

HOPE Car Bed

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Made in USA

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HOPE Car Bed

Instructions for Use



Merritt Manufacturing Inc

Instruction Manual to be Stored between the vertical head piece and the plastic shell

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Message to Medical Personnel and Caregivers

- This car bed is designed for children with special healthcare needs.
- It is critical that a child be fully evaluated by his or her medical professional before using this car bed. Use of the supine, prone or side position and method of restraint must be approved by the medical professional.
- If a premature infant is transported in this car bed, they must be evaluated per the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations for “Safe Transportation of Premature and Low Birth Weights Infants” (RE9617).

Limited Warranty

LIMITATIONS OF WARRANTIES AND OTHER WARRANTY TERMS AND STATES' LAW

MERRITT FULLY DISCLAIMS AND MAKES NO IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR USE, AND MAKES NO EXPRESS WARRANTIES BEYOND THOSE STATED HERE. NOTWITHSTANDING THE FOREGOING, IF ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES ARE DEEMED.

TO BE GIVEN BECAUSE THE APPLICABLE LAW PROHIBITS THEIR EXCLUSION, THEN ANY SUCH IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, SHALL BE LIMITED TO THE DURATION AND TERMS OF THE EXPRESS WRITTEN WARRANTY. SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW THE LIMITATION OF IMPLIED WARRANTIES, LIMITATIONS ON HOW LONG AN IMPLIED WARRANTY LASTS OR THE EXCLUSION OR LIMITATION OF INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES. THEREFORE, IN THOSE STATES, THE LIMITATIONS LISTED ABOVE MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU. THIS WARRANTY AFFORDS YOU WITH SPECIFIC LEGAL RIGHTS AND YOU MAY HAVE ADDITIONAL RIGHTS, DEPENDING ON THE STATE IN WHICH YOU RESIDE.

BINDING ARBITRATION

Any dispute, controversy or claim (whether in contract, tort or otherwise, whether pre-existing, present or future, and including statutory, common law, intentional torts and equitable claims) against Merritt, its agents, employees, successors, assigns or affiliates (collectively for purposes of this warranty, “Merritt”), arising from or relating to this warranty and agreement, its interpretation, or the breach, termination or validity thereof, the relationships which result from this warranty and agreement (including, to the full extent permitted by applicable law, relationships with third parties who are not parties to this warranty and agreement), SHALL BE RESOLVED EXCLUSIVELY AND FINALLY BY BINDING ARBITRATION ADMINISTERED BY THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION under its code of procedure then in effect. Any award of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on each of the parties and may be entered as a judgment in any court of competent jurisdiction. Information for submitting claims with the American Arbitration Association may be obtained at www.adr.org.

Limited Warranty

Merritt Manufacturing, Inc. (Merritt) provides the following limited warranty on the HOPE car bed.

Merritt warrants to the original purchaser of the HOPE car bed that, if properly used strictly in accordance with the instructions and specifications included in the original packaging, it shall be free from defects in materials or workmanship for a period of one (1) year from the date of original purchase. Proof of purchase is required, including, but not limited to furnishing to Merritt proof that the owner registration card was returned to Merritt within thirty days of the original purchase or furnishing to Merritt proof of purchase that identifies the claimant as the original purchaser. If any component covered by this warranty fails for reasons covered by this warranty, Merritt will, at its option, provide the original purchaser with repair or replacement components for the covered product or component. This limited warranty is available only for purchasers in the United States and Canada. Merritt reserves the right to discontinue or change fabrics, parts, models or products, or to make substitutions. Please note that the upholstery fabric is subject to some degree of wear as a result of normal use. This kind of normal wear is not covered under warranty.

To make a claim under this warranty, you must contact Merritt via telephone at (317) 409-0148 or write to the company using the address on the back cover of this booklet. PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL THE OWNER REGISTRATION CARD WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF PURCHASE TO PRESERVE YOUR WARRANTY RIGHTS.

WARRANTY LIMITATIONS

This warranty does not include damages due to external sources, including, but not limited to accident, negligence, misuse, neglect, alteration, repair, improper installation, improper testing or use that is not in conformance with the instructions and specifications in the instruction booklet.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY AND DAMAGES

THE WARRANTY AND REMEDIES SET FORTH ABOVE ARE THE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE REMEDIES AND ARE PROVIDED IN LIEU OF ALL OTHERS, ORAL OR WRITTEN, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED. IN NO EVENT WILL MERRITT, OR THE RETAILER/DISTRIBUTOR SELLING THIS PRODUCT, BE LIABLE TO THE PURCHASER, OR ANY USER OF THIS RESTRAINT OR OTHER THIRD PARTY, FOR ANY DAMAGES; INCLUDING LOST PROFITS, LOST BUSINESS, INCIDENTAL, INDIRECT, SPECIAL, CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES. IN NO EVENT SHALL MERRITT OR ITS AFFILIATED COMPANIES BE LIABLE OR RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY AMOUNT OF DAMAGES ABOVE THE AGGREGATE DOLLAR AMOUNT PAID BY THE CUSTOMER FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE PRODUCT COVERED BY THIS WARRANTY.

WARNING! FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING WARNINGS CAN RESULT IN DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY TO YOUR CHILD:

- Use only with children who weigh between 4.5 and 35 pounds (2.0 and 15.9 kg) and whose height is between 13 and 29 inches (33 and 73.7 cm).
- Snugly adjust the belts provided with this child restraint around your child.
- Secure this child restraint with a vehicle belt.
- Follow all instructions on this child restraint and in the written instructions located in the storage area on the front of the car bed.
- Register your child restraint with the manufacturer.
- Always position car bed (child restraint) with child's head toward the center of the vehicle.
- Add-on child restraint systems should be securely belted to the vehicle, even when they are not occupied, since in a crash an unsecured child restraint system may injure other occupants.
- When using the 3-point harness, make sure that the straps are snug. A snug strap should not allow any slack. It lies in a relatively straight line without sagging. It does not press on the child's flesh or push the child's body into an unnatural position.
- This child restraint conforms to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards. This Restraint is not Certified for Use on Aircraft.
- Child restraints could be recalled for safety reasons. You must register this restraint to be reached in a recall. Send your name, address, e-mail address if available, and the restraint's model number and manufacturing date to P.O. Box 17152 Indianapolis, IN 46217 or call 1-317-409-0148. For recall information, call the U.S. Government's Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153), or go to <http://www.NHTSA.gov>.
- According to accident statistics, children are safer when properly restrained in the rear seating positions than in the front seating positions.

WARNINGS, Cont.

- You must use two vehicle belts to attach car bed to vehicle seat. Use two lap/shoulder belts, or one lap/shoulder belt and center lap belt, or two lap belts.
- Before using the HOPE car bed — a Healthcare Professional must be consulted and agree that the child can be safely transported in this car bed and the restraint type and position selected has been approved for the medical condition of the child.
- Do not install or use this car bed until instructions have been read and fully understood. Call Customer Service at 317-409-0148 with questions.
- Car bed must be installed in the rear seating position located behind the front seat passenger position.
- Do not install the car bed in the front seat of the vehicle or close to an active frontal air bag.
- Never transport a child in this car bed without an attendant or parent's observation and supervision.
- Never leave a child un-attended in this car bed.
- If this car bed is involved in a vehicle accident/crash, it must be evaluated and pass the NHTSA criteria for "Child Restraint Re-use after Minor Crashes" before continued use. Information at: www.nhtsa.gov (For details see page 48 of this manual).
- Never install car bed on a rear facing or side facing seating position.
- Never use the car bed if parts are missing.
- Proper installation of car bed and use of restraint systems listed in these instructions must be strictly followed.
- Pillows, extra bedding or blankets are not permitted as part of the restraint system.

