



BrakeBuddy®

Dedicated to towing safety™

Phone (800) 470-2287
Brakebuddy.com

INSTALLATION MANUAL

Congratulations on the purchase of your new BrakeBuddy! The BrakeBuddy was designed and built as an auxiliary braking system to operate in conjunction with the existing braking system in your towed vehicle.

Use of the BrakeBuddy in a manner inconsistent with these instructions may result in serious personal injury or death and may cause serious property damage.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

You must carefully read and understand these instructions prior to the use of this product. If you have any questions after reading these instructions, please call BrakeBuddy customer service at 1-800-470-2287.

1. Remove the BrakeBuddy and components from the shipping carton. The complete system consists of:

- Main BrakeBuddy Unit
- Break Away System
- Clevis Assembly
- Remote Alert System

2. Press the "Drain" button (A) to ensure there is no air pressure inside the unit (Figure 1).
3. Install the breakaway system by following the step-by-step instructions included with the breakaway kit.
4. Attach the lock nut and clevis assembly to the air cylinder (Figure 2).
5. Adjust the driver's seat to the far back position (Figure 3). Place the BrakeBuddy on the floorboard between the seat and the brake pedal. Slide the BrakeBuddy back against the seat for maximum working room. If for some reason the BrakeBuddy does not fit your vehicle properly, please call technical service at 1-800-470-2287.
6. With the notched end of the clevis facing up, attach the clevis to the top of the towed vehicle's brake pedal (Figure 4). Angle the brake pedal clevis so the upper portion of the clevis grabs the top of the towed vehicle's brake pedal. Pull down on the air cylinder rod (or lower portion of the clevis) to extend the clevis under the bottom of the towed vehicle's brake pedal. Pull back on red locking tab (B) until secure (tab should not go all the way down).

FIG. 1

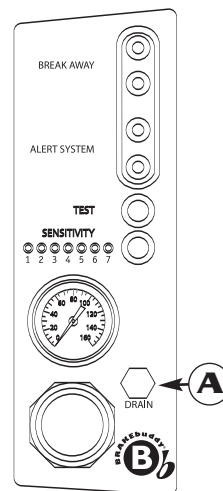


FIG. 2

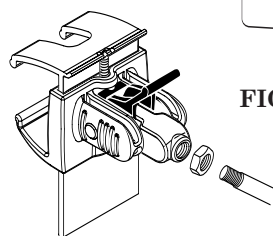


FIG. 3

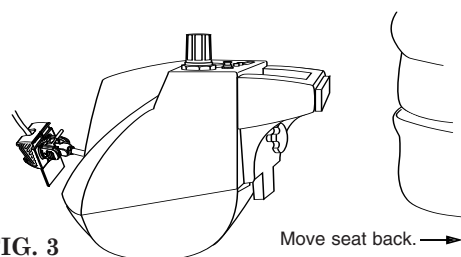
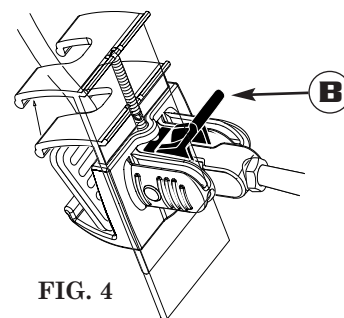


