

Passenger Seat Swivel Base Installation on Glacier

(Other late model Ford E-series should be similar).

Steve Seekins

sseekins@roadrunner.com



The installation is pretty straightforward - should take ½ hour to 45 minutes if you have everything ready to go. The swivel seat base is a well made heavy duty unit that is designed to provide a secure mounting which should stay put in the event of an accident. There are only two things to consider. On my Glacier, the Sirius satellite radio receiver unit was located under the passenger seat base fastened to the floor with a velcro strap and brackets. Since the swivel seat base has a large flat plate that bolts to the floor here, the unit has to be moved. The Sirius unit could be simply mounted on top of the front of the base plate with a suitable bracket or strap, but it could be susceptible to damage from the passenger's feet unless you fashion some sort of protector for it. I chose to simply unplug and remove it since I do not use it.

The second consideration is that the wires for the seat belt minder connection and the seat heater come through the carpet under the seat where the new base will bolt down. You could carefully slit the carpet to allow the wires to come up behind the new seat base, or, as I chose, simply place some steel washers under the new base mount points so that the new base does not pinch the wires and just extend the wires to the rear under the base. Mine had plenty of length to do this and to permit the seat to swivel without straining the wires.

For other Chinook models where there is a seat or dinette directly behind the passenger seat, I would not recommend the swivel seat. This is because the swivel seat doesn't really work well in intermediate positions - only directly forward or rearward facing - due to limited clearance between seat and passenger door. Also, if you are considering a swivel for the driver's seat, the same considerations apply and you have additional wires for the electric seat position controls.

Parts Needed:

Swivel Seat Base '96+ Ford Mini Motor Home for Factory Seat

Part# 113631 (Passenger) available from Discount Van Truck

<http://www.discountvantruck.com/rvvanpassengerdriverseatbases/rvvanfrontseatbases.htm>

6 3/8" steel washers (for front base bolts)

6 1/2" steel washers (for rear base studs)

Sealant (for empty screw holes)

Tools Needed:

Ratchet handle

T-55 Torx bit (Front base bolts)

18mm deep socket or wrench (Rear base nuts) (I found a GearWrench® handy here)

15mm socket with extension

S-2 square drive screwdriver bit (Velcro Strap Bracket Screws)

Instructions (Pictures referenced are located in the Photo section in the "Glacier Passenger Seat Swivel Base" album):

1. Remove the two T-55 Torx bolts from the front of the seat base and the two nuts from the rear of the seat base. Carefully lift the base off the rear studs and lay the entire seat assy back so that you are looking at the bottom of the seat. (picture)
2. Unfasten the two plugs - a yellow one and a black one. (picture)
3. Unbolt the seat base from the seat. The two inboard nuts can be removed from under the base; the two outboard nuts are removed using the extension through the access holes in the side of the base (picture). Move the old base out of the way.
4. Now remove the Sirius box and the strap brackets. (picture) Fill the 4 small screw holes with some sealant to prevent water from coming up through the floor and wetting the carpet under the seat base.
5. Place the new swivel base onto the seat studs and re-install the nuts.
6. Plug in the cables (can be done now while you can easily see all the wiring, or you can wait until the seat is bolted in and do it from underneath).
7. Place three 1/2" washers on each of the rear base studs and place three 3/8" washers at

each of the front bolt locations. Make sure that the cables are routed to the rear or outboard of where the swivel base will be. Rock the whole seat/base assembly forward onto the rear studs and line up the front holes with the stacked washers. Install the T-55 bolts in the front holes loosely and the nuts on the rear studs. Tighten all of them.

Check the swivel operation while watching to make sure cables have sufficient slack to permit seat to swivel a full 180 degrees. You will need to move the seat back all the way forward and jockey the seat forward and back while you swivel it to clear the door and the engine cowl. It will be easier if you open the passenger door. Once it is swiveled to the rear, you can slide the seat fully forward or back as desired and recline the back as you wish. The seat base will lock in either the forward or rear facing positions. Due to limited clearance between the door arm rest and the seat arm rest, the seat is not really useable in other than direct forward or direct rear facing positions. In intermediate positions, you must have the seat slide all the way forward and you cannot recline the back very much.

CAUTION!! Do not operate the vehicle with the passenger seat swiveled to the rear position. Make sure it is facing fully forward and locked. Anyone riding in the seat in the rear-facing position could be severely injured by air-bag deployment in an accident and the seat belt is unusable with the seat in the rear-facing position.

Now I need to find a new location to store my windshield cover!