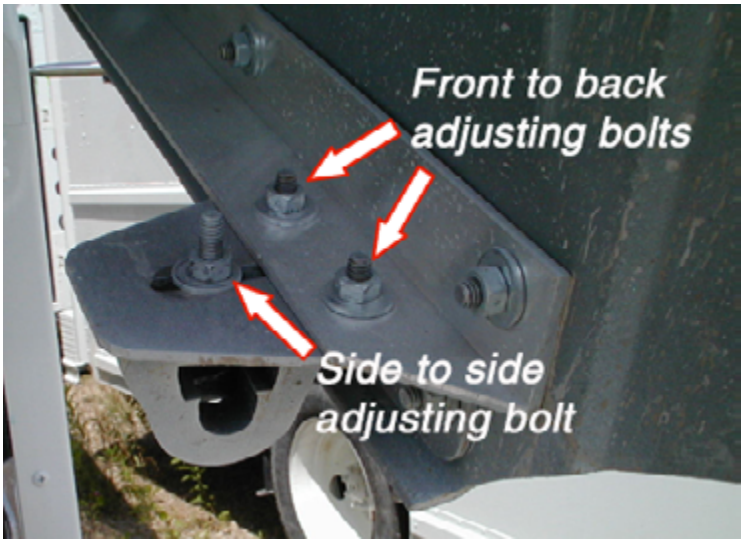
Fender Removal

NOTE: Removing the hood first is not necessary but it may make the parts and fasteners easier to get to.

1. Remove the bolts holding the stiffener to the fender.
2. Remove the bolts holding the gas spring upper support bracket to the fender.
3. Remove the pin-and-collar fasteners attaching the fender to the center section and grille bars.
4. Remove the headlight.
5. Remove the front turn light.
6. Remove the side marker light.



Upper support bracket



Hood guide bumper bracket adjustments

Fender Installation

1. Mate the aluminum center section to the RIM fender along the seam. Clamp in place.
2. Using the existing holes in the aluminum center section as a template, drill holes into the fender.
3. Position the interior angle support bracket to the inside of the hood, aligning the drilled holes.
4. If a Huck fastening system is not available, use stainless-steel 1/4–20 x 3/4" Phillips-head truss bolts to attach the fender to the aluminum flat washers, and locknuts.
5. Install the side marker light.
6. Install the front turn light.
7. Install the headlight.
8. Position the interior angle support bracket using existing holes and attach with bolts.
9. Position the strut bracket using existing holes and attach with bolts.
10. Position the rubber bumper bracket using existing holes and attach with bolts.
11. Position upper gas spring support using existing holes and attach with bolts.
12. Reinstall the hood.

RIM Fender Repair

Use this process if the hood has a hole, gouge, or scratches.

NOTE: Depending on the severity, a damaged hood may not be repairable.

1. Purchase a **flexible** bumper/fender repair kit at an auto supply store.
2. Follow the kit's surface preparation instructions carefully.
3. See the Paint Repair section for touch-up.

Utilimaster Customer Service

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Hood, December 2014

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