

Bryant 233X & Magic Tilt Trailer: Trailering Checklist

Vessel: 2013 Bryant 233X | Trailer: 2016 Magic Tilt Tandem

Hank's Marine Assistant (Bryant 233X)

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A professional, repeatable checklist to ensure safety and prevent common trailering failures. Perform these checks every time.

1. Pre-Departure (At Home/Storage)

Boat & Trailer Prep

- Drain Plugs:** Confirm **ALL** drain plugs are **IN** (especially the main hull plug).
- Outdrive:** Tilt Bravo III outdrive **UP** to "Trailer" position.
- Gear:** Secure all loose gear inside boat (cushions, PFDs, covers).
- Bimini:** Bimini top is down and secured in its boot.
- Bow:** Secure **bow winch strap AND bow safety chain**.
- Trailer Tongue** Secure folding tongue in towing position.
- Stern (CRITICAL):** Secure two (2) **transom ratchet straps** from the trailer frame to the boat's stern tie-down eyes.

Tires & Spares

- Visual Insp.:** Visually inspect 4 trailer tires (cracks, bulges).
- Pressure (Trailer):** Check pressure on all 4 trailer tires (Confirm PSI on sidewall, likely **50 PSI** cold).
- Pressure (Truck):** Check pressure on F-150's rear tires (adjust for load).
- Pressure (Spare):** Check pressure on spare trailer tire.
- Spares Kit Loaded:** Confirm spares are in the F-150:
 - Spare Tire
 - Trailer-Aid Ramp
 - Hub Toolbox** (containing pre-greased hub assemblies, jack, lug wrench, grease gun, and rags).

2. Hook-Up (Connecting to F-150)

- Hitch:** Lower trailer coupler onto the F-150's **2"** ball.
 - Latch:** Secure the coupler latch.
 - Lock:** Insert the **coupler safety pin or lock** (DO NOT FORGET).
 - Chains:** Connect both safety chains, **crossed in an "X"** under the tongue.
 - Jack:** Raise the trailer tongue jack *all the way* and swing to its horizontal, stowed position.
 - Electrical:** 1. Connect **7-way (truck) to 5-pin (trailer) adapter** to the F-150.
2. Connect the trailer's **5-pin flat plug** to the adapter.
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3. Final Walk-Around (The "Pre-Flight")

Truck Systems Check (Vehicle On)

- Tow Mode:** Activate "**Tow/Haul**" Mode on the F-150 dashboard.
- Lights:** Test running lights, brake lights, and both turn signals.
- Reverse Lockout (CRITICAL):** Foot on brake, shift F-150 to **Reverse**. Listen for an audible "**CLICK**" from the trailer tongue. This is the 5th-pin solenoid engaging.
 - *No click? Your surge brakes will lock when you try to reverse. Stop and diagnose the 7-to-5 adapter or wiring.*

Final Securement Check (Walk-Around)

- Coupler latched and pinned?
 - Chains crossed?
 - Electrical plugged in?
 - Transom straps tight?
 - Bow strap & chain tight?
 - Outdrive tilted UP?
 - Nothing loose in boat or truck bed?
 - Spares kit loaded?
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4. On-the-Road Procedure

- **Drive Defensively:** You are 5,000+ lbs heavier. Make wide turns and **double** your normal stopping distance.
- **First 30-Minute Stop (CRITICAL):**
 - Pull over at a safe location (rest stop, gas station).
 - Carefully feel all 4 trailer wheel hubs. They should be warm, but **NEVER so hot you can't hold your hand on them.**
 - (*A “screaming hot” hub = bearing failure is imminent*).
 - Re-check transom and bow straps for tightness.