



Instructions

F-150 BASE RAILS (SET OF 3)

Draft 07 | October 20, 2026

Before You Begin

Thank you for purchasing your F-150 BASE Rails from AAL! We greatly appreciate your trust in our company. If you have any questions along the way, please call 385.202.4188.

Please read these instructions thoroughly before starting this project.

Application: F-150 with a 5.5-foot short bed only. These instructions do not cover 6.5-foot or 8-foot beds.

Tools Required:

There is more than one tool for every job, but below is the list of tools we use for this install.

TP50 Torx Plus bit socket (also labeled IP50 or 50IP). A standard T50 Torx bit does not provide the same fit.

Impact wrench and impact-rated TP50 socket: For loosening OEM bed bolts.

Torque wrench with a compatible TP50 socket: For final tightening to Ford's vehicle-specific specification.

Flathead screwdriver: For removing bedliner and clearing the bolt recess.

What Is Included:

Three assembled rails: front (#1), middle (#2), and rear (#3). No loose hardware is included. Accessories are separate.

Replacement Bolts and Torque

Ford recommends new OEM bed attachment bolts. Replacement bolts are not included. Follow Ford's vehicle-specific service procedure for final tightening torque.

Step 1: Prepare the Bed and Bolt Heads

Clear the bed. If spray-in bedliner covers the bolts, work a flathead screwdriver beneath the edge of each washer. Twist gently and move around the washer to break the coating seal. Pull the loosened coating off by hand. Use the screwdriver to clear remaining material from the Torx Plus recess, then fully seat the TP50 bit.



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Step 2: Identify and Orient the Rails

Stand at the tailgate and look toward the cab. In these instructions, **left is the driver's side**. Number the rails from front to rear: #1 nearest the cab, #2 in the middle, and #3 nearest the tailgate.

