

Construction Hints

Don't tighten the nuts on the side racks until you put the rack on your trailer. This allows for some variation between trailers. After it is mounted, tighten the nuts and you will have a custom fit.

The top part of the end rack latch was formed in a homemade die manufactured from scrap by welding 2 pieces of 1/2" rod, 3/4" apart, to a piece of 1/2" plate and welding 1/8" thick scrap to the ends and one side high enough to act as a stop. The top part of the die was a piece of 1/2" rod long enough to act as a handle and part of the die and welded across center of a piece of 1/4" plate cut to fit between the ends of the lower die. The latch metal was extra long and cut to fit after being formed. The joggle only required 3/8" extra length of metal so the actual size of the blank could have been as short as 3-3/8". Your die may require some different length. The metal to be formed was heated with a welding torch to an orange color, quickly placed on the die and formed by use of a large arbor press.

The end rack latch bolt was formed from 1/2" round stock by heating and bending in a large vise. After forming the two opposing right angles, the bolt is cut to length.