

essex

“Race Parts For Your Car”

Radi-Cal™ Front Competition Brake System Installation Guide: Chevrolet Corvette C8



Warning: Essex Competition kits are for off-road use only. The components in these systems are not designed for use on public roads.

Disclaimer of Warranty

By purchasing this product and opening this box, purchaser expressly acknowledges, understands and agrees that they take, select and purchase this brake system, parts, and equipment from Essex Parts Services, Inc., its affiliates, suppliers, distributors, and agents (collectively, "Essex") "as is" and "with all faults." The entire risk as to the quality and performance of this brake system, parts, or equipment is with the purchaser. Should the goods prove defective following their purchase, the purchaser assumes the entire cost for all necessary servicing or repair or any resulting liability. Essex is not responsible for any damage, consequential or otherwise, for equipment failure or mal-performance after installation.

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Installation

The brake system on any vehicle is a safety device. It is strongly recommended that any personnel performing brake-related replacement or maintenance operations should be competent and certified, using proper tools and equipment.

Brake to Wheel Clearance

This brake system is compact but the high offset design of some factory wheels prohibits their use without aftermarket wheel spacers and extended wheel studs/bolts. Some aftermarket wheels may fit over the brake kit without spacers but it is up to the consumer to verify that his or her wheels will work with the kit. Essex has wheel templates available for download at www.essexparts.com. ***The customer is solely responsible for verifying wheel fitment.***

Brake Noise, Vibration, and Harshness (NVH)

Brake noise can be caused by many factors. Following the bed-in procedures outlined in this manual will help reduce brake noise to the extent possible, but keep in mind that high performance brake pads do tend to make more noise than typical OEM pads. The customer is solely responsible for any NVH related problems with the brake system (squealing, scraping, vibration, judder, etc.).

Caliper, Bracket, and Hat Finish

The components of this system are anodized aluminum, and as such are subject to corrosion when introduced to corrosive agents such as brake fluid, road salt, wheel cleaners, certain soaps, etc. Use caution when cleaning and servicing the system components.

What's in the Boxes?

Your brake system is packaged in two separate boxes. With the exception of attachment hardware, driver (left) and passenger (right) components have been intentionally separated for ease of installation:

Box One (Left/Driver) :

- 13.01.10128 Kit CP9660 with 372mm disc**
- (1) Caliper (Essex #; AP#):** 13.05.20033; CP9660-3S4L
- (1) Disc assembly:** 13.04.20051; CP6084-103GA disc with 13.03.01050 hat
- (1) Bracket:** 13.03.02083 with attached studs

- 13.01.10129 Kit CP9668 with 372mm disc**
- (1) Caliper (Essex#;AP#):** 13.05.20037; CP9668-3S4L
- (1) Disc assembly:** 13.04.20051; CP6084-103GA disc with 13.03.01050 hat
- (1) Bracket:** 13.03.02083 with attached studs

Hardware:

- (4)** M12 washers (#10.02.00009)
- (4)** M12 jet nuts (#10.02.00008)
- (4)** M14 hex head bolts (attaching caliper bracket to upright) (#10.02.00070)
- (4)** M14 washers (#10.02.00010)
- (1)** Tube of Loctite 271 (red)
- (1)** Spiegler Stainless Steel Brake lines (#13.02.10800, left and right side lines are identical)



Box Two (Right/Passenger):

- 13.01.10128 Kit CP9660 with 372mm disc**
- (1) Caliper (Essex#;AP#):** 13.05.20032; CP9660-2S4L
- (1) Disc assembly:** 13.04.10051; CP6084-102GA disc with 13.03.01050 hat
- (1) Bracket:** 13.03.02083 with attached studs

- 13.01.10129 Kit CP9668 with 372mm disc**
- (1) Caliper (Essex#;AP#):** 13.05.20036; CP9668-2S4L
- (1) Disc assembly:** 13.04.10051; CP6084-102GA disc with 13.03.01050 hat
- (1) Bracket:** 13.03.02083 with attached studs

Required tools

Torque wrenches capable of 150in/lbs to 110 lb.-ft.

