



**1996-2004 Ford Mustang GT Race Exhaust  
70503328-RHKR (304SS) & 70503428-RHKR (409SS)  
Installation Instructions**



Thank you for making HOOKER HEADERS your choice in a high-performance exhaust system. Extensive dyno/track testing has enabled HOOKER to offer the most advanced design in exhaust systems. The installation, while not complex, will take a certain amount of time. However, the additional horsepower and improved performance will more than justify your efforts. Proper installation and maintenance will ensure long life and maximum performance from your HOOKER BLACKHART exhaust system.

**BEFORE STARTING:**

Your vehicle must be raised a minimum of 18 inches. A floor hoist is ideal. If no hoist is available, we strongly urge the use of axle stands as a safety measure. **Please read and understand these instructions and disclaimer in their entirety before attempting installation.**

**CAUTION! WORK ONLY ON A LEVEL SURFACE. USE JACKS /JACKS TANDS OF SUFFICIENT CAPACITY TO LIFT AND SUPPORT YOUR VEHICLE. NEVER WORK UNDER A VEHICLE SUPPORTED BY A FLOOR OR BUMPER JACK.**

**INCLUDED HARDWARE:**

Accessory Pack Contents:			Parts List:	
P/N	Qty.	Description	Qty.	Description
556R22	4	2.5" Band Clamp	1	X-Pipe Assembly
556R27	2	3" Torca Coupler	1	Driver's Link Pipe
599R94	2	Blackheart Decal	1	Passenger's Link Pipe
505R44	4	1/4"-20 x .75" Flange Bolt	1	Left Tailpipe
539R18	4	1/4"-20 Flange Nut	1	Right Tailpipe
505R69	4	M10 – 1.5 x 60 Hex Bolt	1	Left Muffler Assembly
539R25	4	M10 x 1.5 Flange Nut	1	Right Muffler Assembly
546R11	4	M10 Washer	1	Left Straight Tailpipe Hanger
			1	Left Bent Tailpipe Hanger
			1	Right Straight Tailpipe Hanger
			1	Right Bent Tailpipe Hanger

**INSTALLATION:**

**IMPORTANT: Inspect your accessory pack: BEFORE YOU START!**

1. Place the vehicle on flat a surface, set the parking brake, and block the front wheels.
2. Disconnect the Battery
3. Lift the vehicle and support with jack stands.

**WARNING! Never support a vehicle with a floor or bumper jack.**

## **REMOVING THE OEM EXHAUST:**

1. Loosen the (x4) bolts and nuts holding the OEM Mid Pipe to the muffler assemblies.
2. Unplug the (x4) O2 sensors in the OEM Mid Pipe.
3. Loosen the (x4) hardware attaching the OEM mid pipe to the exhaust manifolds. Remove the gasket on the passenger's side, it can be reused if in good shape.
4. Slide the exhaust hanger brackets from the rubber isolators, and remove the OEM Mid Pipe from out under the car. The driver's side isolator will need to be removed for installation of the Hooker Blackheart X-pipe.
5. Remove the O2 Sensors from the OEM mid pipe.
6. Using a sawzall or hack saw, cut the through factory tailpipe a few inches from the outlet of the muffler.
7. Once the tailpipes are cut, loosen and remove the hardware for the muffler assemblies to the mid pipe, and slide the muffler assemblies off the mid pipe studs and rubber hanger isolators. Save the nuts as they will be used on with the Blackheart cat-back exhaust.
8. Slide the factory hangers from out of the rubber isolators on the tailpipe sections. Rotate the tailpipe sections to allow them to be removed from the car. Leave the rubber isolators on the car, as these will be used with the Blackheart cat-back exhaust. It may be helpful to allow the rear suspension to hang to allow more space to remove tailpipe sections.
9. Refer to the Instructions for Hooker Blackheart Long Tube Headers **701013309-RHKR** or **701013310-RHKR** for installation steps.