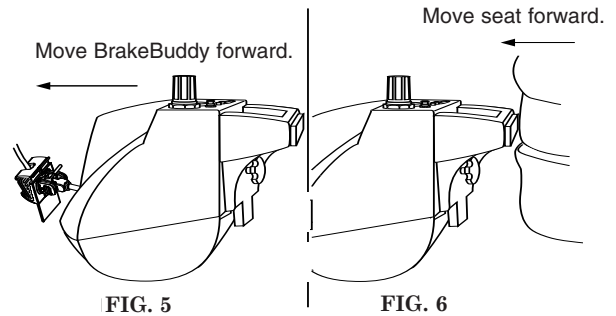
FIG. 4



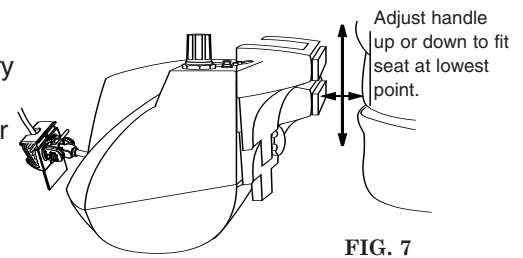


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7. Move the BrakeBuddy forward until the air cylinder rod is fully retracted (Figure 5). Make sure the brake pedal is not being pressed.
8. Adjust the driver's seat forward until it touches the handle on the back of the BrakeBuddy (Figure 6).
9. Adjust the BrakeBuddy handle (Figure 7). Loosen the adjustment knob on the back center portion of the BrakeBuddy and adjust the height of the handle so it contacts the seat at the lowest position possible without sliding under the seat (the lower on the seat, the firmer the support). Tighten the adjustment knob to secure handle.

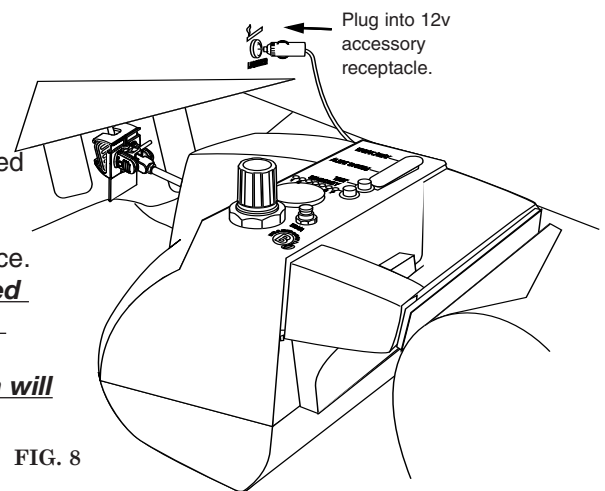


10. Install the Remote Alert System by following the step by step instructions included with the Alert system.
11. Power the BrakeBuddy by plugging the unit into a 12-volt accessory receptacle in the towed vehicle (Figure 8). When powered, the air compressor will fill the air tank in 30-40 seconds. If a 12-volt power supply is not available in the towed position, a "12-volt Battery Direct Kit" is available. (Part Number 39305). At a minimum, a 15 amp 12-volt cigarette lighter or auxiliary power plug is required to operate the BrakeBuddy. Some newer model compact cars require the 12-volt battery direct kit. If you have a late model compact car, please call BrakeBuddy customer service to obtain this kit.

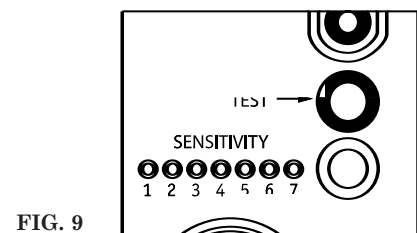


12. Push the red "Test" button located on top of your BrakeBuddy 5 times (Figure 9) to: (a) make sure the unit is working and adjusted properly; and (b) to remove the vacuum stored in the brake vacuum reservoir of the towed vehicle. If your power brakes are not "vacuum assist", please contact BrakeBuddy customer service.

WARNING: Any time the towed vehicle's engine has been started you must push the test button 5 times after shutting the towed vehicle's engine off. This removes the vacuum out of the vehicle's brake system. Failure to drain the towed vehicle's brake vacuum will result in excessive tire wear.



13. Make final seat adjustment. After completing the above step (pushing Test button 5 times), the BrakeBuddy will be in the proper position. If there is a gap between the seat and handle adjust the seat forward to close the gap.



IMPORTANT: Look at the brake lights on the rear of the towed vehicle to make sure that they are not on. If the brake lights are on, the BrakeBuddy is too close to the brake pedal.