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intentionally.**

**All medical equipment in the
vehicle must be properly secured.**

Vehicle Accident — Replacement Policy

HOPE Car Bed Replacement Policy

If your car bed is involved in a vehicle accident/crash, it must be evaluated and pass the NHTSA criteria for “Child Restraint Re-use after Minor Crashes” before continued use. See NHTSA test below:

Call Merritt Manufacturing customer Service at (317) 409-0148 for clarification of inspection steps and EPS foam evaluation for continued use or possible replacement.

Car beds involved in an accident that fail one or more of the NHTSA minor crash criteria below must be replaced.

NHTSA Minor Crash Evaluation

Minor crashes are those that meet ALL the following criteria:

- The vehicle was able to be driven away from the crash site;
- The vehicle door nearest the safety seat (Car Bed) was undamaged;
- There were no injuries to any of the vehicle occupants;
- The airbags (if present) did not deploy; AND
- There is no visible damage to the safety seat (Car Bed).

WARNINGS, Cont.

- The HOPE car bed, at this time, cannot be installed and transported on a hospital gurney in an emergency vehicle or hospital aircraft.
- It is recommended that children be transported on their back (supine position) in the restraint bag or in 3-point harness.
- If a child must be transported on his or her stomach (prone) position because of a medical condition, it must be approved by a healthcare professional.
- If a child must be transported on their side because of a medical condition, it must be approved by a healthcare professional. A side facing restraint bag must be used when transporting a child on their side. The right side is the only side position that can be used. **Never transport a child on his or her left side.**
- The cummerbund must always be used with the restraint bag and 3-point restraint system.
- Parents and caregivers must be instructed by medical professionals on how to properly monitor a child during the use of this car bed.

Child Weight and Height Restrictions

Use only for children who weigh between
4.5 and 35 pounds (2.0 and 15.9 kg.)

Small Restraint Bag 4.5 to 10 pounds (See Page 13 for Clarification)
Large Restraint Bag over 10 to 35 pounds
3-Point Harness over 10 to 35 pounds

Use only for children whose height is between
13 and 29 inches (33.0 and 73.7cm)
taller if legs are permitted to bend.

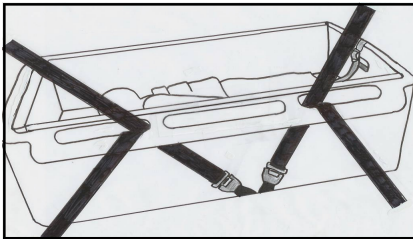
Vehicle Seat Belt Compatibility

NOTE: Two vehicle seat belts must be used to attach car bed to vehicle seat.

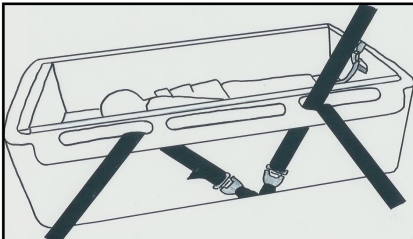
Options are:

- 2 lap/shoulder belts, or
- 1 lap/shoulder belt and center lap belt, or
- 2 lap belts

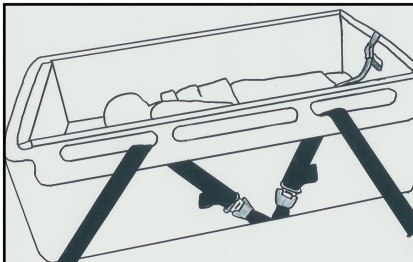
NOTE: Never use the seat belt position behind the driver. Always use the seat belt positions behind the passenger and the center position.



Two Lap-Shoulder Belts



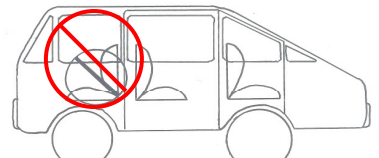
One Lap-Shoulder Belt /Center Lap Belt



Two Lap Belts



Do not install car bed in the front seat of a vehicle or near a frontal air bag.



Do not install car bed on a rear facing vehicle seat.



Do not install car bed on a side facing vehicle seat.

Additional Information

How your car bed is identified

Your car bed has a unique identification number that can be found on the inside of the car bed shell, at the head end underneath the foam pad. This ID number must be used for any inquires or returns of the car bed.

Vehicle installation assistance available

Vehicle installation assistance is available. If for any reason you experience vehicle installation difficulties, call Merritt Manufacturing: (317)-409-0148. We will assist you with specific vehicle installation information.

Instruction Manual

The instruction manual is stored between the vertical head piece and the plastic shell. If lost or misplaced, a replacement can be secured from Merritt Manufacturing, Inc. Call: (317)-409-0148.

Use of Locking Clips

The locking clip is for use in older vehicles that do not have seat belts with switchable retractors or locking latch plates.

If you have a vehicle requiring a locking clip, see page 29 for appropriate installation instructions or call Merritt Manufacturing (317-409-0148) for installation assistance.

Use of Leveling Wedge

The most effective way to level the car bed is with the gray leveling straps connected to the front seat frame. If the front seat frame is not available or the vehicle manufacturer does not allow the use of the seat frame to attach the leveling straps, the foam leveling wedge can be used as a possible option to help level the car bed on the vehicle's seat (See Page 39). The leveling wedge can also be used with the leveling straps to level the car bed on a more severely sloped vehicle seat.

Use of Medical Tube Control Strap

The medical tube control strap is designed to assist in guiding the ventilator hose and feeding tube.

Care and Cleaning

Infection Control

Cummerbunds, Cushions and Side Panel Covers

EPS side panels and the bottom cushion are covered with medical grade anti-microbial naugahyde material and can be cleaned by wiping down with mild soap and water or bleach free approved hospital disinfectants.

Do not use bleach. The side panels and cushion must not be submerged in water or cleaner. Do not iron.

Plastic Shell

The shell can be cleaned with mild soap and warm water. Wipe dry.

Do not use strong chemicals or bleach.

Harness Webbing

Harness webbing can be cleaned with mild detergent and warm water. Do not machine wash — **Do not use bleach.** The Harness webbing must not be submerged in water or cleaner. Do not machine dry. Do not iron.

Buckle and Chest Clip

Rinse under warm water only. Allow to drain and dry before reusing.

Never lubricate or use bleach or any type of detergents.

Restraint Bag

Hand wash with mild soap in warm water, allow to drip air dry.

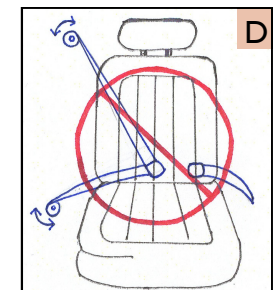
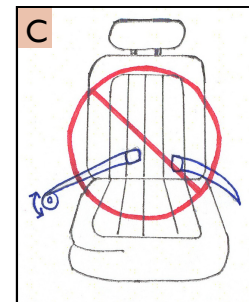
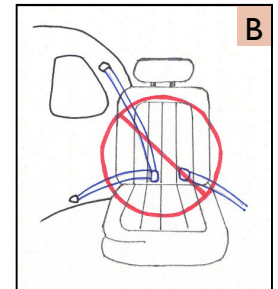
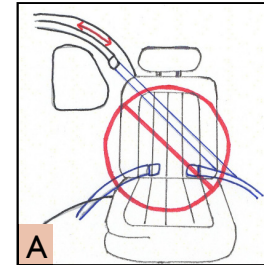
Do not machine dry. — Do not iron. — Do not dry clean.

Do not use bleach.

Vehicle Seat Belt Compatibility, Cont.