Breaker bar- OEM caliper bolt and wheel removal

Needle nose pliers, flat head screwdriver-brake line clip

21, 22mm box wrenches and/or sockets/ratchet-caliper to spindle bolts

T30 Torx bit - disc retaining bolt

13mm, 17mm flare wrenches-brake line removal

7/8" socket- Wheel lug nuts

6mm hex key wrench/socket- Caliper bridge bolt

14mm socket- Caliper stud nuts, banjo bolt

7/16"/11mm box end wrench- Caliper bleed screw

Rags- Brake fluid

Brake fluid cleaning solution

Small Funnel- Brake fluid

Eye protection

Gloves

2 or 3 500ml bottles of brake fluid- Essex recommends AP Racing R3 or R4 brake fluid

Pair of jack stands- If you can't figure this out, drop the other tools and walk away!

Note on brake ducts

Essex cannot verify fitment or compatibility of our system with third-party brake duct systems, so please fit and use them at your own risk. If you do plan to use brake ducts in conjunction with our system, please **do not bolt anything between the caliper bracket and the upright**. The caliper bracket was precisely designed to bolt directly against the upright without any shims, spacers, etc. If you are bolting a brake duct to the upright, please attach it on the back side of the upright. Also, please make sure that you are maintaining enough thread engagement on the bolts holding the caliper bracket to the upright.

Installation procedure

Step 1-***IMPORTANT** DISCONNECT BATTERY NEG (-) Terminal

- Open the front storage area and remove the plastic side/fender panels by prying gently. Then remove the cowl cover at the base of the windshield.
- Using a 10mm wrench, disconnect the negative battery terminal.
- **Failure to disconnect the battery before working on the brake system will throw a code and put the car into limp mode, limiting top speed and requiring a flash from the dealer to correct. Do not skip this step.**

Step 2-Wash both brake discs with soap and water (if purchased from Essex with burnished discs, skip this step)

The discs in our system are coated with a water soluble rust inhibitor that must be removed prior to use. Use soap and water to clean them. Dish detergent works well. The discs will start to rust immediately (as they do when you wash your car), so please don't be alarmed when that occurs.

Step 3-Lift and secure vehicle, remove wheel(s)

- Chock the rear wheels.
- Put a shop towel under your driver windshield wiper. Don't remove it until the job is done and you've torqued your wheels properly.
- Put on your gloves and eye protection.
- Using a 7/8" or 22mm socket, slightly loosen front wheel lug nuts, but do not remove.
- Lift the front of the car on a flat, clean, and stable surface per manufacturer recommendations and lift points
- Secure the vehicle on two jack stands, or one if you'd like to install one side at a time.

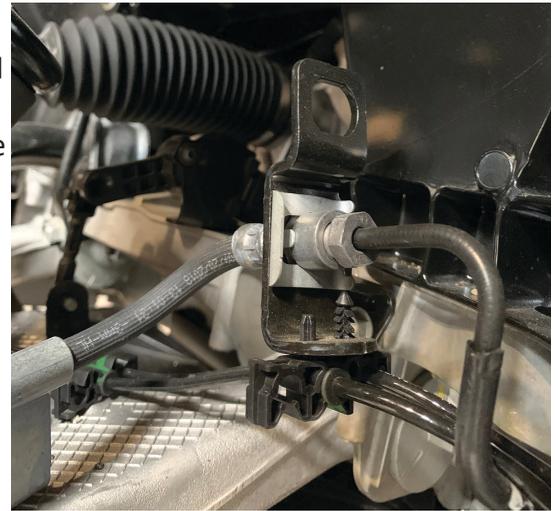
*****Never leave your vehicle supported with only a floor jack. ALWAYS USE JACK STANDS.*****

- Remove front wheel(s).

Step 4-Detach Brake line

Warning- Brake fluid is corrosive, flammable, and will damage painted and anodized finishes. Clean up all spills immediately.

