

Cheap Hummer Tricks - Aug 2004

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This month's Cheap Tricks: Reinforcing the H2 Tie Rod.

One of the few weak spots in the H2 is the Tie Rod. Any part can be broken with heavy or inappropriate usage, but the Tie Rod on the H2 seems to bend just a bit too easily. There are aftermarket replacement H2 Tie Rods. They are much stronger, but will likely void the factory warranty on the steering system. They work very well, but many owners are reluctant to risk loss of warranty coverage. It is likely that GM is developing something to address this problem. I have no information about this possibility, but I know that I would be if I were making these trucks. Today's Cheap Trick is a way to make the Tie Rod just slightly more resistant to bending. It is unlikely to affect anyone's warranty, but remember that GM has the final word on warranty issues. You should check with GM or your dealer before making any modification to warranted systems on your H2.

Picture 1 – Battery Terminal with Cover The trick: The inner Tie Rod is threaded for some distance to allow full adjustment for the front end alignment. Most (but not all) Tie Rod failures occur in this area. Placing additional nuts on this threaded section should make the Tie Rod slightly stronger. Picture 1 shows the factory adjusting nut, and the recommend location for the new nuts. Two or three nuts are usually all that will fit.



Here is the procedure (repeat for each side):

1. Raise the front tire with a jack
2. Determine how many nuts can be placed on the rod without interfering with the adjusting nut
3. Loosen the adjusting nut
4. Unthread the inner tie rod from the outer • Keeping the toe alignment adjustment is very important – count the number of turns required to separate the Tie Rod Ends
5. Remove the factory adjusting nut
6. Add the appropriate number of extra nuts – do not tighten at this time
7. Reinstall the factory adjusting nut
8. Reconnect the tie rod ends – thread them together the same number of turns counted in Step 4
9. Tighten the adjusting nut against the outer Tie Rod – tighten to 50 lb-ft
10. Tighten the extra nuts • Tighten the first against the adjusting nut • Do not allow the adjusting nut to move – it must remain tight against the outer Tie Rod End • Tighten each nut in turn against the previous

one You may wish to have the alignment checked following this procedure to make sure nothing was accidentally changed. This procedure can also be done when replacing the tie rod. The nut size is 14 x 1.5 (metric). The wrench required for this size nut is 22mm. A 13mm wrench is required to turn the inner Tie Rod End.

I heard about this trick second-hand at a recent Hummer Club Inc. event. Since I do not own an H2, I have not been able to try this trick myself. I would like to hear from people who try this. Contact me by e-mail: Dave@BlueHummer.com