



STEADYfast

TRAILER STABILIZATION KIT

**STOP YOUR TRAILER'S ROCKING AND ROLLING
WHEN SET UP AT THE CAMPGROUND**

by **Ken Freund**

Does your trailer shake like a wet dog when someone walks or moves around inside — or even when the wind blows? Not many people enjoy this rocking sensation. We recently met with Paul Hanscom, a mechanical engineer by profession and an RVer by choice. He designed STEADYfast, a stabilizing system for fifth-wheels and travel trailers, which helps eliminate parked-trailer shaking with a minimum amount of effort. Paul told us that he used his engineering background to analyze and develop a cure for the shaking he experienced every time someone walked in his trailer.

The STEADYfast system makes use of the triangle — a basic geometric shape that's the most rigid of all — to provide stability. Two opposite trailer corners are used to install the units, each of which basically consist of an adjustable strut brace which triangulates the trailer's jacks or landing gear. Running from the base of the jack diagonally up to the trailer's frame, it stops the back-and-forth rocking movement. Once installed, the system works in conjunction with the jacks, and remains in place after installation.

To engage the STEADYfast when setting up camp, just tighten three locking handles, which are located near the edge of the trailer's underside, meaning no crawling under or tools are required.



Most do-it-yourselfers can install the kit in a couple hours or less, with a power drill and a few basic hand tools. Once installed, the equipment is permanently on the trailer, retracting for travel and lowering when you set up at camp.

PHOTOS BY KEN FREUND

It's pretty much impossible to forget them, because you can't raise the jacks without loosening them. The braces then automatically tuck away under the trailer when the jacks are retracted for travel.

The system can be readily installed on most trailers that have four leveling jacks. Two long rigid tubular-steel braces mount transversely from the jack base pad diagonally to the opposite side trailer frame, and one similar brace is installed longitudinally, providing both fore-and-aft and lateral bracing. We installed a STEADYfast kit on a large 42-foot fifth-wheel SURV, which the owner said suffered from constant rocking and movement even when the stabilizer jacks were down.

The installation is fairly intuitive. Using a drill and a few basic hand tools, it takes only a couple hours or so to install. The kits come with extensive directions that cover most situations, but trailers vary so much that not every mounting possibility can be covered, as we found out. On one side the generator's exhaust was in the way, so we installed the twin struts at the opposite corner. Here, an LP-gas line had to be relocated, but it was easy to move a few inches. Our test trailer's frame was also so wide that we had to get longer tubes for the diagonal struts. Fortunately, STEADYfast had the needed longer tubes in stock and quickly shipped them to us. Once the parts were received, installation was completed.

The owner was pleased with the ease of operation and significant improvement in the trailer's lack of movement when people walk inside. We tried it, too, and almost all of the side-to-side and front-to-rear movement was gone, plus setup and take down are simple.

We found the kit to be well-designed and well-made, flexible in its ability to adapt to many trailer configurations and, best of all, it works as advertised. Retail price for the basic two-footplate kit is \$299 and the four-footplate kit we tested is \$344. Shipping is included, state sales tax extra and all kits come with a 10-year limited warranty. 📧

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