

Front License Plate Bracket for 2008 Tesla Roadster

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Disclaimer

The purchaser assumes all risk for the use of this bracket, including all liability for damage to the vehicle or persons during installation and use, and including potential damage caused by the bracket in the event of a collision.

Parts List

- One-piece stainless steel front license plate bracket
- M10 (10mm) socket-head bolt
- Split-ring lock washer to fit M10 bolt
- 8mm hex key (Allen wrench) to fit M10 bolt
- 4mm hex key to fit M6 bolts supplied by Tesla Motors to mount the license plate



Description

This mounting bracket is fabricated from one piece of stainless steel sheet metal folded into shape and welded. There are four M6 (6 mm) captive nuts pressed into the bracket to receive the bolts that Tesla supplies for attaching the license plate to their plastic mount.

This bracket does not touch the body at all and does not require drilling holes to attach it. Instead, it is attached with a bolt to the tow-hook mount in the center of the front grille. The intention is that the bracket should be easily removable for shows or other times when you don't want the front license plate to detract from the car's beautiful lines. This bracket holds the plate in a lower position relative to the standard Tesla mount to avoid obstructing the curved line of the body. This position is also intended to reduce the probability of contact with the body in the event of a minor parking lot bump.

The bracket is made of unfinished stainless steel. No finishing is required, but if you want to apply a finish, be sure to clean the surface first to remove the oil that is present from the manufacturing process.

Installation

It is easier to install the license plate bracket if you wait until after the bracket is installed before attaching the license plate to the bracket. This allows reaching through the cutout in the face of the bracket to install the mounting bolt.

To install the bracket, insert the slotted “tongue” of the bracket through the ring in the grille that surrounds the tow-hook mounting tube and underneath the tube. Tilt the bracket up slightly from its usual orientation to minimize contact with the tow-hook tube and its supporting structure until the tongue is most of the way in, then tilt the bracket back down to the usual orientation



(with the front face vertical) so the slot in the tongue straddles the edge of the triangular vertical sheet metal piece that supports the tow-hook mounting tube from underneath. If the slot fits the sheet metal piece too tightly to slide on this way, then instead you can slide the tongue onto the sheet metal piece as you slide in the bracket. The purpose of this tongue is to keep the bracket from rotating around the mounting bolt due to vibration.

Install the split-ring lock washer onto the M10 bolt and insert the bolt through the mounting hole in the “nose” of the bracket and into the tow-hook mounting tube. Finger-tighten the bolt as far as possible, then insert the shorter arm of the 8mm hex key into the socket head of the bolt to finish tightening. Once the bolt is snug but not yet tight, adjust the bracket to be level, then tighten the mounting bolt securely.

Attaching the License Plate

The license plate can be attached with or without a frame. To attach the plate, use two or four of the M6 (6mm) socket-head bolts that Tesla supplies with their standard plastic license plate mount. Tesla supplies four washers as well; when mounting the plate without a frame, I suggest putting washers both behind the plate and in front to avoid deforming the plate. The plate can be mounted with either two or four bolts as desired.



**Store the hex keys in the car in case you need to
remove the bracket to install the tow hook!**