

EXTERIOR GAS STRUT ROOF LIFT ASSISTS

Regarding the External Gas Strut Roof Lift Assists and how FWC preps the newer campers:

On all new FWC's, if the customer does not order the Exterior Gas Strut Option (\$325.00) at the time of order, we are only installing the threaded portion of the "Rivnut" into the camper frame, and then inserting a temporary white plastic bolt to make it look more professional and to keep water out.



If the customer or dealer would like to install their own gas struts at a later date, they would need to buy the ball joint studs and the correct size & pressure gas struts from the FWC service department.



We prefer customers & dealers order the ball studs and gas struts from us directly to insure the correct fit & sizing. Four Wheel Campers will only warranty "FWC Installed" parts & pieces. If the customer or dealer buys & installs aftermarket parts, they will be responsible for the warranty on that part.

The small campers like the Finch, Eagle, & Fleet Models require either a 20 lb., 30 lb., or 40lb. gas strut that is 40" long.

The larger campers like the Raven, Hawk, & Grandby Models require either a 20 lb., 30 lb., or 40lb. gas strut that is 36" long.



WARNING NOTE:

The Exterior Gas Strut Roof Lift Assists are just that, assists to help the customer be able to raise & lower the “empty & unloaded” camper roof easier. These gas strut assists are not intended to increase the roof weight load capacity in any way. The less gear, and the lighter the roof load the customer is carrying, the better. If the customer has big heavy items on the roof such as canoes, kayaks, storage pods full of gear, rack baskets full of gear, etc., FWC highly recommends that the customer remove most all of the gear off the roof before trying to raise & lower their camper roof. The FWC roof design is very strong, but it does have limitations on what it can carry safely. We usually tell our customers to put NO more than 100 – 200 lbs of gear on the camper roof MAX. The less stuff and the lighter the load on the camper roof, the happier the camper & the customer will be.

ADDITIONAL WARNING NOTES FROM OUR ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:

Attached is a chart for the application of lift assist struts. We must keep in mind that these are a lift ASSIST and not a lift ALL. That being said, here are some situations to consider:

- (1) Customer wants stronger struts because they still have trouble lifting the roof. This WILL make it easier to lift the roof
- (2) Customer intends to load up their roof (kayak, roof box, etc.) and still lift the roof with everything loaded. So they get to their campsite, lift the roof with everything on it, and all is well and good. Now they want to get their kayak off the roof and unload the roof box. They lower roof, remove kayak and gear and raise the roof back up. “Wow look at that, the roof almost went up all by itself,” says customer. Now it’s time to pack up camp... so you get your kayak and gear ready and begin to lower the roof. “Honey, the roof is stuck, I can’t pull it down!” Those high pound struts that helped you lift the roof with everything on it are now fighting you when you try to bring it back down unloaded.

FWC does not believe we should ever install a strut over 40 lb.

The rivnut mounting in the thin wall aluminum tube is not designed for exceptionally great forces.

36" Struts

	20 lbs.	30 lbs.	40 lbs.
Raven Std. Roof	Rear/Front		
Raven w/ Solar Panel	Rear	Front	
Raven w/ Solar Panel + other		Rear	Front
Hawk Std. Roof	Rear/Front		
Hawk w/ Solar Panel	Rear	Front	
Hawk w/ Solar Panel + other		Rear	Front
Grandby Std. Roof	Rear/Front		
Grandby w/ Solar Panel	Rear	Front	
Grandby w/ Solar Panel + other		Rear	Front
Hawk UTE Std. Roof	Rear/Front		
Hawk UTE w/ Solar Panel	Rear	Front	
Hawk UTE w/ Solar Panel + other		Rear	Front
Grandby UTE Std. Roof		Rear/Front	
Grandby UTE w/ Solar Panel		Rear	Front
Grandby UTE w/ Solar Panel + other			Rear/Front

40" Struts

	20 lbs.	30 lbs.	40 lbs.
Finch Std. Roof	Rear/Front		
Finch w/ Solar Panel	Rear	Front	
Finch w/ Solar Panel + other		Rear	Front
Eagle Std. Roof	Rear/Front		
Eagle w/ Solar Panel	Rear	Front	
Eagle w/ Solar Panel + other		Rear	Front
Fleet Std. Roof	Rear/Front		
Fleet w/ Solar Panel	Rear	Front	
Fleet w/ Solar Panel + other		Rear	Front
Fleet UTE Std. Roof	Rear/Front		
Fleet UTE w/ Solar Panel	Rear	Front	
Fleet UTE w/ Solar Panel + other		Rear	Front

Warning: Never exceed 40 lbs.

Please call us if you have any further questions. Thank you.

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