NOTE: Do not use the following types of vehicle seat belts with this car bed:

- Automatic motor driven vehicle belts (Figure A).
- Vehicle belts with the top and/or bottom anchor attached to the vehicle door (Figure B).
- Lap belt with an emergency locking retractor (ELR), which means the lap belt will only lock in a sudden stop or crash (Figure C).
- Combination lap-shoulder belt with two retractors. The best way to identify this condition is to observe the latch plate (see arrow). Both the lap and shoulder belt portions will be sewn to it so that it cannot slide (Figure D).



Vehicle Seat Belt Compatibility, Cont.

NOTE: The following types of seat belts can be used. Read your vehicle owner's manual and Pages 24-31 of this manual to determine the correct way to lock your seat belt.

- Combination lap-shoulder belt with a sliding latch plate.
This type of seat belt has a latch plate (Figure A) that slides freely up and down the webbing. The latch plate does not lock.
- Combination lap-shoulder belt with a locking latch plate.
This type of seat belt has a latch plate (Figure B, yours may differ) that locks into place for securing child restraints.
- A lap belt with a locking latch plate (Figure C).
This type of seat belt stays locked after the seat belt is tightened by pulling the free end (See Arrow).



Securing Child in Side Facing Restraint Bag



1. Side facing restraint bag to be installed in car bed using same method outlined in installation steps found on pages 16 - 19.

Note: There is only one zipper in the side facing restraint bag. (Fig. A)

2. Place child on her right side in side facing restraint bag. Position the left arm through the top arm slot and close the zipper. (Fig. B)
3. Position the child's right arm through the lower arm slot so the child is not laying on their arm (Fig. C)
4. Once child is securely positioned in the side facing restraint bag, position the cummerbund around child and attach Velcro in place. (Fig. D)

Important Notes:

Small side facing restraint bag rated 4.5 to 10 pounds

See Important Caution regarding restraint bag selection on Page 13.

Large side facing restraint bag rated 10 to 35 pounds

Never position child on their left side in side facing restraint bag.

CAUTION:

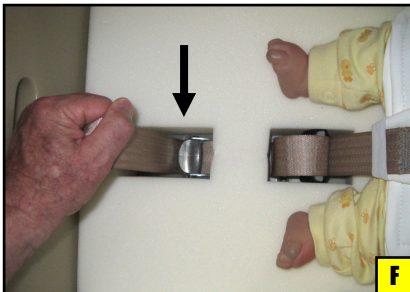
If the zipper becomes broken, or does not function properly, do not use car bed and call customer service immediately.

Securing Child in 3-Point Harness, Cont.



- Adjust buckle to desired location on child (per medical professional). Pull free end of strap to shorten. Push button and pull other end of strap to lengthen (Fig. E).

NOTE: In Step 6, make sure that the straps are snug. A snug strap should not allow any slack. It lies in a relatively straight line without sagging. It does not press on the child's flesh or push the child's body into an unnatural position.



- Tighten harness by pulling the adjuster strap located at lower end of bottom cushion under fabric flap (Fig F).



- Be sure harness is positioned on child's shoulders and snugly adjusted around child (Fig G).

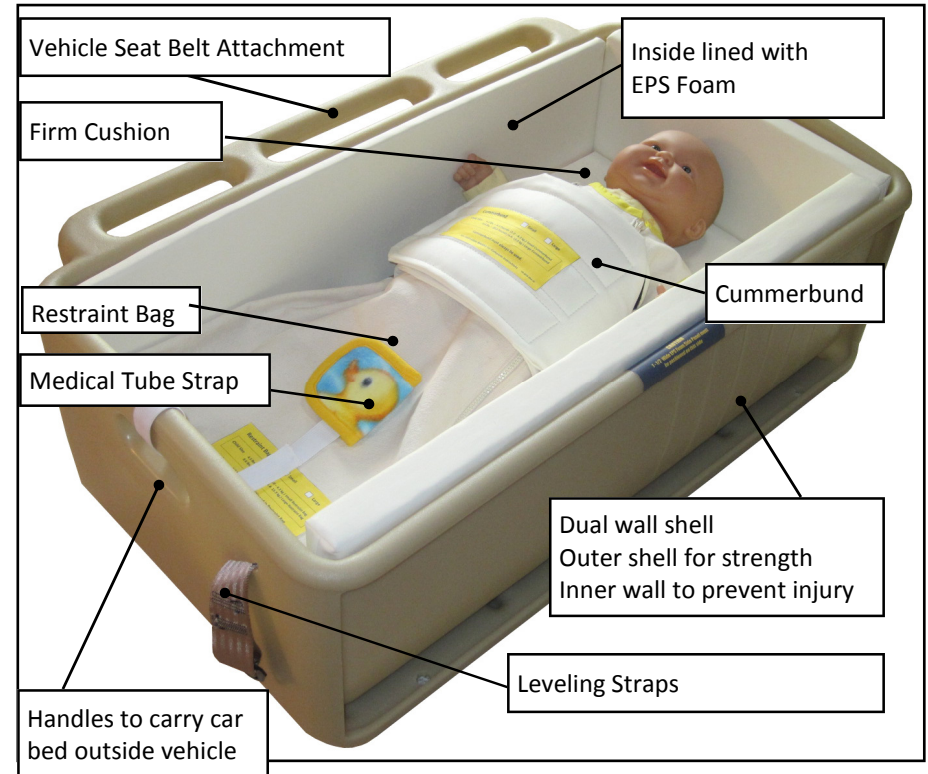
- Be sure buckle is securely attached and chest clip adjusted to arm pit level (Fig. G).



CAUTION:
The recommended position for the child is on his or her back (Fig. G). If child's medical condition requires that child must be positioned on his or her stomach (Fig. H), then you must consult and receive approval for such positioning from your child's medical professional.

HOPE Car Bed Features

Car Bed size: 14.25" width X 29" long
Child's Weight Range: 4.5 to 35 lbs.
Child's Height Range: 13" and 29"
(Taller, if legs are permitted to bend)



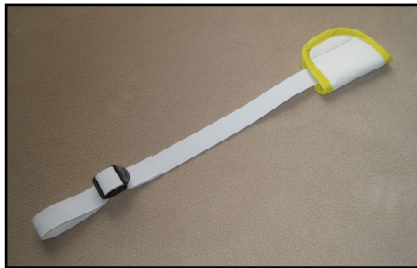
This child restraint conforms to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards. This Restraint is not Certified for Use on Aircraft.

Car Bed Accessories



Installation Video

Available Upon Request.



Medical Tube Control Strap

Provided with car bed as a standard part.

Replacements available.



Locking Clip

Two locking clips provided with car bed as a standard part.

Replacements available.



Buckle Pad

Provided with car bed as a standard part.

Replacements available.

Securing Child in 3-Point Harness



3-Point Harness with cummerbund

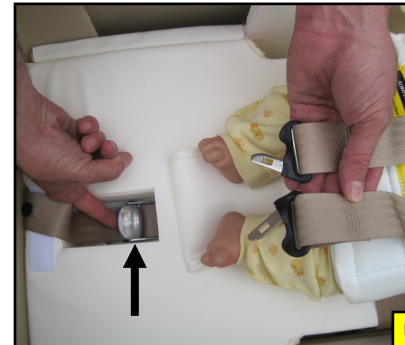
Weight Range: Over 10 Pounds to 35 Pounds

Height Range: Car bed will transport a child up to 29 inches in height. If the child's legs are permitted to bend, the car bed can transport a child taller than 29 inches.



NOTE: Verify that the cummerbund and 3-point harness have been installed according to Pages 20 - 23.

Important: Child must be at least 10 pounds and not more than 35 pounds to use the 3-pt harness. The large cummerbund must also be used with the 3-point harness.