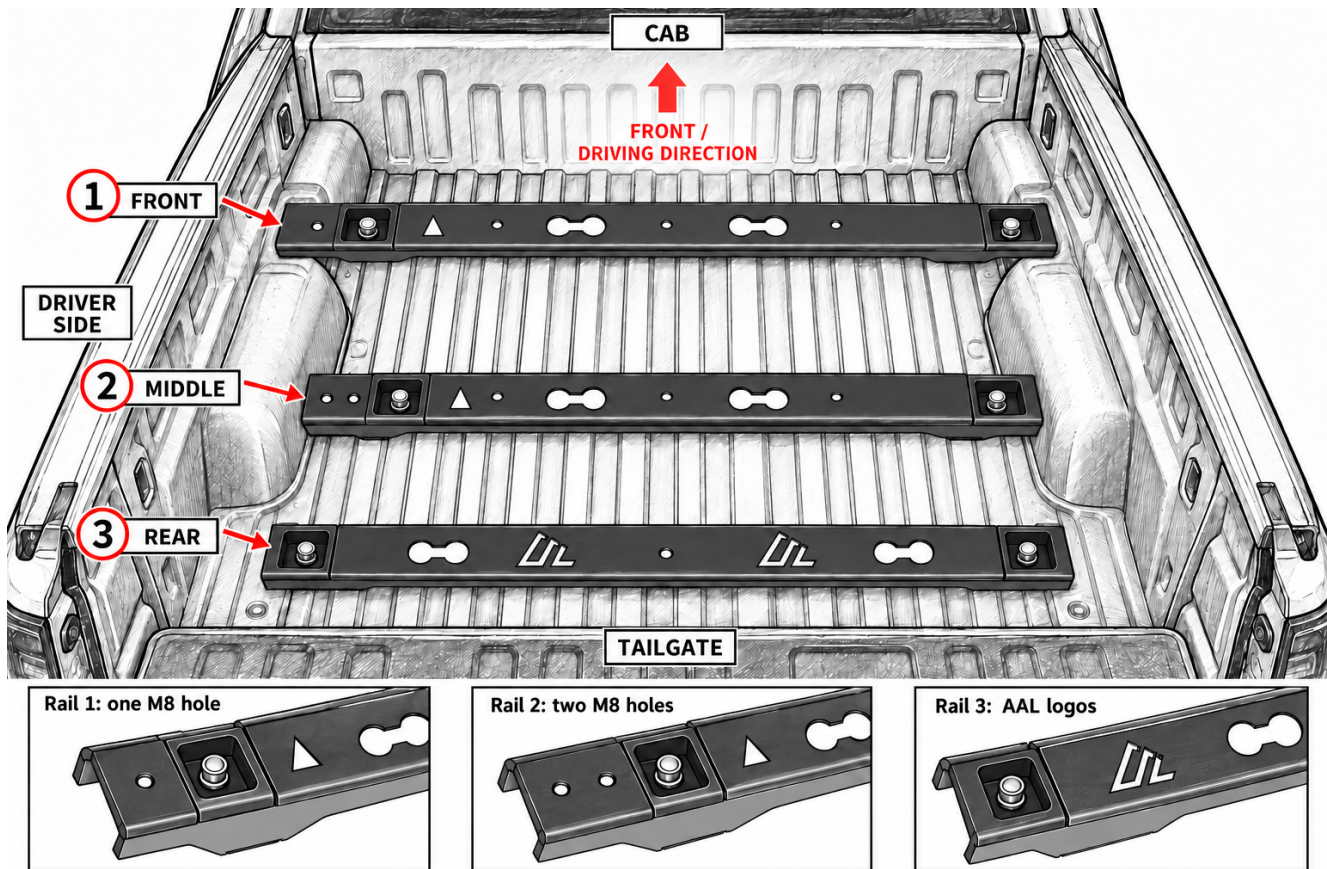


Diagram 1. Rail order and orientation. Illustration is not a measuring template.

Identification Details

Rail #1: One round M8 tapped accessory hole to the left of the driver-side bed attachment bolt. Place the small triangle on the driver's side with its point toward the cab.

Rail #2: Two M8 tapped accessory holes to the left of the driver-side bed attachment bolt. Place the small triangle on the driver's side with its point toward the cab.

Rail #3: Identified by two American Adventure Lab logos. Orient both logos so their arrow-like shapes point toward the cab, in the driving direction. Use the cab and driving-direction arrow as your reference.

Choose Your Installation Sequence

Rails only: Center and fully torque each rail before removing the next pair of bolts.

Installing accessories at the same time: Keep each pair installed slightly loose. Attach and align accessories, then torque all six bed bolts.

Always remove only two bed bolts at a time, starting with the front pair.



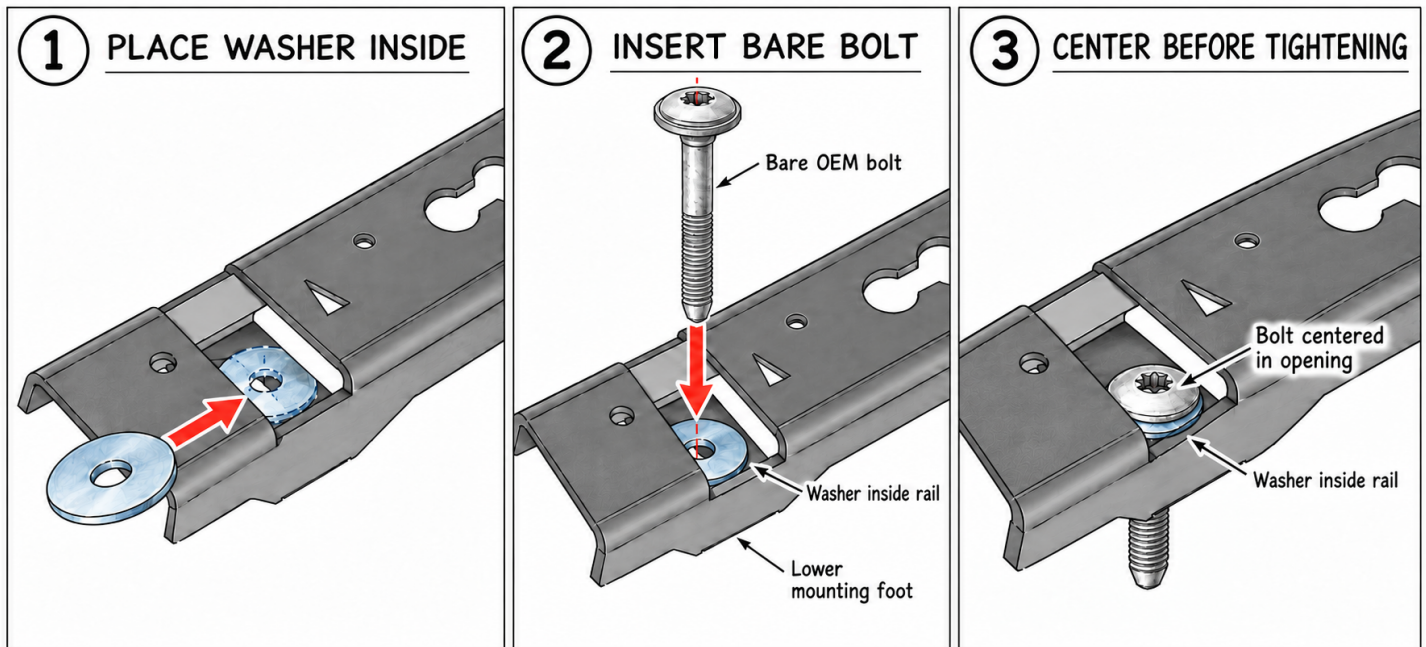
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Step 3: Preload Both Bolts Into Rail #1