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OPERATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Adjust the air regulator knob to match the weight of your towed vehicle (Figure 10). The braking pressure, or how hard your towed vehicle will brake in tow, is adjusted by the air regulator on top of the BrakeBuddy. To find the correct pressure setting for your vehicle, please refer to the Vehicle Weight Formula Chart below. To adjust the setting, pull up on the air regulator knob, turn knob until the pressure gauge reads the correct setting specified by the Vehicle Weight Formula Chart, and push the knob down to lock it in place.

NOTE: The air gauge shows how much pressure is set to apply the brake; it does not display the air pressure inside the air tank that is automatically filled when the BrakeBuddy is plugged into the 12-volt receptacle.

NOTE: For vehicles equipped with a power brake boost, set air pressure to 20 PSI.

When the BrakeBuddy engages, the towed vehicle should give a slight and smooth tug on the motorhome. **Note:** Larger motorhomes may not feel a tug when towing smaller vehicles. Also, for confirmation of when and how long the BrakeBuddy is activating, a wireless Alert System is included.

2. Adjust the Sensitivity Button. The Sensitivity Button on the top of the BrakeBuddy determines how hard you must apply the brakes in the motorhome before the BrakeBuddy will engage the brakes in your towed vehicle. The sensitivity of the BrakeBuddy is adjusted by holding down the Sensitivity Button (Figure 10). The more lights that are illuminated, the easier the BrakeBuddy will activate. Each time the BrakeBuddy is installed, the sensitivity setting defaults to the middle sensitivity setting (four lights will be illuminated).

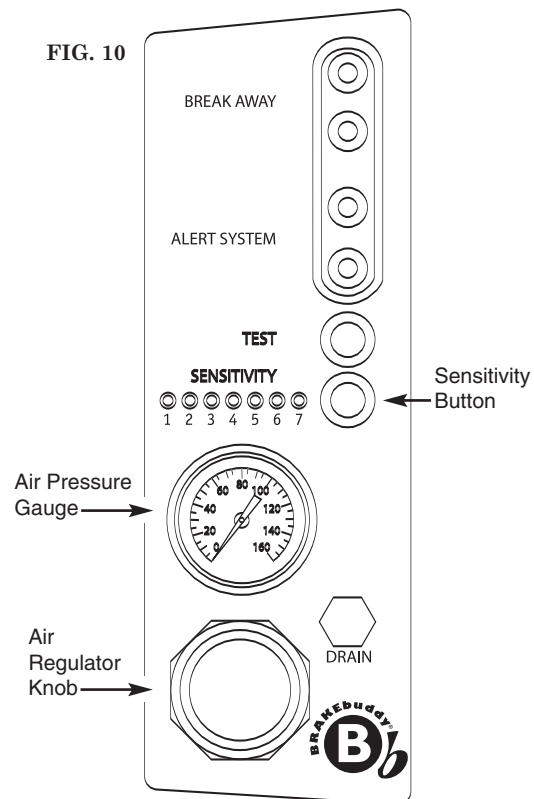
NOTE: Your RV must be moving faster than 15 mph for the BrakeBuddy to engage the brakes in the towed vehicle.

REMOVAL INSTRUCTIONS

To remove the BrakeBuddy from your towed vehicle, unplug the unit, push the drain button to relieve the air pressure in the system, adjust seat back and remove the BrakeBuddy.

CAUTION: Failure to drain your BrakeBuddy's air system and unplug it from the car's power source before handling may cause damage to your vehicle, serious injury or death.

FIG. 10



VEHICLE WEIGHT FORMULA

Settings are made by adjusting the air regulator knob. Lift up and turn the knob clockwise to increase pressure and counter-clockwise to decrease pressure.

| Pounds | Kilograms | Psi. | With Tow Dolly |
|---------------|---------------|------|----------------|
| 1,500 – 2,000 | 680 – 907 | 25 | 35 |
| 2,000 – 2,500 | 907 – 1,134 | 35 | 45 |
| 2,500 – 3,000 | 1,134 – 1,361 | 40 | 50 |
| 3,000 – 3,500 | 1,361 – 1,588 | 45 | 55 |
| 3,500 – 4,000 | 1,588 – 1,814 | 50 | 60 |
| 4,000 – 4,500 | 1,814 – 2,041 | 55 | 65 |
| 4,500 – 5,000 | 2,041 – 2,268 | 65 | 75 |
| 5,000 + | 2,268 + | 75 | 85 |

NOTE: 1999 and newer Jeep Grand Cherokees should be set at 55 psi.



