

Watson Suspension Systems

MS2200, MS2500, and MS3000 Suspension Installation Manual

ON/OFF HIGHWAY SUSPENSION SYSTEM



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Watson & Chalin

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Document number: MS-XX00 I&M_Rev 1

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About

This manual contains information about the installation of the Watson & Chalin Trailer Mechanical Suspension Product Line and must be available for review by the installer to ensure proper safety, installation, and adjustments. The following models are discussed in this manual:

- MS2200 •
- MS2500 •
- MS3000 •

Important: Read and understand the entire manual before beginning the installation process or service of any components. Use this manual in conjunction with any corresponding drawings that come with Watson & Chalin suspensions upon delivery.

Notices Used in this Manual

Observe the notices used in this document:

NOTE: Notes are used to indicate important information. This information may be repeated in other areas of the manual.

CAUTION – Cautions are used to indicate a potentially hazardous situation, which, if not avoided, may result in injury and/or damage to the equipment or other property.



MARNING: Warnings are used to indicate a potentially hazardous situation, which, if not avoided, could result in serious injury or death.



DANGER: Danger is used to indicate a potentially hazardous situation, which, if not avoided, will result in serious injury or death.

Safety Notices

Read all safety statements before starting any work.

Before installing, adjusting, or conducting maintenance on this equipment, it is important to use and wear proper protection. Recommended safety equipment when operating and maintaining this equipment includes earplugs. eye protection, and a hard hat.

NOTE: Additional safety equipment may be required depending on the operating environment and worksite conditions.

Only gualified and trained personnel should install, maintain, and service this equipment. It is recommended that this equipment be inspected regularly for conditions that may impair proper usage of the equipment. Verify that all repairs have been completed and inspected prior to using the equipment under load.

Local, State, and Federal Regulations

It is the responsibility of the installer and user to follow all local, state, and federal safety regulations. Improper use of this equipment may result in personal injury, property damage, and/or damage to the equipment.

Modifications to Equipment

Any modifications made to this equipment may void any warranty and relieve the manufacturer of liability of any resulting injury or damage.

Note: Obtain approval from the vehicle manufacturer before making changes to the vehicle frame. Most vehicle manufactures prohibit cutting or welding on the vehicle frame, as it will void the manufacturer's warranty.

Intended Use

The Watson & Chalin Trailer Mechanical Suspension is intended for use with trailers. Use of this equipment in any other manner is considered to be contrary to the intended use of the attachment and may void the warranty.

Installer Responsibility

Note: Obtain approval from the vehicle manufacturer before making changes to the vehicle frame. Most vehicle manufactures prohibit cutting or welding on the vehicle frame, as it will void the manufacturer's warranty.

The suspension system installer is responsible for the following:

- Determine the correct location of the suspension to provide the proper vehicle load distribution as to not exceed the rated capacity of the components involved.
- Ensure the installation of the correct brake system components to guarantee proper braking performance. Brake installation must comply with FMVSS121 specifications.
- Verify that the suspension system is appropriate for the vehicle. Check the specifications on the suspension system.
- Obtain approval from the vehicle manufacturer before making changes to the vehicle frame.
- Verify that the vehicle chassis is rated for the additional weight of the axle and increased load.
- Verify that the suspension operates within run range.
- Verify the vehicle frame width is within the allowable mounting range of the suspension and that the vehicle crossmembers are correctly positioned.

A DANGER: PROPER AXLE ATTACHMENT IS REQUIRED FOR SAFE OPERATION OF THE VEHICLE.

DANGER: DO NOT MODIFY OR ALTER ANY WATSON & CHALIN SUSPENSION COMPONENTS WITHOUT PROPER AUTHORIZATION FROM QUALIFIED WATSON & CHALIN PERSONNEL.

DANGER: DO NOT WELD ANY SUSPENSION COMPONENTS EXCEPT WHEN SPECIFIED BY WATSON & CHALIN.

Model Identification

Note: Always use the assembly model number when contacting Watson & Chalin.

Each suspension assembly has an identification plate located on the left side (driver's side) bracket assembly. The plate includes the model number, serial number, and capacity (in pounds) for the assembly. Record the model and serial number for future reference.

1-800-44 WATSON & CHALIN	5-0736 SERIAL	
MODEL	DWG	
CAPACITIES/lbs	SUSPENSION	
BRAKE	AXLE	

Figure 1: Identification Plate

Overload Warning

MARNING Do not overload the vehicle.

Overloading is the practice of transporting cargos that surpass the specified vehicle or component rating. Overloading can cause component failure resulting in accidents causing injury or death.