## **INSTALLATION OF THE BLACKHEART EXHAUST:**

1. Using the provided 3 inch couplers, slide the couplers on the outlets of the headers roughly half the length of the coupler. Slide the X-pipe into the couplers.
2. Using the OEM passenger's side hanger, hang the X-pipe assembly.
3. Slide the left and right tailpipe assemblies over the rear axle and leave hanging in place.
  - a. If the car is a 96-97 model year, use the bent hanger assemblies. Bolt to the tailpipe slotted bracket using the supplied hardware, but leave the hardware loose for final adjustment. The bracket should be bolted such that the bracket of the hanger is on the non-welded side of the tailpipe bracket. See **Figure 1**.
  - b. If the car is a 98-04 model year, use the straight back assemblies. Bolt the hanger assemblies to the tailpipe slotted bracket using the supplied hardware, but leave the hardware loose for final adjustment. The bracket should be bolted such that the bracket of the hanger is on the non-welded side of the tailpipe bracket. See **Figure 2**.



**Figure 1** – 96-97 Passenger's Side Hanger



**Figure 2** – 98-04 Passenger's Side Hanger

4. Slide the hanger bracket in the OEM hanger isolator, leaving the hardware loose for final adjustment.
5. Place the muffler assembly hanger rods into the OEM hanger isolators.
6. Rotate the muffler assembly upward and use the provided hardware to attach the muffler assemblies to the X-pipe. Do not tighten the nuts all the way.

7. Slide the 2.5" band clamp over the tailpipe section. Then, slide the tailpipe section into the muffler assemblies. Lightly tighten clamp.
8. Verify the Blackheart Exhaust system is hanging from the bracket at the tailpipe and at the rear of the muffler assembly. Then, tighten the hardware attaching the mid pipe to the muffler assemblies to 18-22 ft-lbs.
9. Tighten all the hardware & clamps to lock the x pipe in position, starting at the manifold flanges and working your way to the muffler assembly connection.
10. Align the tailpipe tips to visual preference, and tighten the tailpipe hanger hardware to 8-10 ft-lbs. Then, tighten the band clamp on both sides until snug.
11. Plug the O2 sensors into the vehicle harness.
12. Raise the car, remove the jack stands, and lower vehicle to the ground.
13. Start the vehicle and check for leaks and loose hardware.
14. Check all hardware again after the first 150 miles of driving.

**Enjoy your Blackheart Exhaust!**

**NOTE: It is normal for the Blackheart Exhaust to emit smoke for the first few minutes during break-in period.**

**NOTE: By removing the catalytic converters, the CEL will turn on. On 96-04 cars MIL Eliminators will turn the CEL off, or 98-04 cars a tune can turn the CEL off and get maximum power out of your new exhaust.**

**LIMITATION OF LIABILITY – DISCLAIMER:**

The regulation of emissions production, noise levels, and safety standards is undertaken by the federal government, each of the fifty state legislatures, and by many local municipalities, towns, and counties.

HOOKER™ makes no warranties of merchantability, of fitness for particular purpose, or that its products are approved for general use, or that its products comply with laws, regulations, or ordinances in the state where they may be sold to the ultimate purchaser, the consumer.

Unless expressly stated to the contrary in the catalog, instruction sheet; or price list, the entire risk as to the conformity of any company product in any such state and as to repair should the product prove to be defective or non-conforming, is on the retail purchaser, the buyer, the ultimate consumer, of such product and it is not upon the seller, distributor, or manufacturer.

In this connection, the retail purchaser, the buyer, the ultimate consumer assumes the burden of the entire cost of any and all necessary service, alterations, or repair.

**THE FOREGOING STATEMENT LIMITS THE LIABILITY OF THE MANUFACTURER.**

California vehicle code, sections 27156 and 38391, prohibits the advertising, offering for sale, or installation of any device, which modifies a vehicle's emission control system, unless exempted, unless otherwise noted. HOOKER™ Headers that have not received an Executive Order (E.O.) exemption from these code sections are not legal for sale or use in California on vehicles originally equipped with catalytic converters, except for racing vehicles, which may never be driven upon a highway. Check with your local authorities to determine if these headers are legal for use in your particular area.

**Technical Support: 1-866-464-6553**

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**Date: 10-4-16**