

Squeaky Skateboard/Longboard Truck Fix

Introduction

After a long time of use, the trucks on a longboard or a skateboard tend to develop a squeaky noise. The noise occurs during turns when the trucks are being moved. These instructions will give you the steps necessary to eliminate the noise for a long time. Eventually, the noise returns but all you must do is perform this fix again.

Explanation of Truck parts

To begin, let's break down the parts of the truck to give a deeper understanding of the problem and give you more familiarity to your trucks.

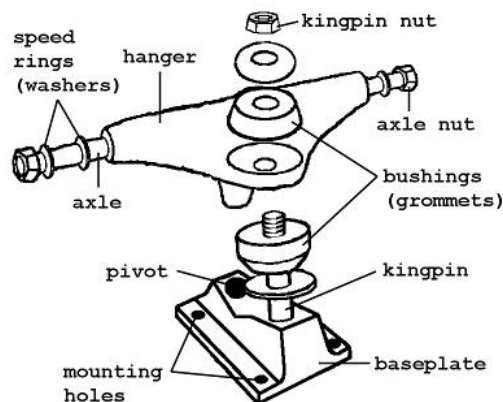


Figure 1: Reverse Kingpin Truck Parts

The truck can be broken down into two distinct parts, the hanger, and the baseplate. The baseplate attaches to the skateboard and does not move. The hanger slides onto the kingpin and secures onto the baseplate with the help of the kingpin nut and the bushings. The hanger provides two axles to attach wheels to and provides the pivot motion that lets a skateboard turn. Figure 1 references a reverse kingpin truck, the most common truck for skateboarders. However, if you have a longboard it might have the following kind of truck.



Figure 2: Kingpin Truck

Figure 2 shows a regular kingpin truck, typical for longboards. The two different truck types build off the same principal mechanism but in slightly alternate ways. Kingpins have the same parts, but the hanger sits in a much simpler pivot position.



Figure 3: Reverse Kingpin Pivot Cup

The creaking noise can be found in both types of trucks and derives from an often-neglected part of the truck. The pivot cup is a small bowl that the hanger slots into so that it may turn. As time goes on this cup dries out and begins to creak when the hanger moves, slowly turning into a horrible squeak. Fixing this is trivial, all it takes is lubricating the pivot cup.

Materials:

- A skateboard / longboard truck
- Skate tool (or a 9/16-inch socket wrench)
- Pencil shavings / Graphite shavings / Bar of Soap / Skate Wax
- Knife (If using certain materials)

Material Notes

If you don't own a skate tool, I highly recommend purchasing one as it acts as a tool that does everything you need when working on a skateboard or a longboard. All you need for this fix is a 9/16-inch socket wrench if you don't have a skate tool.

Pencil Shavings, Graphite shaving, bar of soap, or skate wax can be used for lubrication. There's not much difference between the effects each one has, but it is very important you do not use liquid dish soap. Using liquid dish soap will work at first but turns into a sticky gel after drying out which causes the squeaking to come back much worse.

Fixing the Squeak

Step 1: Removing the kingpin nut.

- The Kingpin nut holds the hanger onto the baseplate, located at the top of the truck.
- Simply unscrew the nut with the skate tool or 9/16 socket wrench, then put it in a safe location nearby.

Step 2: Removing the bushings and hanger.

- Slide the top washer and bushing off the axle, noting the orientation of each piece.
- You can now slide the hanger off too.
 - While you remove the hanger, notice the way it slots into the pivot cup for when you must put it back on.
- The bottom bushing and washer can both be left on the axle.

Step 3. Adding lubricating material to pivot cup.

- The material can be pencil shavings, graphite shavings, a bar of soap, skate wax, and various other options. Though the ones listed are the safest.
- Take the material and put a small amount into the pivot cup, about enough to fill the pivot cup $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way.
 - For some materials, you might have to use a knife to take off some shavings. Be sure to exercise proper knife safety if you choose to use one.

Step 4: Using the hanger to work the material into the pivot cup.

- Take the hanger and use the part that slots into the pivot cup to work in the lubrication. Alternatively, you could use your pinky to rub the material in.

Step 5: Reassembling the truck.

- Slide the hanger back onto the kingpin axle, then the bushing.
- The orientation of the bushing is important, and if you can't remember how it was when you took it off there's some helpful hints you can use.
 - Typical bushings will go from a wide base to a narrow top, and that wide base should touch the hanger.
 - If the bushings are old, some will have markings from the washer which can be helpful in getting the orientation right.
- Now you can put the washer on, then tighten the kingpin nut to your personal preference.

Conclusion

After following those steps, the squeaking should stop though it might not completely go away at first. Sometimes, the lubrication needs to settle and be worked in by the natural motion of the trucks.

If the squeaking persists, more lubricating material might be required.

Credits:

Figure 1: Trucks. STREETWAR SKATEBOARDS. Retrieved February 2, 2023, from <https://streetwar.org/warfare/hardware/skateboard-trucks/>

Figure 2: 180mm reverse kingpin longboarding trucks (pair 2 trucks). Lucid Grip. Retrieved February 2, 2023, from <https://www.lucidgrip.com/products/180mm-reverse-kingpin-longboarding-trucks-pair-2-trucks>

Figure 3: CCS skateboard trucks - raw - 139mm. CCS. Retrieved February 2, 2023, from <https://shop.ccs.com/products/ccs-skateboard-trucks-raw-139mm>