

## *Installing the Trailer Hitch*

This is actually the quickest and easiest part of the whole job. There are several ways you can approach holding the trailer hitch up in place. You can use a lift, a jack, or you can do it the way I did it.... by laying on your back with the hitch on your chest, then lift it into position and insert the side bolts. It is much easier even than it sounds. To start, I placed the hitch on the ground under the Vue near the right rear tire. I then slid under the vehicle on my back until I was laying comfortable with my eyes directly beneath the styrofoam bumper. I dragged the hitch over to rest on top of my chest and then did essentially a bench press, sliding the hitch up into place and inserting the four bolts through the left and right end of the hitch into the factory drilled and threaded holes in the main frame.

This was too easy, nothing to brag to the spouse about. Here is a picture of the end bolts I'm talking about. (Note: only finger tighten all the bolts in place until all six bolts are in. Then you can torque them down.)



Here's the fun part. I've read all kinds of reports in forums where people turned this step into a nightmare by losing the bolt in the frame tube. They must have left the rear bumper fascia in place, that's the only way I can see that this would be difficult. Anyway, we are going to need to pull a bolt downward from inside the frame tube through the bottom mount holes on the hitch. A wire that is coiled on the end comes with the hitch specifically for this part of the job. Start off by feeding the coiled end of the wire up the hitch mount and into the frame tube, then continue to push/feed it through the frame until it comes out on the left or right end.



Once the wire comes out the end, thread the carriage bolt onto the coiled end of the wire.



Now simply pull the wire gently while jostling it a bit. You might feel the bolt start to hang up on one of the obstructions in the frame tube, such as a bolt or the bumper foam insert.



Once the bolts are pulled through the lower mount point finger tighten the nuts. The nuts have an attached free spinning washer so it is easiest to tighten them by pulling downward on the washer while turning the wrench, this allows the square part of the carriage bolt to lock against the frame keeping the bolt from turning.



Once all of the bolts are in place tighten them all down and use a torque wrench to apply 68 Foot Pounds of torque (that is a whole bunch of torque!).

Cool, the hitch is in! Now its time to....

***Install the Rear Bumper Fascia and Rear Wheel Wells***