Torque Definitions

FP - Foot-Pounds (NM - Newton-Meters)

Weld Specifications

- When welding hangers to the frame use AWS E7018 electrode specifications for proper results.
- Contact axle manufacturer for pre-heat requirements.

Installation Instructions

The installation of suspension hangers is similar in all cases.

MARNING Specific welding procedures are required for installations.

NOTE: The ground must be level and smooth.

Brake Cam Location Requirements

Brake camshafts are located to the rear of the axle and chambers underneath the axle within 20° of centerline. The installer must check for adequate clearances if the brake camshafts are located in a different position. Ensure that the axle seats provide brake chamber and brake camshaft assembly clearances.

Hanger Installation

1. For all models, the hanger center-to-center dimension is based on the axle spread requirement. Mark the centerline of the equalizer from the king pin on the sub-frame. The following figures show the typical setups for MS2200, MS2500, and MS3000. Location of the centerline will vary based on axle centers.



- 2. Locate and mark the front of the front hanger from the centerline of the equalizer.
- 3. Locate and mark the rear of the rear hanger from the centerline of the equalizer.
- Clamp or tack weld the hangers in position to sub-frame. Verify that the brackets are secure both horizontally and vertically. Verify that the hangers are square in the frame. Hanger centers should be in line within 1/16".

Add 1.25" OD. schedule 40 pipe cross tube (supplied by installer) to front and center hangers of models MS22XX and MS25XX. (NOT REQUIRED FOR MS3000). Add ¼" (minimum) steel braces (supplied by installer) to front and center hangers of MS22XX and MS3000 (NOT REQUIRED FOR MS25XX).



Figure 3 Hanger Installation

- 5. The hangers shown (Figures 3) reflect the minimum required reinforcement. When suspension is mounted on the sub-frame, or subjected to heavy-duty service, hanger bracing should be increased accordingly. Gusset material must be 1/4" minimum
- 6. Ensure brackets are square with the frame and secure both horizontally and vertically.

Non-bolted Flanged Brackets

- a. Flanged brackets clamp or tack weld the hangers into the proper position.
- b. Hanger center lines should be within +/- .06" (1.6mm) laterally and longitudinally.

Bolted Flanged Brackets

- a. Drill and ream all holes in frame and hangers for bolts.
- b. Install and tighten all fasteners.

NOTE: Fasteners must be SAE grade-8, .625" (5/8) minimum, with suitable locknuts and flat structural washers. On aluminum frames, backing plates should be used and properly treated to prevent electrolysis.

7. Tighten flange mount hanger fasteners per torque chart.

NOTE: Front hanger installations shown typical for all hangers.



Figure 5 MS2500 Hanger Installations (Cross-Tube)









REFERENCE FIGURE 3

Figure 7 MS2200 Center Hanger (Cross-Tube and Brace)

Axle Seat Installation

NOTE: Review the entire installation procedures below before beginning the axle seat installation.

WARNING: If axle seats are not parallel the vehicle may lean to one side.

- 1. If the axle is Cambered, locate and mark the upper camber line on the axle.
- 2. Position the axle seats on the axle at the correct spring center spacing. This should be the same distance as the distance between right (CURB) side hanger's center line and left (ROAD) side hanger's center line.
- 3. If the axle is Cambered, the center line of spring bolt hole on the axle seat must pass through the axle camber line.
- 4. Upper surface of axle seats must be parallel to each other to with-in +/- 1/16", or the trailer could lean.

NOTE: Check for clearance with the brake chamber and camshaft.

- 5. Check fit of axle seats and bottom plates before welding.
- 6. Securely clamp the Axle seats in position and tack weld front and rear (Do not tack weld in the "No Weld Zone' which will include the axle camber line).



Figure 8 Axle Assembly

7. Weld the axle seats to the axle. Do not weld 1 ¹/₂" each side of the axle center line. The spring beams and U-bolts should not be attached to the seat during weld.



Figure 9 No Weld Zone

- 8. Position spring on axle seat. Refer to drawings or figure 12 for proper orientation of spring hooks. Secure the spring in place with the top and/or bottom plate, U-bolts, and nuts provided.
- 9. Recheck springs for proper spring spacing and alignment. Tighten U-bolts per torque chart.

NOTE: Spring liners needed on the top side only when one, two, or three leaf springs is used. If axle seat spacers are used they must be welded to the axle seat, front and rear.



