

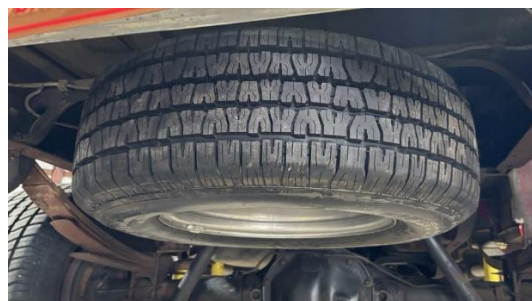
Winch Style Spare Tire Hanger

Recently, a new item has been developed, that I assigned an Official **NALRETO® Certification #254**. The requisite for an aftermarket part to be Certified is:

Must equal or exceed the original factory part.



As we all grow older, especially me now turning 82, removing and installing the spare tire from the factory hanger, it became almost impossible to do by myself, even with a floor jack.



Jeff Christensen is currently making a “winch style” lift unit for the spare, as is used in most of the new trucks today.

After seeing the unit, I ordered one for my truck and a friend of mine, Dean Forleo. Jeff shipped both out immediately and Dean

got his first. Dean called to let me know that he had installed it in his 1978 Li'l Red, with no problems and it worked great. According to Dean, it took him longer to get his tools out than it did to install the unit. I was excited and could hardly wait to get mine!



Well, here is where the problems started, understand, I have a 1978 Lil Red that did not have the existing brace. I removed the old tire hanger that I had installed a few years ago, I proceeded to install the new unit. It is a very simple operation, only requiring 2, 1"X1/2" bolts, lock washers and nuts.



If you have a 1979 Li'l Red, the bracket does not require any extra bolts, since the 1979 Li'l Red came from the factory with a spare

tire and the bracket, above the tire, to hold it in place. This original bracket is removed and replaced with the winch bracket.

When I tried to bolt the bracket in my 1978 Lil Red, I noticed that it seemed too long to fit between the rear bed bracket and the bracket holding the rear shocks. It was about $\frac{3}{16}$ " too long to fit. I eventually used a flat prybar to force it in place against the shock bracket, then bolted the unit in. The unit comes with a $\frac{3}{8}$ " extension, that mounts onto the shaft coming out of the winch, so you can crank it up and down.. using a $\frac{3}{8}$ " X 24' extension, with a drill or speed wrench.

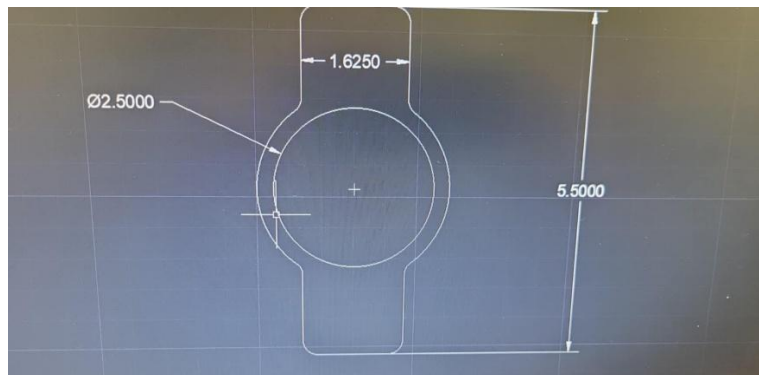


I first used a $\frac{1}{8}$ " cotter pin to connect the 2 pieces, not a good idea! When I attached the extension to crank it up, it sheared the cotter pin, like it wasn't ever there. I found that you must use a **$\frac{1}{8}$ " machine screw**, to connect the 2 pieces. It works much better with the screw.

Now the next problem cropped up! I have a factory 8" chrome Li'l Red wheel for my spare.



When I hooked the lift unit through the wheel and started to crank the wheel up, it raised approximately 5-6" and fell off the lifting unit. I even turned the wheel over and tried it that way, but again it fell off the lifting unit. A standard wheel has a 2' to 2 3/4" center and come to find out, the center of a Li'l Red wheel has a 3 1/4" center and the lifting unit is only 3 3/4" long, which only left about 1/4" on each end to carry the wheel. If the wheel moved either left or right, the wheel would fall. If you are using a standard wheel, the lifting bar will work just fine without the adapter.



Between Jeff and I, we designed an adapter bracket to sit on top of the lift bracket that is 5.5" long and gives a lot more lifting area for the wheel.



Once I had the bracket, the installation only took me about 5 minutes to install, and it all worked perfectly. I keep my speed wrench and 24' extension, behind the seat.

NOTE: On the 1978 Li'l Red, the taillight wiring harness is attached to the vertical side of the rear bed bracket, with a push-in mounting clip in the center. You must remove this clip and move it

to a hole in the horizontal section of the brace. If you try to install the brace with this clip in place, it will destroy the clip. This may not be necessary, on a 1979, I'm not sure.

I highly recommend using this unit for the convenience and safety of removing and installing your spare tire. It is a very well-made unit of 7ga. steel and should last a lifetime.

Here is the **NALRETO® Certificate #254**, and order information.



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of LI'L RED
EXPRESS TRUCK OWNERS
PART CERTIFICATION
APPROVAL**

The **NALRETO®** has inspected and approved this reproduction part as an acceptable replacement for the OEM Mopar part for the Dodge Li'l Red Express Truck.

APPROVAL NUMBER -- # 254

OEM MOPAR PART NUMBER --# 3898300, (spare tire carrier bracket)

**DESCRIPTION -- Underslung tire carrier winch assembly
(Lift adapter for Li'l Red chrome wheel)**

**RETAIL PRICE -- \$225.00 / Plus shipping
(Lift adapter, \$12.00, if needed)**

DISTRIBUTOR – Jeff Christensen

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6-19-25 *John C. Roberts* **President, NALRETO**

Date Authorized Signature