

Hodge Defense Pinch-Lock / Spine Lock Installation Instructions



Included with handguard:

- (1) handguard
- (1) barrel nut
- (1) barrel nut wrench
- (1) 5/32 allen wrench
- (1) 1/8" dowel pin
- (2) 10-32 x 1/2" screws
- (1) 10-32 x 1 1/8" screw
- (1 each) left and right pinch wedges

1.) Ensure that you have the proper installation tools including 1/2" ft-lbs torque wrench, in-lbs torque wrench, 1/4" hex socket wrench, Allen key set, and appropriate barrel installation fixture. Preferably a reaction rod or similar tool.

2.) Prepare barrel extension for installation into the upper receiver. Assembly grease or Aeroshell 64 is preferred.



3.) Prepare barrel nut for installation using a small amount of grease (Aeroshell 64)

4.) Ensure threads have Aeroshell applied. Tighten your barrel nut onto your upper using the supplied barrel nut wrench only. Season the threads by tightening to half torque, then loosening. Repeat 3 times, increasing the torque value slightly each time. Then, torque to spec: between 60-70 ft-lbs.

5.) Install gas tube and gas block. NOTE: No timing or clocking is needed with this style of barrel nut.

6.) If your upper has a pre-drilled hole, it is meant for our anti-rotation pin. Install the supplied pin at this time. Please note, if your upper does not have this hole, your handguard will still fit and function with your upper.





7.) Install the wedges into your handguard in the appropriate direction shown. The angled edge will be towards the upper receiver. After sliding the wedges into the handguard, apply a low strength thread sealant like Blue Locktite (NEVER Red) to the screws. Then screw in the 2 shorter 10-32 screws a few turns to capture the wedges in the handguard. Do not tighten all the way.

8.) Install the handguard over the barrel and barrel but. Align the upper rail to the handguard. Ensure the anti-rotation pin is in place.



9.) Ensure all screws have a low-strength thread sealant like Blue Locktite (NEVER Red) applied to the threads. Then install the longer 10-32 screw into the center hole and hand tighten. With supplied 5/32" allen wrench, tighten all three screws in a rotating pattern similar to tightening the lug nuts when changing a tire. After all screws are hand tight, tighten to half torque value in the same pattern. Next, torque to spec: 65in-lbs.