1. Open cummerbund and 3-pt harness (Fig. A).
2. Place child in car bed. Place large cummerbund firmly around child. Fasten Velcro in place (Fig. B).
3. Lengthen harness by lifting the lever (See arrow—Figure C) located at lower end of bottom cushion under fabric flap (Fig C) and pull harness to desired length.



4. Place shoulder straps over the shoulders. Connect buckle and chest clip. Cummerbund will provide cushion between child and buckle/chest clip (Fig. D).

Note: Proceed to Step 5 on next page.

Securing Child in Restraint Bag, Cont.



- Tighten the shoulder straps by pulling the adjuster strap located at the lower part of the bottom cushion under the flap (Fig. H).

Child's Height.

Car bed will transport a child up to 29 inches in height. If the child's legs are permitted to bend, the car bed can transport a child taller than 29 inches.



CAUTION: The recommended position for the child is on his or her back (Fig. K). If child's medical condition requires that child must be positioned on his or her stomach (Fig. I) or on his or her side (Fig. J), then you must consult and receive approval for such positioning from your child's medical professional.



Medical Tube Control

If child's condition requires a ventilator, the medical tube control strap can be used (Fig. K). There are also two openings in the bottom of the restraint bag for monitor lead wires. There is a slot in the middle of the restraint bag for G-Tube access. Ventilator tubing must remain outside of the restraint bag and cummerbund.

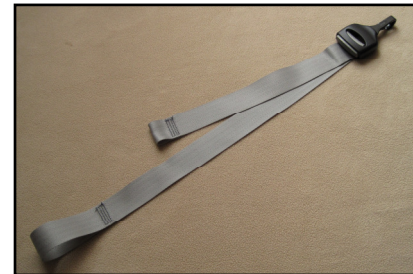


Car Bed Accessories, Cont.



Leveling Wedge

Foam leveling wedge can be used to help level car bed on a more severely sloped seat. Replacement Available.



Leveling Straps

Leveling Straps provided with car bed as a standard part.

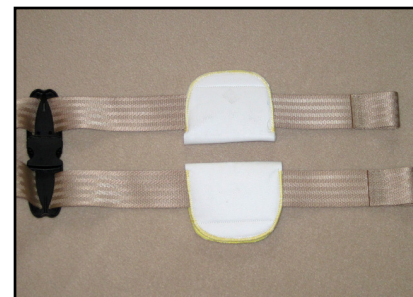
Replacement Available.



3-Point Harness

3-point harness provided with car bed as a standard part.

Replacement harness is available.



Shoulder Pads

Two shoulder pads provided with car bed as a standard part.

Replacement shoulder pads are available.

Restraint Bag Selection and Sizing



Small Restraint Bag with small cummerbund

Weight Range: 4.5 to 10 Pounds
(Figure A).

See Important Caution regarding
restraint bag selection on Page 13.



Large Restraint Bag with large cummerbund

Weight Range: Over 10 Pounds to 35
Pounds (Figure B).

See Important Caution regarding
restraint bag selection on Page 13.



Small Side Facing Restraint Bag with small cummerbund Large Side Facing Restraint Bag with large cummerbund

Right side position only (Figure C)
**Only with Medical Professional Ap-
proval**

Small Size - 4.5 - 10 Pounds
Large Size - Over 10 - 35 Pounds

See Important Caution regarding
restraint bag selection on Page 13.

Securing Child in Restraint Bag, Cont.



NOTE: You **MUST** select the type of
restraint (restraint bag or 3-point
harness) that is appropriate for
your child's size (See Pages 12 and
13) and medical condition (Consult
with your medical professional).

NOTE: Verify that the cummerbund
and restraint bag have been
installed according to Pages 14 - 19.

1. Open both zippers to provide
opening for child (Fig. D).
2. Place child in restraint bag.
Make sure arms and neck are
properly inserted (Fig. E).
3. Close both zippers fully (Fig. F).
4. Place cummerbund firmly
around child. Fasten Velcro in
place (Fig. G).

CAUTION:
If either zipper becomes broken,
or does not function properly,
do not use car bed and call cus-
tomer service immediately.

Securing Child in Restraint Bag



A
Small Restraint Bag
with small cummerbund

Weight Range: 4.5 to 10 Pounds
(Figure A).

See Important Caution regarding
restraint bag selection on Page 13.



B
Large Restraint Bag
with large cummerbund

Weight Range: Over 10 Pounds to 35
Pounds (Figure B).

See Important Caution regarding
restraint bag selection on Page 13.



C
Small Side Facing Restraint Bag
with small cummerbund
Large Side Facing Restraint Bag
with large cummerbund

Right side position only (Figure C)
**Only with Medical Professional Ap-
proval**

Small Size - 4.5 - 10 Pounds
Large Size - Over 10 - 35 Pounds

See Important Caution regarding
restraint bag selection on Page 13.

CAUTION:

If child's medical condition requires that child must be positioned on his or her stomach (prone position) or on his or her side, then you must consult and receive approval for such positioning from your child's medical professional.

3-Point Harness Sizing



D
3-Point Harness
with cummerbund

Weight Range: Over 10 Pounds to 35
Pounds (Figure D).

Important Cautions

Always consult a medical professional before the selection of the type of restraint used.

It is recommended that the child be transported in the supine (on his back) position using the restraint bag or 3-point harness, unless the medical condition requires that the child be transported in the prone position (on her stomach). The prone position must have medical approval.

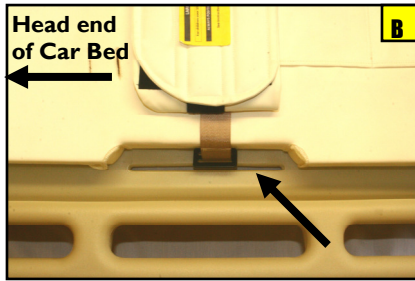
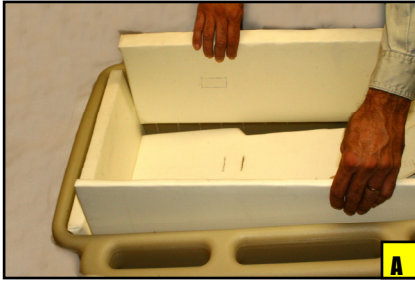
Restraint Bag Selection

The strength of the small and large restraint bags are the same. Restraint bag selection must be based on child's body and shoulder size. The child's head size, body type, or presence of a cast can cause his weight to reach 10 lbs. before he is physically ready to be moved to the large restraint bag. The small restraint bags (including side facing) are labeled with a weight range of 4.5 to 10 lbs. However, the child must stay in the small bag (even if above 10 lbs.) until the bag can no longer be zipped all the way up comfortably because of body, neck, or shoulder size.

Questions about restraint bag selection, medical conditions, and size can be addressed by calling:
Merritt Manufacturing at 317-409-0148.

ASSEMBLY

Attaching Cummerbund and Restraint Bag



Cummerbund Installation

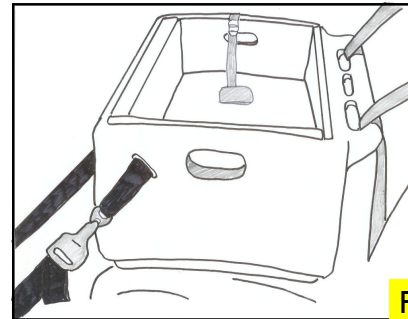
NOTE: Installation of the cummerbund and restraint bag must be done before installing the car bed in vehicle.

1. Remove the 1 ½" and 1/2" side EPS panels (Figure A) to expose the attachment slots (Fig. A).
2. Cummerbund must be positioned with the identification label right side up (When facing child, caregiver should be able to read cummerbund label (Fig. B).
3. Insert the metal anchor on right side of cummerbund into the side attachment slot (Fig. C). Lock anchor in place from the bottom (Fig. D).