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TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem: The air compressor will not come on after I plug in the BrakeBuddy.

Solution: Check the air gauge for pressure in the tank. If the tank is already pressurized, the compressor is designed to not come on until the tank's pressure is reduced by BrakeBuddy activation. Make sure there is power to the 12-volt receptacle and the fuse for the 12-volt plug is functioning. If both are functioning, the green indicator light on the 12-volt plug will be lit when it is plugged in. To remove the fuse on the BrakeBuddy's power cord, unscrew the finger nut on the end of the plug. Replace fuse with a 15-amp fuse.

Problem: The Brake Buddy will not apply the brakes in the towed vehicle.

Solution: Make sure the air regulator is properly adjusted for the weight of the towed vehicle. Also check the sensitivity setting. Remember, your RV must be moving at least 15 mph for the BrakeBuddy to activate.

Problem: The BrakeBuddy applies the brakes too hard in my towed vehicle.

Solution: Push the test button five times before towing to relieve the vacuum in the towed vehicle's brake booster. Or adjust the air regulator knob to reduce the air pressure.

Problem: The BrakeBuddy applies the brake as soon as I plug it in.

Solution: Check that the break-away system is properly connected and the pin is plugged into the junction box.

Problem: The compressor pumps up and then keeps on pumping slowly.

Solution: There may not be enough current to the BrakeBuddy. You may have a weak battery or you may need a "12-volt Battery Direct Kit" (part number 39305). At a minimum, a 15-amp 12-volt cigarette lighter or auxiliary power plug is required to operate the BrakeBuddy.

Problem: I have to apply the brakes in my motorhome very hard for the Brake Buddy to come on.

Solution: Increase the sensitivity of the BrakeBuddy by pressing the sensitivity button.

Problem: The BrakeBuddy turns my brake lights on even though I am not applying the brakes in my motorhome.

Solution: The BrakeBuddy may be too close to the brake pedal thereby activating the brake lights. See steps 9 and 10 of the installation instructions.

Problem: The compressor will not start.

Solution: BrakeBuddy is designed with an automatic shut-off on the compressor when voltage drops to 9.5 volts.



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Hopkins Manufacturing Corporation thanks you for purchasing BrakeBuddy. A 3-year limited warranty and a 30-day money back guarantee apply to your BrakeBuddy and BrakeBuddy accessories. An additional 2-year extended warranty is also available (part number 39307). Call BrakeBuddy customer service at 1-800-470-2287. We wish you safe and happy travels.

LIMITED THREE-YEAR WARRANTY

WHAT IS COVERED AND FOR HOW LONG?

We are confident our product will perform well and therefore warrant to you, as the original retail purchaser, for a period of three years from the date of original purchase, that your new product will be free of mechanical and electrical defects in material and workmanship.

WHAT WILL BRAKEBUDDY DO? HOW DO I GET SERVICE?

During the warranty period, we will repair or replace your new product (at our option) without cost to you, which will be your exclusive remedy under this warranty. Please do not return this product to the place of purchase. Doing so may delay the processing of your claim and our repair of your product. Return your product postage prepaid, with proof of purchase. Please call BrakeBuddy customer service for shipping instructions.

WHAT IS NOT COVERED?

Our warranty for your product will not cover damage resulting from neglect or misuse of the product, use of improper voltage or current, use contrary to operating instructions, or disassembly, repair, or alteration by any person other than an authorized service station. Any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose of your product is limited to the duration of this written warranty. We shall not be liable for any incidental or consequential damages for breach of any expressed or implied warranty on your product.

HOW YOUR STATE'S LAWS MAY APPLY:

Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts or the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights, which vary from state to state.