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Entry Door Strut



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After reading a post by Walt on the Holiday Rambler Yahoo group I decided to finally quit fixing the scissors type entry door assembly on my HR Neptune. After this easy mod my entry door now opens smoothly, stops gently at 90 degrees, and stays there until I close it. What an improvement, and no more imaginative hammer and anvil creations or "precision" bending attempting to tighten the Monaco scissors assembly.

To accomplish this improvement I have installed a 20 inch, 20 pound, gas strut in place of the frustrating and marginally effective original scissors assembly. This is a pretty standard strut available from many sources. I got mine from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). It is the [RV Designer G22 20' Gas Prop – 20 lb. Load Capacity](#), along with the [RV Designer G825 3/4' Gas Prop Bracket](#)



I began by drilling a third mounting hole in the bracket. The original two are probably sufficient but I subscribe to the overkill is just enough theory of engineering design.

I placed the coach mounted bracket about four inches back from the front edge of the door and used the bracket as guide to drill three mounting holes. On my coach this placed the bracket right up to an existing screw mounting the door frame. Sometimes luck is good. The other kind of luck came to light when I drilled the forward hole. After penetrating the aluminum door frame the drill struck some unknown hard object. I'm guessing there is a steel screw or bolt hidden behind the aluminum frame. Perhaps a component of the coach



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frame. At any rate that forced my drill into a slight angle. Not a big deal but the forward screw is installed at a very slight angle. One inch self tapping screws will extend through the aluminum door frame and into the fiberglass coach body. Once through the fiberglass my drill was in open space, but well short of damaging interior trim. I used #10 by 1 inch self tapping screws. I also dipped the heads of the screws into some black Rust Oleum a couple of days before installing.



After mounting the bracket on the coach body I simply attached the gas spring, opened the door to 90 degrees, marked where that placed the door bracket, used the bracket as guide to drill three holes and mounted the bracket. When the door closes the gas spring is now collapsed almost completely. Just right. The duct tape covering the old scissor mounting hole is my temporary fix while I'm making an aluminum plate to fit.



The 20 pound pressure gas spring seems to be about right, a bit strong if anything. I'm going to use it for awhile and see how it works out. This is really an easy mod that improves upon the Monaco design by 100% +++. My entire project took less than an hour including cleaning up the tools. Drafting this blog entry took longer than the project. My thanks to Walt on the Holiday Rambler Yahoo Group for the suggestion.

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WEayne07Scepter

Jul 08, 2014 @ 16:33:53

How long has this been installed i.e. how many "coach nights" Seems like a great mod.

↪ REPLY

◦



bsehlin

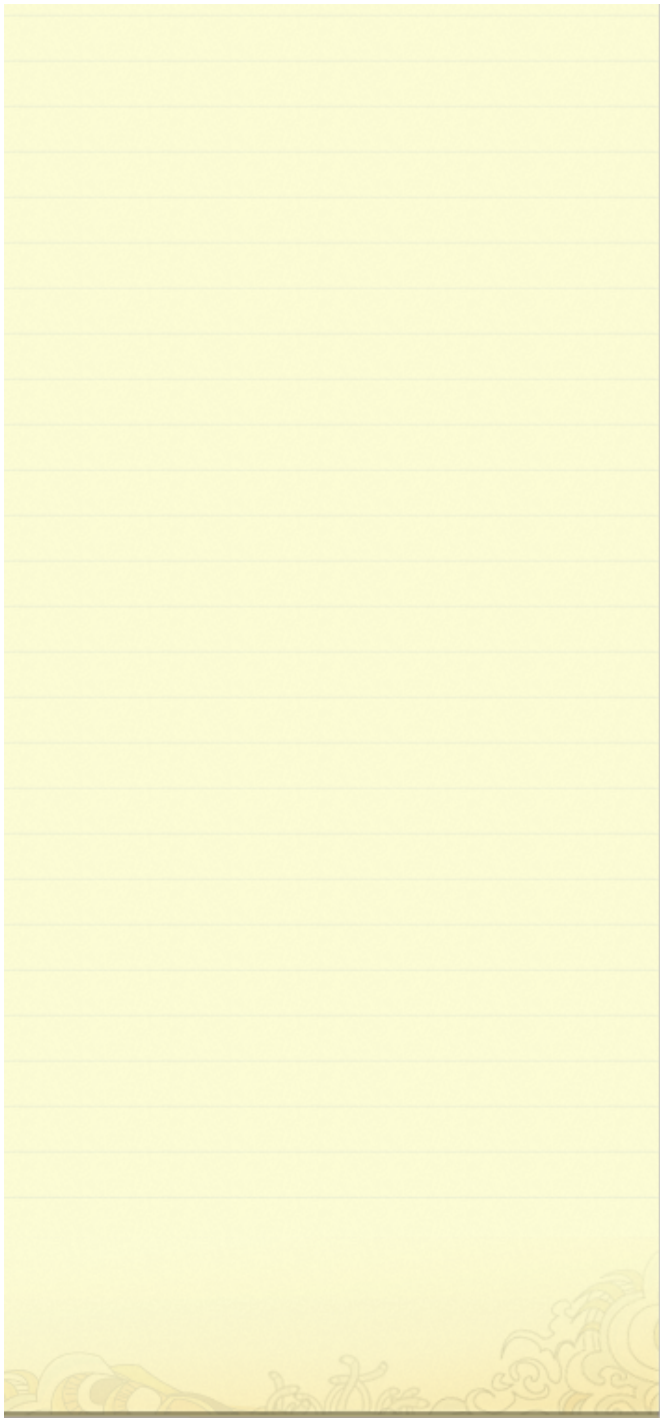
Jul 08, 2014 @ 17:02:08

I only installed it last week so not enough use to prove long term reliability. I've pushed and pulled while watching for flexing of the aluminum frame. I paid close attention while drilling the screw holes to sense when I penetrated the frame into the underlying structure. I'm confident my 1 inch screws have purchase in both. Only time and use will prove long term reliability but I am confident.

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