INSTALLATION

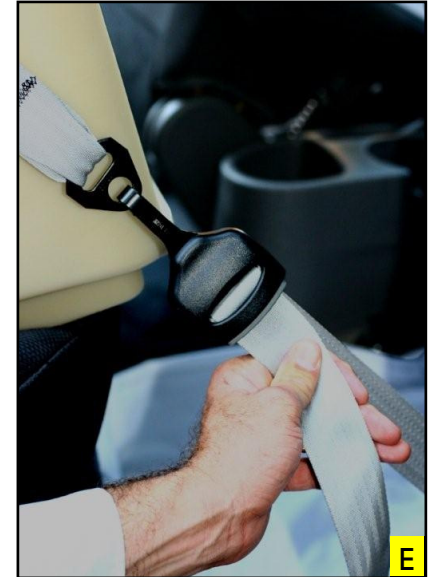
Leveling of Car Bed, Cont.

5. Repeat Steps 2-4 for the leveling strap on the other side of the car bed.
6. Tighten both leveling straps by pulling on the free end of each strap (Figure E).
7. Figure F shows the car bed with the leveling straps installed.



NOTE: If it is not possible to use the leveling straps, then the optional Leveling Wedge may be used instead.

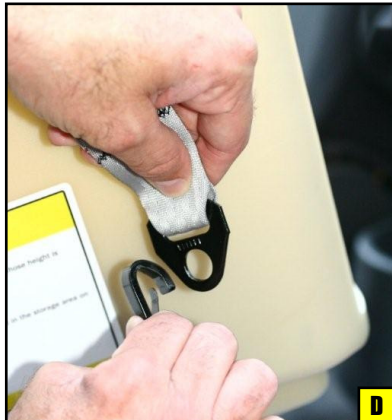
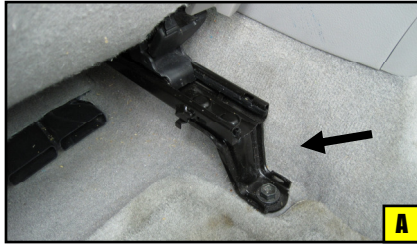
1. Simply center the wedge underneath the car bed with the thick end against the vehicle seat back (Figures G and H) prior to the installation steps on Page 33.
2. Proceed with the installation steps on Page 32.



INSTALLATION Leveling of Car Bed

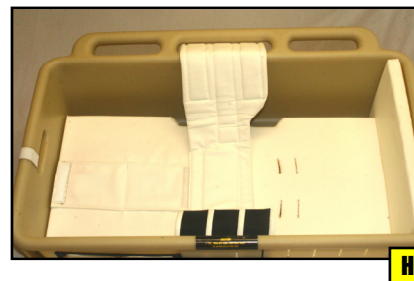
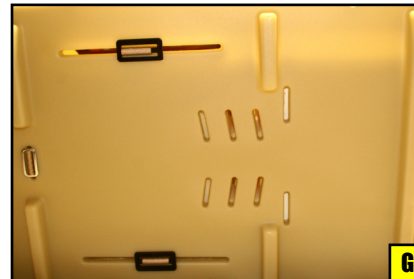
NOTE: The car bed can be leveled by installing the leveling straps to the lower frame of the front passenger seats. (See Arrow—Fig. A) **Note:** Do not attach to the vehicle seat frame if vehicle manufacturer prohibits this type installation (See Vehicle Owners Manual).

1. Move the front vehicle seats forward so that each seat frame is exposed (Fig. A).
2. Wrap the looped end of the leveling strap around the bottom of the seat frame (Figure B).
3. Insert the combo adjuster through the loop (Figure B) and pull the webbing all the way through allowing the loop to tighten around the vehicle seat frame (Fig. C).
4. Attach the snap hook on the leveling strap to the d-ring on the short strap attached to the side of the car bed (Figure D).



Attaching Cummerbund and Restraint Bag, Cont.

ASSEMBLY



4. Repeat step 3 for left side of cummerbund (Fig. E). It is necessary to compress bottom cushion to insert metal anchor on left side of cummerbund. Insert anchor and lock in place (Fig. E and F).
5. Figure G shows the cummerbund's metal anchors locked into place after completing Steps 1-4.
6. Open cummerbund to install restraint bag (Fig. H).



Restraint Bag Installation

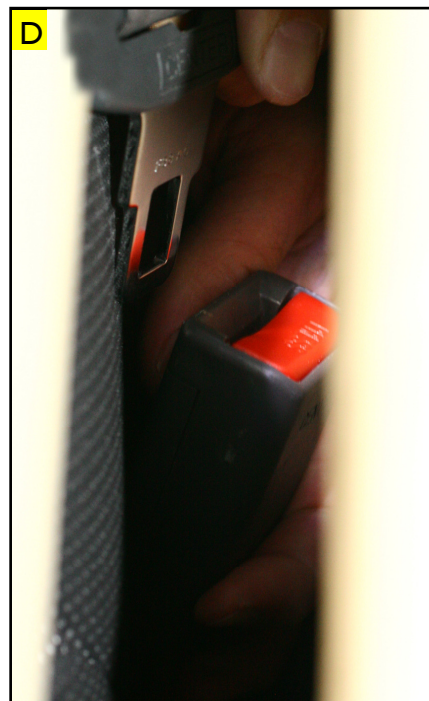
1. Lay restraint bag on top of open cummerbund. Then close cummerbund for ease of installation of restraint bag (Fig. A).



2. Insert one of the two metal anchors on the right side of the restraint bag (Fig. B). Lock the anchor in place from the bottom of the car bed (Fig. C).
3. Repeat Step 2 for the other metal anchor (See Figs. D and E).



3. Grasp the center lap belt and pull it down through the belt slot (nearest the head end of the car bed—Figure C) to its mating buckle (Figure D).



4. Attach the lap belt to the buckle (Figure D).
5. Review pages 24 - 31 to determine the appropriate method for locking both vehicle seat belts and proceed to lock them now.

INSTALLATION

Installation of Car Bed in Vehicle, Cont.

Steps 1– 5 demonstrate a lap only belt installation.

1. Grasp the lap belt located closest to the vehicle door and pull it down through the belt slot (nearest the foot end of the car bed—Figure A) to its mating buckle (Figure B).



2. Attach the lap belt to the buckle (Figure B).



Attaching Cummerbund and Restraint Bag, Cont.

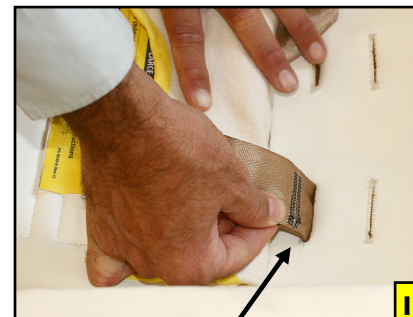
ASSEMBLY

Restraint Bag Installation, Cont.

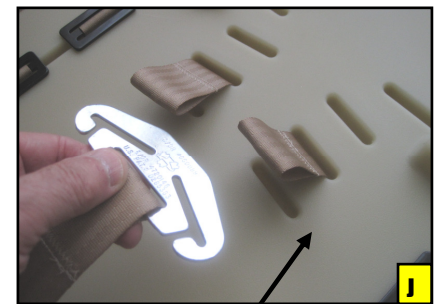
4. Repeat Steps 2 and 3 for the left side of the restraint bag (Whose metal anchors are shown in Fig. F). It is necessary to compress bottom cushion to insert metal anchors on the left side of restraint bag. Lock anchors in place from the bottom of the car bed.
5. Replace the 1/2" and 1 1/2" side EPS panel (Figure G).

