

# TECHTIPS



[www.hendrickson-intl.com](http://www.hendrickson-intl.com)

## THEY'RE PERMANENT...

### STEERTEK™ NXT Axle Kingpins

The Hendrickson AIRTEK® and SOFTEK® front suspension systems incorporate the STEERTEK™ NXT axle. The STEERTEK NXT axle uses a unique design to help make servicing the steering knuckle assembly easier for the technician.

Hendrickson's design for the STEERTEK NXT axle (8K to 14.6K capacity) features a two-piece knuckle assembly and kingpins that are permanently installed. That's right, "They're permanent!" The kingpins are cryogenically frozen, pressed into place, and remain permanent parts of the axle beam.

Replacing the kingpin bushings on typical steering knuckles can be a labor intensive procedure. Other manufacturers ordinarily have draw keys that require removal, and the kingpins need to be driven out of the axle beam with a large hammer in order to remove the steering knuckles. Once removed from the axle, such one-piece knuckles are heavy to handle and difficult to service, not to mention the price of a kingpin service kit.

Hendrickson's two-piece knuckle service procedure for the kingpins is simply to remove the brake assemblies and the two socket head cap screws from the top of the steering knuckles,

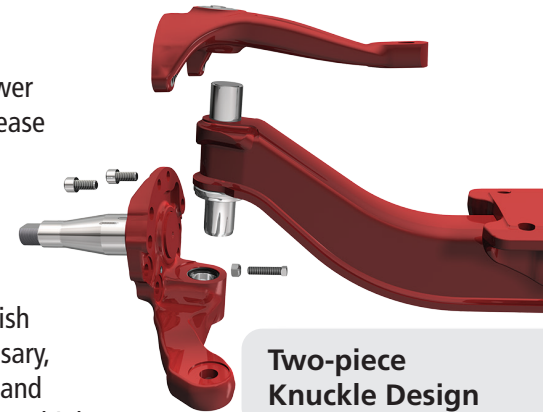
then the upper and lower knuckles separate for ease of service. There's no need to press out the kingpins.

With the steering knuckles removed, polish the kingpin(s), if necessary, using a light lubricant and emery cloth of 220 grit or higher. Minor scratching and stains from the bushing are normal and acceptable.

After polishing, verify the diameter of the kingpin(s) is above the minimum diameter of 1.802". If the kingpin(s) measures:

- **More** than this minimum diameter, proceed with the kingpin bushing replacement procedure.
- **Below** this minimum diameter or is severely damaged from lack of proper lubrication, the axle beam assembly will require replacement.

Proper lubrication at regular intervals will help ensure good service life of the knuckle assemblies, see back page for lubrication specification and intervals.



**Two-piece  
Knuckle Design**

**Remember: No need to beat on the kingpins... they're permanent!**

Refer to Hendrickson Technical Publications available online [www.hendrickson-intl.com](http://www.hendrickson-intl.com): 17730-243, 17730-247, 17730-248, 17730-250, 17730-252, 17730-253, 17730-258, 17730-259, 17730-312, 17730-343, 17730-345, 17730-346.





There is only one way to ensure the system's original performance ... ask for Hendrickson genuine parts by name.

### STEERTEK NXT Lubrication Intervals and Specifications

Application	Component	Lubrication Interval	Lubricant	Outside Temperature
<b>GENERAL</b> Does not include linehaul or medium-duty applications	Kingpin Bushings	Maximum of 25,000 miles (40,225 km) or 90 days, whichever comes first	Multipurpose Grease NLGI Grade 2	Refer to the lubricant manufacturer's specifications for the temperature service limits applicable to your area
	Tie Rod Ends			
	Drag Link	See Vehicle Manufacturer		
Application Specific Recommendations				
<b>ON-HIGHWAY</b> Linehaul Only - High Mileage Accumulation 95% Highway Surface No off-roadway operation Greater than 50,000 miles per year (80,500 kilometers per year)	Kingpin Bushings	Maximum of 100,000 miles (161,000 km) or 1 year, whichever comes first	Multipurpose Grease NLGI Grade 2	Refer to the lubricant manufacturer's specifications for the temperature service limits applicable to your area
	Tie Rod Ends			
	Drag Link	See Vehicle Manufacturer		
<b>MEDIUM-DUTY</b> Low Mileage Accumulation 95% Highway Surface No off-roadway operation City Delivery, Inner City Coach, Heavy-haul, school bus, motor home, transit coach, Less than 50,000 miles per year (80,500 kilometers per year)	Kingpin Bushings	Maximum of 40,000 miles (64,000 km) or 6 months, whichever comes first	Multipurpose Grease NLGI Grade 2	Refer to the lubricant manufacturer's specifications for the temperature service limits applicable to your area
	Tie Rod Ends			
	Drag Link	See Vehicle Manufacturer		

**NOTE:** Lubrication greases acceptable for use on the STEERTEK NXT axle will carry a designation of NLGI #2 EP and rated GC-LB or equivalent.

### STEERTEK NXT Kingpin Bushing & Thrust Bearing Service Kits

**Contents** (quantities and components vary per kit)

- Upper Grease Cap Assembly
- Lower Grease Cap Assembly
- Kingpin Bushing
- Composite Thrust Bearing
- Roller Thrust Bearing
- Kingpin Seal
- 5/8" Socket Head Cap Screw
- Loctite Tube
- Grease Zerk

**Service Kit No. 60961-628 Axle Set**

**Service Kit No. 60961-629** One Wheel End, Left Hand with Composite Thrust Bearing

**Service Kit No. 60961-630** One Wheel End, Right Hand with Roller Thrust Bearing



Shown Kit No. 60961-628

**Service Kit No. 60961-631 Axle Set**

**Service Kit No. 60961-632** One Wheel End, Left Hand with Composite Thrust Bearing

**Service Kit No. 60961-633** One Wheel End, Right Hand with Roller Thrust Bearing



Shown Kit No. 60961-631

**ORIGINAL PARTS ORIGINAL FIT ORIGINAL PERFORMANCE**

Call Hendrickson at **1.866.755.5968** (toll-free) or **1.630.910.2800** for additional information.



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