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**(307) – 775 – 9565**

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## **2007 – Present JK Wrangler**

### **JK Unlimited (4dr) GUARDIAN™ CORNER INSTALL INSTRUCTIONS**

Thank you for purchasing TNT Customs & Manufacturing Jeep® JK Guardian™ Corners. Installation is straight forward with the right tools and good mechanical abilities. If you are not confident in your mechanical skills, please seek the help of a professional to perform this installation. Please read through the instructions in their entirety before proceeding with installation.

#### **PARTS LIST**

*Please check your packages immediately upon arrival to ensure that everything listed is included, and to check for damage from shipping. If anything is missing or damaged, call TNT Customs & Manufacturing at (307) 775-9565 as soon as possible.*

- [1] Driver's Side JK Guardian™ Corner
- [1] Passenger's Side JK Guardian™ Corner
- [1] Riv-Nut Install Tool
- 4 – DR:
- [22] 5/16" – 18 X 5/8" SS button head cap screw
- [22] 5/16" – 18 Riv-Nuts
- [18] 5/16" – 18 X 1" SS button head cap screw
- [18] 5/16" – 18 large diameter flange nuts

#### **NOTE:**

*To complete the installation you will need one pair of OffRoad Only LiteDOT™ LED Taillights or Max-Bilt Trail Tails*

#### **CAUTION:**

*The JK computer system will not recognize LED tail lights; therefore, it is necessary to use some means to balance the tail light circuit. We have an LED load equalizer to solve this issue, available as a separate item.*

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#### TOOLS REQUIRED:

- Eye protection
- Phillips head & small flat head screwdrivers
- Squeeze to lock welding clamps or C-clamps
- Tape measure
- Center punch
- Hammer
- Drill motor, 11/32" & 1/2" drill bits and a uni-bit (step bit) capable of drilling a 1/2" hole
- Sharpie marker
- Touch-up paint or clear coat
- 1/2" open end wrench
- 3/16" hex key or driver bit and ratchet
- Wire cutter, strippers and crimpers OR soldering iron (and solder/heat shrink)

#### HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TOOLS:

- Pneumatic body saw
- Pneumatic cut-off tool

You will also need a roll of 2" masking tape

#### INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

1. Park vehicle on a level surface and set the emergency brake. You will want to wear eye protection beyond this point.
2. Begin with the driver's side Guardian™ Corner installation. The procedure for both sides is nearly identical, with a few small differences, which will be noted in subsequent steps.
3. Remove the taillight lens and housing, you may have to gently pry the housing away from the body tub. Use a small flat screwdriver or pick to release the tabs on the electrical connectors to disconnect the taillight assembly. Set taillight housing aside at this time.
4. Apply the 2" masking tape on the forward edge of the vertical pinch seam from the top of the body to the bottom of the body. Use 2" masking tape, apply the tape parallel to the top of the body line from tail gate opening to just over the vertical pinch seam on the side of the Jeep®. Also apply 2" masking tape along the

bottom of the body from the tail gate opening to just over the vertical pinch seam. Next, measure horizontally from the edge of the tailgate opening towards the factory tail light opening and mark the body with a marker at 3¾". Repeat this measurement in several locations from the top of the body to the bottom. Connect your marks vertically with the 2" masking tape on the tail light opening side of the marks.

#### NOTE

Use the tools of your choice to cut the sheetmetal along your cut marks in the following step. Note that part of the cuts goes through double thickness of sheetmetal and/or a pinch seam making it difficult to get through. A pneumatic body saw and/or cut-off wheel will be ideal. The following steps will only be done effectively if the top is removed for the Jeep®

### NOTE

To perform the following step more effectively, you may find it easier if you mark the corners of the cuts, center punch and drill a ¼" hole in the corners to make the cuts easier.



7. Cut out the marked areas to remove the factory raised sheet metal.

5. Using the body saw or equivalent carefully cut along the inside edge of the 2" tape. Use a file or sander to smooth the edges of the cuts. Remove masking tape. It is important to remove any burrs or sharp edges which may snag, fray or cut electrical wires over time. Use touch up paint or clear-coat to seal the bare metal around the cut edge to protect it from rust in the future.

6. Note the shape of the body around the upper tail light mount – there is a raised area in the upper right corner where the factory tail light attached (for the driver's side – opposite for the passenger side). This raised area, along with the indented flange section, will have to be removed for proper fitment of the Guardian™ Corner. Use a fine-tip felt marker to outline the area to be removed, as shown below:



8. Place the driver's side Guardian™ Corner over the corner of the Jeep. The Guardian™ Corner will slip snugly over the fuel filler trim piece, helping to align the corner. Ensure that the distance between the top edge of the Guardian™ Corner and the top edge of the Jeep's tub is the same from front to back. When happy with the alignment securely clamp the Guardian™ Corner into place.

### CAUTION

It is extremely important to ensure that the Guardian™ Corner is securely clamped into place. Ensure that it won't move or loosen the clamps once you begin drilling.

8. Use the 11/32" bit and drill motor to drill through the Jeep's outer sheetmetal at each of the hole locations in the side of the Guardian™ Corner, using the Guardian™ Corner itself as your drill guide. Do Not drill any mounting holes in the rear facing panel at this time. If the Crusher Corner shifts or the clamps loosen while you're drilling, stop drilling and re-align the Crusher Corner and re-clamp it, making sure it still aligns with the holes already drilled.

9. Un-clamp and remove the Guardian™ Corner, then use the ½" step bit to open up each of the holes forward of the pinch seam to the larger size. Be careful when drilling, as the thin sheetmetal may want to catch and deform, making the subsequent nut-sert installation more difficult.

10. Select and install a nut-sert per hole drilled to ½" in previous step.

11. Re-install Guardian™ Corner securing it with the 5/16" – 5/8" SS button head bolt. Hand tighten only. For the 2 remaining holes in the side of the Jeep install a 5-16" X 1" SS button head bolt and flange nut. You will have to reach up through the opening in the bottom of the body to secure the nut. Tighten hand tight.

### CAUTION

In the following step it is highly recommended to select a pair of vertical oriented holes, drill them and install the hardware as you work from the corner of the vehicle towards the tailgate.

12. Use the 11/32" bit and drill motor to drill through the Jeep's outer sheetmetal at each of the hole locations in the rear of the Guardian™

Corner, using the Guardian™ Corner itself as your drill guide.

13. Repeat steps 3 – 12 to install the Passenger side Guardian™ Corner. You will not have the fuel filler to help you align the Guardian™ Corner on the passenger side, you will have to be careful with your measurements to ensure that the Guardian™ Corner is on correctly when you clamp it firmly in place.

### NOTE

Use a flat screwdriver to gently pry the plastic covers from the body side of the tailgate hinges (leave the covers on the tailgate side of the hinges).

When the install process is finished, remove the Guardian™ Corner and paint or powder-coat them. The Guardian™ Corners are made from 6061-T6 AL and over time may oxidize if left in their natural state.

### IMPORTANT!

Do NOT over-tighten the button head screws, as you may accidentally "spin" the Nut-Sert if you over-tighten!