NOTE:
Verify that the 1 1/2" (thicker) EPS pad is positioned on side of car bed next to the label in Figure H—See arrow).

6. Push each of the restraint bag shoulder straps through the bottom slots in the bottom cushion (Fig. I) and then through mating slots (second from bottom) in plastic shell (Fig. J).
7. Continue to pull straps through the bottom of the shell (Fig J).



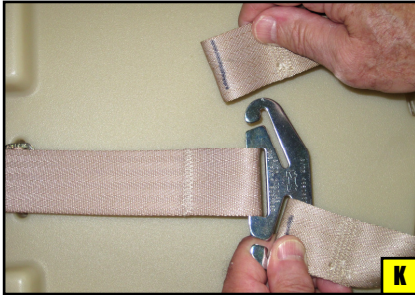
Bottom Slots (Cushion)



Bottom of Plastic Shell

ASSEMBLY

Attaching Cummerbund and Restraint Bag, Cont.



Restraint Bag Installation, Cont.

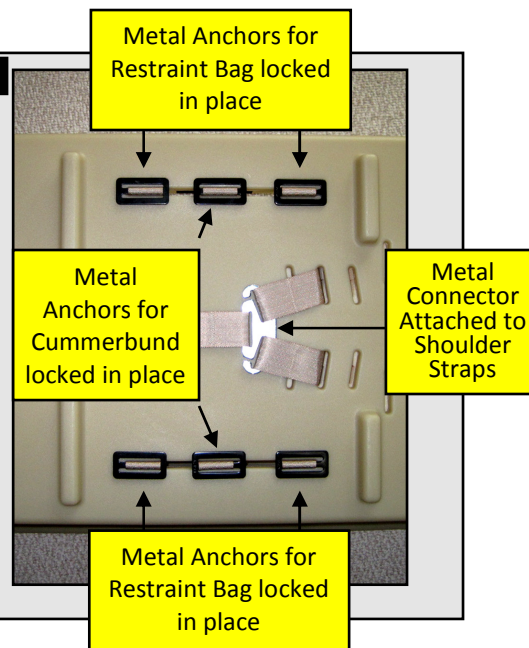
- Turn the car bed on its side. Connect the two shoulder straps to the metal connector plate (Fig. K).
- Tighten the shoulder straps by pulling the adjuster strap located at the lower part of the bottom cushion under the flap (Fig. L).



Assembly Verification

Review the bottom of the car bed to verify the following:

- 4 Metal Anchors for Restraint Bag locked in place (2 on each side)
- 2 Metal Anchors for Cummerbund locked in place (1 on each side)
- Shoulder straps attached to the metal connector plate.



Installation of Car Bed in Vehicle, Cont.

INSTALLATION

- Grasp the center lap-shoulder belt and pull it down through the belt slot (nearest the head end of the car bed—Figure D) to its mating buckle (Figure E).
- Attach the seat belt to the buckle (Figure E).
- Review pages 24 - 31 to determine the appropriate method for locking each vehicle seat belt and proceed to lock them now.



NOTE: Seat belts must be locked for secure installation of car bed.



INSTALLATION

Installation of Car Bed in Vehicle, Cont.

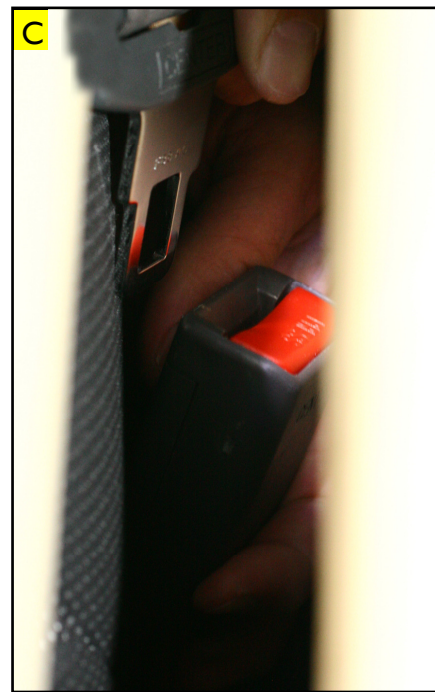
1. Place the car bed on the vehicle seat with the vehicle belt path attachment contacting the vehicle seat back (See Arrow - Figure A).

NOTE: The car bed must be installed using two vehicle seat belts. Each belt can be a “lap only” or a “lap-shoulder” belt.

Steps 2– 6 demonstrate a lap-shoulder belt installation.

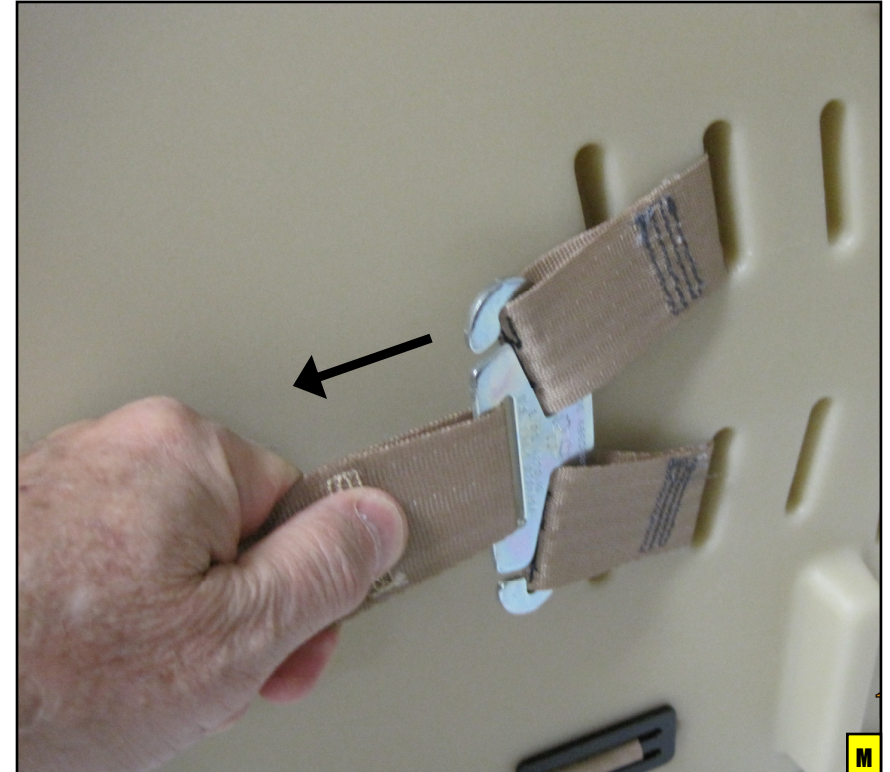
See Page 36 for Lap Belt Only

2. Grasp the lap-shoulder belt located closest to the vehicle door and pull it down through the belt slot (nearest the foot end of the car bed—Figure B) to its mating buckle (Figure C).
3. Attach the seat belt to the buckle (Figure C).



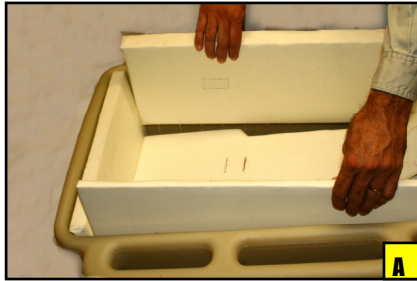
ASSEMBLY

Attaching Cummerbund and Restraint Bag, Cont.