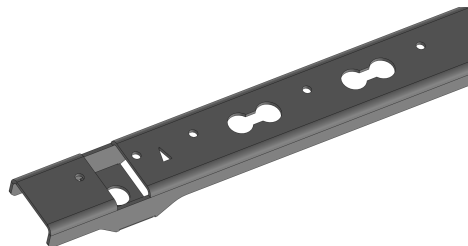
Remove only the frontmost pair of bed bolts. Prepare the OEM bed attachment bolts and washers for installation. **For rail #1 only, remove both washers from their bolts by hand.** Complete the sequence below at both mounting locations before lowering the rail into the bed.



Rail #1 only. Repeat at BOTH bed-bolt locations before placing the rail in the bed.

1. Slide each detached washer inside the rail and position it on the lower mounting foot over the bed-bolt hole.
2. Insert the bolt from above, without the washer on it. Pass the bolt through the washer hole and then through the hole in the mounting foot.
3. Keep the bolt and washer centered inside the rail. Repeat at the other end. Both bolts must be in the rail before placing rail #1 on the bed floor.

This arrangement preserves the intended accessory-hole alignment. The washer belongs **inside the rail on the mounting foot**, beneath the bolt head. Do not place it on top of the rail's accessory surface.



Reference: supplied rail #1 CAD close-up showing the recessed mounting foot.



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Step 4: Install Rail #1

With both bolts preloaded, lower rail #1 onto the bed floor at the front mounting points. Keep the triangle on the driver's side, pointing toward the cab. Start both bolts by hand. Center the bolts and washers inside the rail before tightening.

Rails only: Fully tighten both bolts with a torque wrench to Ford's specification for your truck before removing the middle pair.

With accessories: Leave both bolts slightly loose so the rail can adjust. Keep them installed while you move to the next pair.

Step 5: Install Rail #2

Remove only the middle pair of bed bolts. Position rail #2 with its triangle on the driver's side pointing toward the cab.

Keep the washers on the OEM bolts. Insert the bolts through the rail's mounting locations and start them by hand. Center the bolts and washers.

For rails-only installation, torque both bolts before removing the rear pair. For accessory-assisted alignment, leave both bolts installed and slightly loose.

Step 6: Install Rail #3

Remove only the rearmost pair of bed bolts. Position rail #3 nearest the tailgate, with the two AAL logos pointing toward the cab. **Keep the washers on the OEM bolts.** Insert and hand-start both bolts, then center the bolts and washers.

For rails-only installation, torque both bolts to Ford's vehicle-specific specification. If installing accessories now, continue with the alignment step below before final tightening.

Step 7: Align Accessories, If Installing Now

Attach your accessories while all six bed bolts remain installed and slightly loose. Allow the rails to adjust until everything is aligned, especially when an accessory spans all three rails. Confirm the bolts and washers are centered, then torque **all six bed bolts** to Ford's vehicle-specific specification. Tighten accessory hardware according to its own instructions.

Step 8: Final Check

Confirm rail order and orientation, verify that every washer is seated flat, and confirm that all six bed bolts have received final torque. Check that the rails and any installed accessories are secure before driving.



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Step 9: Share Your Photos

We take great pride in building our products and we hope that pride extends to you after installing your F-150 BASE Rails. If you are able to share your photos online (Facebook and Instagram), please tag [@AmericanAdventureLab](#). We would love to see how it turned out and give you some reciprocal attention in return!

Congrats! You're all done!

Thank You!

At American Adventure Lab, we strive to improve anywhere we can. If you experience any issues with this product or have any suggestions, please let us know.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us at 385.202.4188 or via email at Support@erp.adventurelab.com.