Figure 10 Leaf Springs on Axle (No Weld Zone)



Figure 11 Equal Spacing Between Side of Leaf Spring and Hanger



Figure 12 Spring Hook End Orientation

Axle to Hanger Assembly Installation and Preliminary Alignment

- 1. Position the axle and spring assembly between the hangers.
- 2. Secure the torque arms between the front and center hangers.
- 3. Install the spring rollers and bolts (1/2" or 5/8", see drawing)in the equalizer and rear hanger.

NOTE: See assembly drawings for dimensions and special installation requirements.



Figure 13 Axle to Hanger Assembly

- 4. Check to see that springs are seated, interference-free and on all bearing surfaces. Install fasteners to hold torque arms. Do not apply torque.
- 5. Position the frame at the desired mounting height and perform preliminary rough alignment by centering axle laterally, and aligning axles squarely with respect to the frame to within 1/8".
- 6. Torque arm attaching fasteners can now be tightened per the torque chart. (For Model MS2500 see Figure 15 for Special Bushing Installation Instructions)

NOTE: Do not tighten the Torque Arm adjustable eye end clamp bolts at this time.

Final and In-Service Suspension Alignment Instructions

Before performing the following procedure, make sure the ground is level and smooth.

- 1. Release the brake system and pull the trailer forward while staying straight to prevent and/or release any suspension binding.
- 2. Use of an axle extension's and "Bazooka" type king pin post, or a suitable optical alignment device, is recommended for optimum results. Rotate the adjustable torque arm tube to align the front axle.
- 3. When the axles are aligned to +/- 1/8" tighten the torque arm clamp fasteners on the front axle per torque chart. Align the rear axle with the front axle to +/- 1/16".

NOTE: Left side and right side axle measurements should be equal to within +/- 1/16". When the axles are aligned, tighten the adjustable torque arm clamp fasteners on the rear axle per the torque chart.

4. Recheck the alignment after an initial loaded run-in period (approximately 1000 miles (1600 km)).



Figure 14 Axle Alignment

Maintenance Schedules

Leaf Spring Suspensions require scheduled maintenance to ensure continue trouble-free performance.

Recommended Maintenance Sch	edule
Pre-service inspection	
First service inspection after 1000-3000 miles (1600 – 4800 KM)	
Annual "C" Inspections	
During replacement of any parts.	
Upon discovery of any loose components.	
Torque Requirements	
Tighten 7/8" U-bolt nut	400-450 FP (540-610 NM)
Tighten 3/4" U-bolt nut	200-250 FP (271-340 NM)
Tighten 1 ¼" equalizer thru bolt	1400-1500 FP (1900-2035 NM)
Tighten 7/8" torque arm fastener	500-550 FP (680-745 NM)
Tighten 5/8" torque arm fastener	150-200 FP (200-270 NM)
Tighten 5/8" or 1/2" spring retainer nuts (spring retainers should freely roll in hangers and equalizers.)	25-30 FP (35-41 NM)
Visual Inspection	
Loose or missing fasteners.	
Cracks in hangers or axle connection brackets.	
Springs, not centered in hangers and equalizers.	
Torque values are specified with clean, lightly oiled fasteners, and s	hould only be verified with a

Torque values are specified with clean, lightly oiled fasteners, and should only be verified with a calibrated torque wrench. Failure to follow these instructions could void the warranty and may result in subsequent injury.



FP = foot-pounds (NM = Newton-Meters)

Figure 16 U-Bolt Torque Pattern

Fasteners

- Immediately tighten any and all loose fasteners. Check all components for wear and ensure mounting holes are not worn or egg shaped.
- When replacing a fastener, ensure the threads are clean, lightly oiled and not deformed. Consult the maintenance section for the correct torque specification.
- Use a calibrated torque wrench to ensure an accurate torque reading.

Alignment

Check and adjust the alignment if required after the first 1000 – 3000 loaded-miles (1600 – 4800 KM) of operation and every 12 months thereafter.

Bushings

Inspect rubber bushings during all recommended maintenance schedules for large splits, tears, and major wear. Rubber is attacked by sun, oils, and greases. Replace any bushings which have noted damage.

NOTE: If any of the above defects are noted, have vehicle checked by a qualified mechanic.

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	в	ADDED BOLT ON OPTION	7124	7/20/2009	TEG				2	2	CHART	CENTER HANGER W/EQUALIZER	R MS250X
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MS2500 TWO PIECE BUSHING INSTALLATION

TWO-PIECE TORQUE ARM BUSHING ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE

Place Compression Washer and Rubber Bushing on head of Torque Arm bolt, and insert through openings in Hanger or axle seat and through Torque Arm end opening. Lubricants ARE NOT recommended, but if absolutely necessary, use soap and water, or just plain water.