IMPORTANT

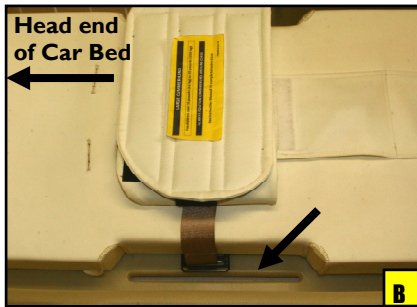
Verify that the shoulder straps are properly connected to the metal connector plate by pulling the strap as indicated in Figure M.



Cummerbund Installation

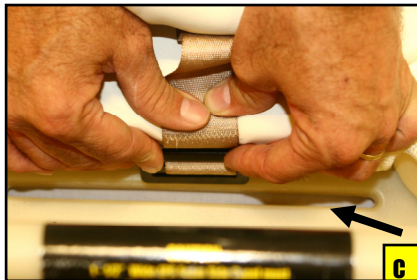
NOTE: Installation of the cummerbund and 3-point harness must be done before installing the car bed in vehicle.

NOTE: Large cummerbund must be used with 3-point harness.



1. Remove the 1 1/2" and 1/2" side EPS panels (Figure A) to expose the attachment slots (Fig. A).

2. Cummerbund must be positioned with the identification label right side up (When facing child, caregiver should be able to read cummerbund label (Fig. B).

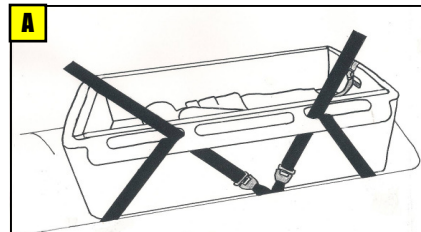


3. Insert the metal anchor on right side of cummerbund into the side attachment slot (Fig. C). Lock anchor in place from the bottom (Fig. D).

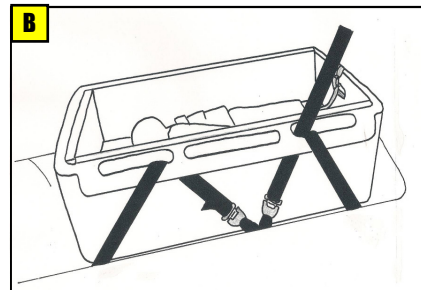


Installation Options

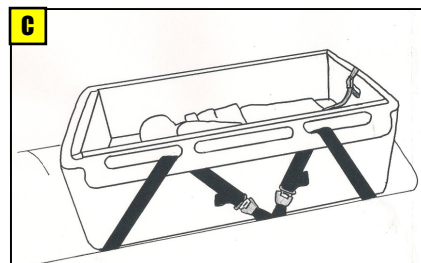
The car bed must be installed using two vehicle seat belts. Select your vehicle seat belt routing options. (See Fig A-B-C)



Two Vehicle Lap/Shoulder Belts



One Vehicle Lap/Shoulder Belt and center Lap Belt



Two Lap Belts

IMPORTANT

Review Pages 24 - 31 to determine the appropriate method for locking your vehicle seat belt.

NOTE:

For questions or concerns about the type of belts or locking method.

**Call: Merritt Manufacturing, Inc.
Phone: 317-409-0148**

NOTE:

See Page 31 for Verification of Installation.

Installation of Car Bed in Vehicle

INSTALLATION

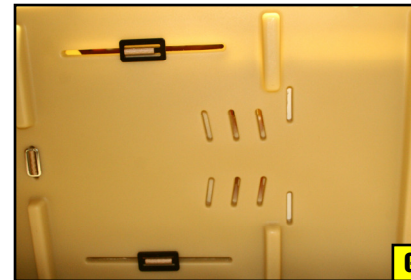
Car bed restraint type (Restraint bag or 3-point harness) and size must be selected and installed before the car bed is installed in the vehicle (See Pages 12 and 13).

1. Install car bed in back seat behind front seat passenger (Fig. A). (See Pages 24 - 31 for available seat belt attachment options).
 2. Install car bed with child's head toward center of vehicle (Fig. B).
 3. Caregiver position is located in rear seat on the left side behind the driver position (Fig. C).
- NOTE: A parent or caregiver must be available for observation of the child during transit.**
4. Car bed leveling straps can be used to keep car bed level during transit (Figs. D and E). For installation of leveling straps See Pages 38 and 39.
 5. If front seat frame attachments are not available, the optional leveling wedge may be used (See page 39).



ASSEMBLY

Attaching Cummerbund and 3-Point Harness, Cont.



4. Repeat step 3 for left side of cummerbund (Fig. E). It is necessary to compress bottom cushion to insert metal anchor on left side of cummerbund. Insert anchor and lock in place (Fig. E and F).
5. Figure G shows the cummerbund's metal anchors locked into place after completing Steps 1-4.
6. Replace the 1/2" and 1 1/2" side EPS panel (Figure H).

NOTE:
Verify that the 1 1/2" (thicker) EPS pad is positioned on side of car bed next to the label in Figure I—See arrow).



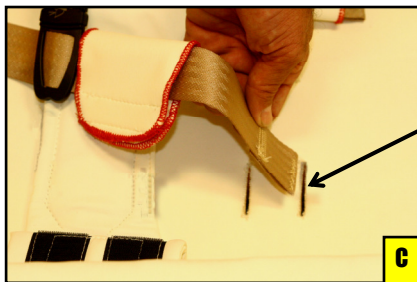
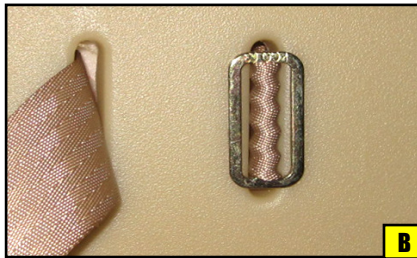
ASSEMBLY

Attaching Cummerbund and 3-Point Harness, Cont.



3-Point Harness Installation

1. Open cushion flap and insert buckle anchor into buckle slot (Fig. A).
2. Lock buckle anchor in place from the bottom (Fig. B).
3. Push both shoulder straps through the top slots in the bottom cushion (Fig. C) and then through mating slots (second from top) in plastic shell (Fig. D).
4. Turn the car bed on its side and continue to pull the shoulder straps through the bottom of the shell (Fig. D).



INSTALLATION

Locking the Vehicle Lap Only Belt

Option 4—Locking Lap Belt

1. After buckling the vehicle lap belt, press your hand down on the car bed and remove as much slack from the lap belt as possible by pulling the belt's free end (Figure A).
2. Determine if the car bed is secure as described in the section "Checking the Stability of the Car bed" below. If necessary, repeat Step 1 until the car bed is secure.



NOTE: The car bed must be installed using 2 vehicle seat belts.

Checking the Stability of the Car bed

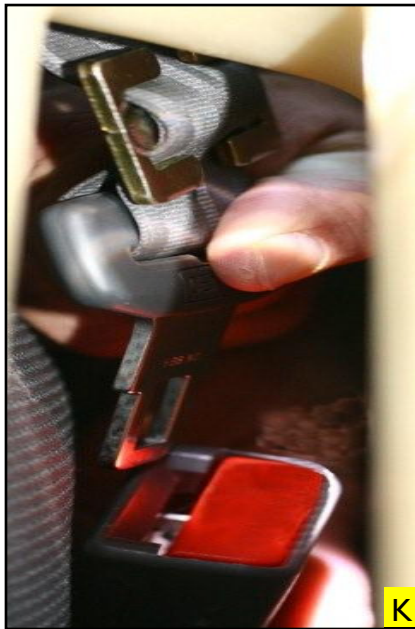
Verify that the car bed does not move more than one inch in any direction when you grasp it near the belt path and attempt to move it side to side and front to back. The car bed must remain securely installed in order to protect your child in a crash. Check your car bed frequently for a tight fit.



