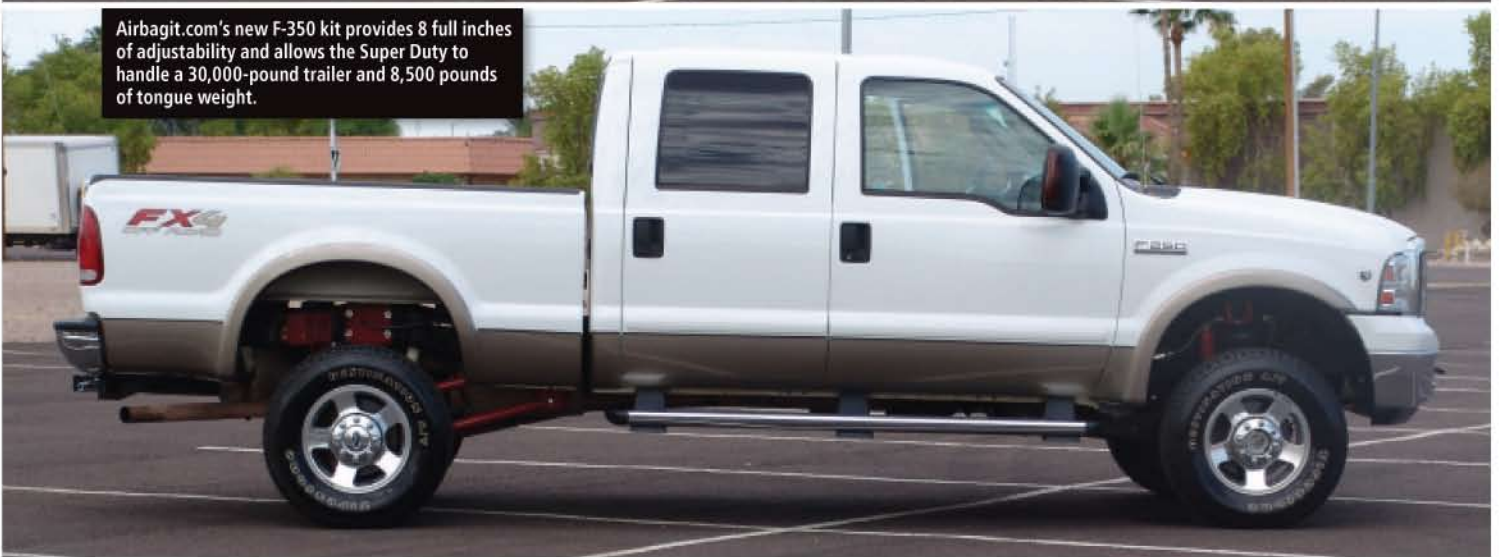


TECH



Airbagit.com's new F-350 kit provides 8 full inches of adjustability and allows the Super Duty to handle a 30,000-pound trailer and 8,500 pounds of tongue weight.



It's no secret that HD trucks can provide a pretty rough ride while towing a heavy load. Recently, we heard from an exhausted parent whose Super Duty was so bouncy that his kids couldn't watch movies in the back seat because the DVD was skipping. Nothing beats the adjustability and capacity of a good airbag kit when it comes to outfitting a tow rig, so we went to Airbagit.com and equipped the Super Duty with their brand new Chassis Tech F-350 kit. With 8-inches of suspension height adjustability (and a rear link system), this was one kit we were eager to try out.

Although the Chassis Tech kit consists of components that radically change the truck's suspension, it's a relatively simple install. Many existing bolt holes are utilized, and the kit's design allows it to integrate logically into the Super Duty's frame and suspension platforms. Airbag control and regulation are handled by Airbagit.com's impressive new Air-Engine system, which was mated to their

HAULIN' AIR!

New Super Duty Airbag Kit Raises the Bar

BY LINDSAY VALANCE
PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF AIRBAGIT.COM

Smart-Ride Air Command controller.

All in all, this ended up being a great modification for the Super Duty owner (and his kids). Ride quality improved, as did load capacity. Additionally, ride height can now be controlled from the comfort of the driver's seat. We were able to snap photos of the major steps involved in the install—follow along to see just how easy it was. **OR**



1 First, the lower bolts of the front-end shocks were removed. That allowed the axle to extend far enough for the coil spring to be removed, along with the lower spring perch and rubber isolator.



2 Airbagit.com's front bracket kit is designed for a factory ride height. It features the Denominator II 2,600-pound bag and can support up to 5,000 pounds of front axle weight. Custom brackets can also be made to accommodate up to 4-inch lifts.



3 With the brackets bolted to the air bag, the assembly was slipped into place just as the coil spring had been. The factory bolt is used in conjunction with a supplied spacer to attach the lower mount to the axle.



4 Here, the front suspension is completely installed—it took less than 10 minutes. Note the included steel leader hoses—those are ideal protection from possible wheel rub or wear.



5 In the rear, the leaf springs were supported, and then unbolted. The front spring hanger was removed, and the four-link mount was bolted in. The mount utilizes the front holes of the old leaf spring hanger, and the rear holes were marked and drilled. The links were adjusted to the correct length and installed. The pinion angle is adjustable via the rod ends.



6 Spacers are provided to fit on the recessed area of the frame before the panhard bar bracket is installed. The panhard bar mount uses four existing holes in the frame. Just as with the front link mount, additional holes needed to be marked and drilled.



7 Here is the complete rear suspension. The factory shocks, sway bar, and exhaust are retained. Pretty efficient!



8 Beefed-up with a DC7500 0.75 hp compressor, which is capable of pumping up to 250 psi (although only 100 psi is required in this case), the system utilizes a stainless steel and chrome tank to prevent rust and keep the system clean. Airbagit.com's Air Engine greatly simplifies the air plumbing and regulation.



9 A Smart-Ride Air command controller is used to control the system from within the cab. This controller allows four-wheel

independent presets that always maintain the desired pressures and height.

10 Airbagit.com's F-350 kit works with (or without) a fifth-wheel option. Ride height can be adjusted to 4 inches below or 4 inches taller than stock. The independent adjustability allows the driver to compensate for heavy, uneven loads while maintaining proper ride height. Now, a smooth ride can be maintained without sacrificing towing ability.



Source

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