Do not use any Petroleum-Based Lubricants.

Place second Bushing, and second Compression Washer on other end of Torque Arm Bolt. Start Nut on Bolt by hand.





Center Gap

Figure 15

Figure 15

Figure 15

Figure 15

Tighten nut, partially, until all air gaps are removed between the two </br>Compression Washers.

Center and hold the Torque Arm in as close to the middle of Hanger gap as possible.

Carefully tighten the locknut to achieve a torque value between 140-160 ft. lbs. (190-220 Nm). Be sure to always keep an equal buildup of rubber on each side of the Torque arm, and the Compression Washers. If the rubber has not built up equally, or the Torque Arm is not centered, it is strongly recommended to repeat the above steps.

Do not exceed the specified torque values. The rubber will likely settle, resulting in torque readings lower than the specified values in subsequent checks. Ensure the assembly is tight and that there are no loose parts or gaps between washer, hangers and rubber bushings.

W.	DESCRIPTION	ECN	DATE	BY									ITEM	NO. Q	ΓY	PART NUMBER		DESC	RIPTION	
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Watson & Chalin



Appendix 1 Re-Torque Guidelines



WARNING: DO NOT APPLY TORQUE TO THE BOLT HEAD SIDE OF CONNECTION

(Non-Plated Clean Lubricated Thread) Torque Requirements: Apply torque to nut side of connection as specified in Table 1 below. Specified torque values are intended for non-plated lubricated threads. Use of dry or plated threads may result in bolted connection loosening prematurely and is not recommended.

Table 1: Cap Screw/Bolt (Grade 8 UNF) Torque Requirements

Cap screw/Bolt Size	3/8"	1/2"	5/8"	3/4"	7/8"	1"	1 1/8"	1 ¼"
Torque MIN ft*lbs.	25	50	150	300	500	700	900	1400
Torque MAX ft*lbs.	35	75	200	350	550	800	1000	1500

NOTE: Torque Values do not apply to air springs or lower grade fasteners.

The minimum re-torque requirement for all fasteners is after the first 1,000 to 3,000 miles (1,600 - 4,800 kms) of operation, and again with all the annual inspections thereafter.

Tighten 7/8" U-bolt nut, use pattern as shown in Figure 16	400-450 FP (540-610 NM)
Tighten 3/4" U-bolt nut, use pattern as shown in Figure 16	200-250 FP (271-340 NM)



Figure 16 U-Bolt Torque Pattern

INSTALLER RESPONSIBILITIES

Installer is responsible for installing the product in accordance with Watson & Chalin specifications and installation instructions as well as establishing and providing proper vehicle components and attachments. Installer is also responsible for establishing and verifying all clearance for suspension components, brake components, axles, wheels, tires, and other vehicle components to ensure a safe and sound operation.



Watson Suspension Systems

TWO YEAR - 200,000 MILE WARRANTY MS SERIES Mechanical suspensions

ITEM	MONTHS	MILEAGE	COVERAGE
MAJOR COMPONENTS	0-12	0-100,000	PARTS & LABOR
WATSON & CHALIN	12-24	100,001-200,000	PARTS ONLY

ALL OTHER COMPONENTS, INCLUDING SPRINGS, ARE UNDER THE ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS WARRANTY.

When properly installed and assembled, Watson & Chalin Manufacturing, Inc. (Watson & Chalin) warranties each suspension to be free from defects in material and workmanship with normal use and service, subject to the limitations herein provided. The sole responsibility of Watson & Chalin under this warranty is to repair or replace, at the company factory, any parts which it manufactures that have been examined by Watson & Chalin and deemed as defective. These parts must be returned to Watson & Chalin, with transportation charges prepaid (no COD or collect shipments will be accepted), within the time schedule indicated above, following the original installation.

There are no other warranties expressed or implied of merchantability or otherwise. This warranty does not apply to failures resulting from improper installation, neglect, accident, misuse, or operation beyond the rated capacity of the suspension system or the vehicle to which it is attached. Nor does this warranty apply to any parts which have been altered or repaired without the express written consent of Watson & Chalin, and in no event shall Watson & Chalin be liable for incidental or consequential damages of any nature. Watson & Chalin must authorize all repairs at a cost determined and approved by Watson & Chalin before any repairs are started. To obtain an RGA #, (Return Goods Authorization), contact Watson & Chalin at:

WATSON & CHALIN MANUFACTURING, INC. 725 E. UNIVERSITY DRIVE McKINNEY, TEXAS 75069 (972) 547-6020 (800) 445-0736 FAX (972) 542-0097

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10/21/05