Locking the Vehicle Lap-Shoulder Belt, Cont. **INSTALLATION**

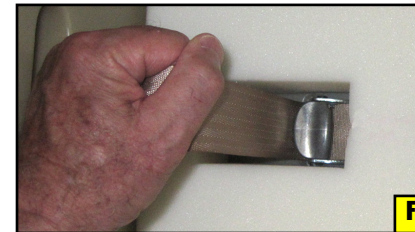
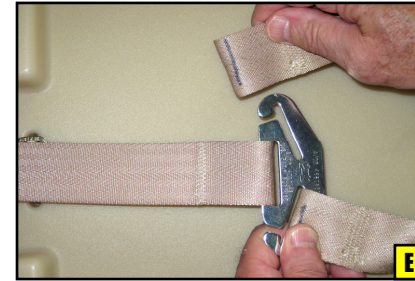
Option 3—Emergency Locking Retractor (ELR), Continued

5. While pressing your hand firmly down into the car bed (Fig. J), re-buckle the seat belt (Fig. K—View from be-hind the car bed).
6. Determine if the car bed is secure as described in the section “Checking the Stability of the Car bed” on the bottom of Page 31. If necessary, repeat Steps 1 - 5 until the car bed is secure.



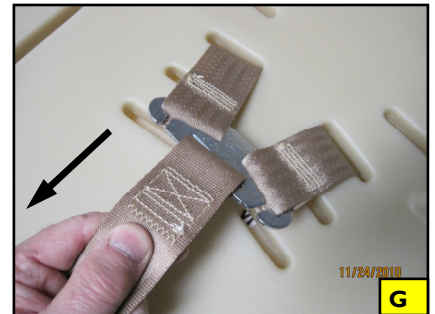
NOTE: The car bed must be installed using 2 vehicle seat belts.

ASSEMBLY Attaching Cummerbund and 3-Point Harness, Cont.



3-Point Harness Installation, Cont.

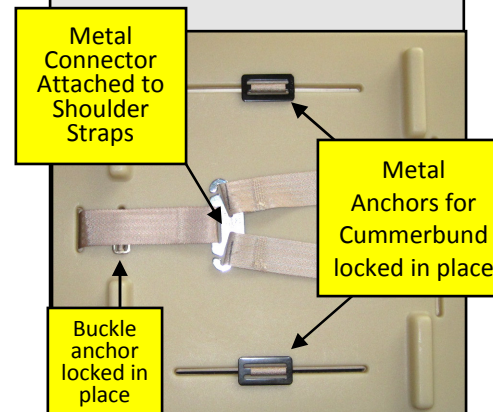
5. With the car bed on its side, connect both shoulder straps to metal connector plate (Figs. D and E)
6. Tighten the shoulder straps by pulling the adjuster strap located at the lower part of the bottom cushion under the flap (Fig. F).



Assembly Verification

Review the bottom of the car bed to verify the following:

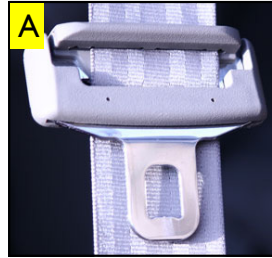
- 2 cummerbund anchors locked in place (1 each side).
- Shoulder straps attached to the metal connector plate.
- Buckle anchor locked in place.



IMPORTANT
Verify that the shoulder straps are properly connected to the metal connector plate by pulling the strap as indicated in Figure G.

Note: Pages 25-31 describe how to lock a lap-shoulder belt and a lap only belt. First, install the car bed using one of the installation methods as described on pages 32-37. Then return to this section to determine how to lock it.

- There are three primary methods for locking a lap-shoulder belt. It is important to know the correct way to lock your vehicle's lap-shoulder belt or lap only belt in order to ensure a safe installation of this car bed.
- Review your owner's manual to determine if your seat belt is designed to lock child restraints in place.
- For lap-shoulder belts, while there may be exceptions, 1996 model year vehicles or newer should have either a locking latch plate (Figure A) or a switchable retractor (Figure B).
- If your vehicle's lap-shoulder belt is equipped with an emergency locking retractor and a sliding latch plate, then the locking clip (Figure C) provided will have to be used.
- The only lap only belts allowed for use with this car bed are ones with locking latch plates (Figure D).



Option 3—Emergency Locking Retractor (ELR), Continued

4. While continuing to pinch the belts together, lift the seat belt out of the belt path and thread both portions of the vehicle seat belt into the locking clip as shown in Figures D, E, F, G, H, and I. Figure I is a view from the back side.



Option 3—Emergency Locking Retractor (ELR)

- If your owner’s manual indicates that the vehicle seat belt is equipped with an emergency locking retractor (ELR) and a sliding latch plate, then you must use a locking clip as specified below.

1. After buckling the vehicle seat belt (Figure A), press your hand firmly into the car bed and remove slack from the lap portion of the lap-shoulder belt until the car bed is as tight as possible (Figure B).



2. While keeping the shoulder portion of the seat belt tight with one hand, use your other hand to pinch the lap and shoulder belts firmly together approximately two inches from the latch plate (Figure C—photo taken from above the car bed, through the belt slot).

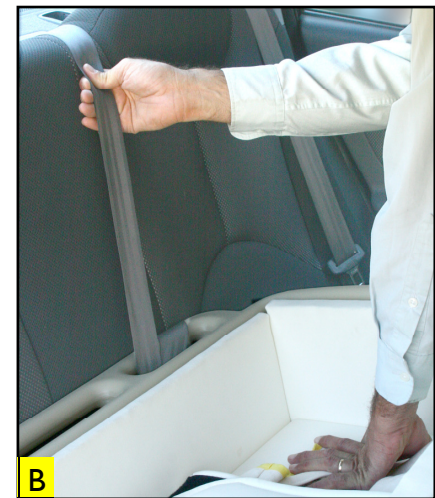


3. While continuing to pinch the belts together, release the buckle (Figure C—photo taken from above the car bed, through the belt slot).

Option 1—Locking Latch Plate, Lap-Shoulder Belt

- If your owner’s manual indicates that the vehicle lap-shoulder belt is equipped with a locking latch plate, then lock the car bed according to the following steps:

1. After buckling the vehicle seat belt, push down on the car bed with one hand and remove slack from the lap belt portion of the lap-shoulder belt by pulling up on the lower end of the shoulder portion (Fig. A).
2. While still pressing down with your hand, feed the excess webbing into the retractor (Fig. B).
3. Repeat Steps 1 and 2 until the car bed is stable as described in the section “Checking the Stability of the Car bed” on the bottom of Page 31.



NOTE: The car bed must be installed using 2 vehicle seat belts.

Option 2—Switchable Retractor

- If your owner’s manual indicates that the vehicle lap-shoulder belt is equipped with a switchable, then lock the car bed according to the following steps:

1. After buckling the vehicle seat belt, engage the retractor as specified in the vehicle instruction manual. Usually this is done by slowly pulling the shoulder portion all the way out (Fig. A) and then feeding it back into the retractor. However, there may be alternate methods in some vehicles (Read your vehicle manual).
2. Slowly pull all of the webbing out of the retractor (Figure A).
3. Feed all of the excess webbing back into the retractor (Figure B).
4. While pressing down with your hand, remove slack from the lap belt portion of the lap-shoulder belt by pulling up on the lower end of the shoulder portion (Fig. C).



Option 2—Switchable Retractor, Continued

5. While still pressing down with your hand, feed the excess webbing into the retractor (Fig. D).
6. Repeat Steps 4 and 5 until the car bed is stable as described in the section “Checking the Stability of the Car bed” on the bottom of Page 31. The shoulder belt must be locked in place, not allowing any webbing to be pulled from the retractor.



NOTE: The car bed must be installed using 2 vehicle seat belts.