- Place a tray and/or rags below the brake hard line connection on inner fender well and locate the black rubber plugs in the brake line packaging included with the kit.
- Before removing the OEM brake line, take careful note (or a picture if necessary) of the routing. The Spiegler brake line included with our system will be installed in the exact same orientation.
- Using your 13mm line/flare wrench, disconnect factory brake line from hard line connection.
- Immediately cap the hard line attachment point with the provided black rubber caps to halt brake fluid loss.
- Pry off the clip holding the brake line to the bracket. A screwdriver or set of needle nose pliers work well.
- Using the other rubber plug/cap, plug the end of the OEM brake line to prevent brake fluid spillage.
- Using a 10mm wrench/socket, remove the screw holding the bracket to the control arm.



Step 5 - Remove OE caliper

- Using a 21mm socket/wrench, locate and remove the two bolts holding the caliper to the spindle with 21mm wrench/socket.
- Remove the caliper and set it aside. If the pads/disc are worn, it may be necessary to push the pads back into the caliper slightly in order to lift it off the disc.



Step 6 - Remove OE brake disc

- Remove disc retaining screw(s) with T30 Torx bit.
- Remove OEM disc from hub.
- Using a wire brush and/or a scour pad, cleaner (WD-40 works well) and rags, clean the hub face and flange to remove any rust in order to provide a nice clean and flat surface for your new discs to seat.



Shields and ducts:

- The large front air duct and deflectors do a good job of providing air flow to the front brakes. Any attempt to improve airflow in this area should be tested for measurable temperature reduction with the AP Racing by Essex brake system.
- The heat shields on the front control arms are designed to primarily protect the ball joints and tie rods while leaving airflow to the brakes. We do not recommend removing or altering these pieces.

Step 7 - Install Essex caliper bracket

- The left and right caliper brackets are identical for this application.
- Apply one small drop of red Loctite™ 271 (red) to the threads of the hex head bolts included with our system (#10.02.00011). Please be aware that excessive use of red loctite will make removal extremely difficult.
- Using a 22mm wrench/socket and the supplied washers (#10.02.00010), attach the caliper bracket to upright.
- Make sure that the bracket sits flat against the machined face of the spindle. It is common to have some play between the bolts and spindle, we recommend pushing the caliper bracket towards the hub.
- **Torque to 105 lb.-ft.**



Step 8 - Install AP Racing J Hook racing brake disc

- Install the AP Racing Heavy Duty J Hook 2-piece disc over the wheel studs. To ensure proper airflow and cooling, make sure the discs are on the proper side of the car per the pics below. The J Hook slot pattern and internal vane design can both be used as reference points.

Ex: Driver side/left hand brake disc:

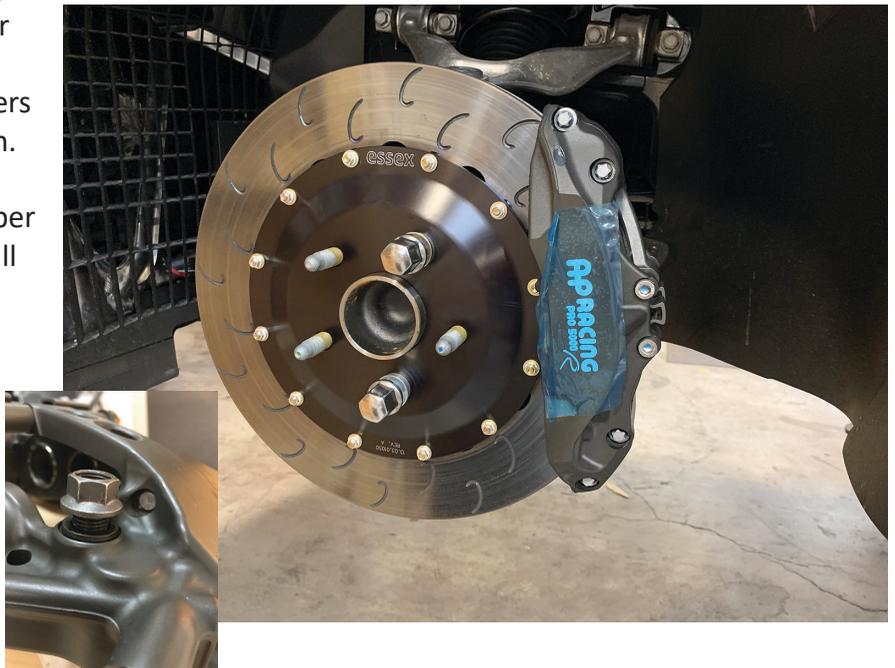


Ex: Passenger side/right hand brake disc:



Step 9 - Install AP Racing CP9660/CP9668 brake caliper

- Verify that you are putting the proper caliper on the correct side of the car. The smallest pistons should be on the leading edge of disc in normal forward rotation. There is also an arrow on the inboard side of the caliper next to the part number that indicates forward disc rotation.
- Using a 6mm hex wrench, remove the two pad retention bolts from the top of the caliper.
- Slide caliper onto bracket studs making sure it seats flat onto bracket.
- Using a 14mm socket secure the caliper to the caliper bracket with the jet nuts (#10.02.00008) and the supplied washers (#10.02.00009) under the nut as shown.
- Inspect the disc and caliper clearance. The disc should be centered in the caliper pathway with at least 2mm clearance all around.
- **Torque the jet nuts to 40 lb-ft.**



Step 10 - Install Spiegler Stainless brake line

- The Spiegler brake line will follow the same route as the OE brake line.
- Install the banjo bolt on the end of the brake line with a copper crush washer on both sides of the line banjo fitting. Hand-thread the bolt into the inlet port on the caliper and lightly tighten temporarily.
- Remove the rubber cap from the hard line on the car, and insert the brake line into the bracket. Hand-tighten the hard line fitting into the Spiegler line. Use the 13mm and 17mm wrench to tighten the connection. Do not over-tighten. Just make sure the connection is snug and leak free. Re-install OE retaining clip.
- Using the supplied clamp, spacer, bolt and washer, secure the brake line to the lower control arm.
- See picture for approximate line routing (left shown).
- Turn the steering wheel lock-to-lock, and make sure the brake line is not touching anything, binding, or rubbing. If necessary, slightly loosen the banjo bolt at the caliper, and adjust the routing of the line until there is no interference.



- If line seems twisted, use the supplied plastic blocks and a pair of pliers to twist fitting so that the line is not overly twisted. See brake line packaging for instructions.

- **Torque banjo bolt to 18-22 lb-ft.**

Step 11 - Install brake pads (DO NOT SKIP THIS STEP)

- Slide the brake pads into the calipers. Make sure the pads are sitting flush with the top surface of the disc. If you do not install your pads during this step, you will potentially have a big mess on your hands when you attempt to bleed your brakes!
- Using a 6mm hex wrench, reinstall the pad retention bolts and blocks removed in Step 9 above or the optional Essex pad retention blocks.
- **Torque to 11 lb-ft (15Nm)**



Step 12 - Repeat steps 3 thru 11 on the other side of the vehicle

Step 12 - Bleed the brake system

For use with our system, Essex recommends AP Racing R3 brake fluid or AP Racing R4 brake fluid. Both are always in stock and available through Essex and our distributors. We recommend purchasing three bottles (standard 500ml size) of your preferred fluid to complete the installation.

The goal of bleeding the brakes is to remove all of the old fluid from the system, replacing it with your new fluid. With a single brake fluid reservoir (which your car has), fluid in the front and the rear of the car will mix. You therefore need to bleed all four corners of the car. The caliper bleeding sequence is to start with the corner of the car furthest from the master cylinder (mc), and work your way closer to the mc: Passenger rear, driver rear, passenger front, driver front. The proper bleeding sequence is the lower bleed screw, followed by the upper bleed screw. Use a 7/16" or 11mm box end wrench on the caliper bleed screws, and an appropriate bleeder bottle and tubing (available through Essex).

When loosening and tightening the bleed screws during this process, just snug them and do not over-tighten.

The final torque value on your last tightening of the **bleed screw should be 150 lb-in.**

- Make sure brake pads are secured in all calipers.
- Open the top of your brake fluid reservoir, and make sure it is mostly full. At no point during the bleeding process should you allow the level of brake fluid to go below the minimum level marking.
- Have some rags and brake cleaner handy, and place a drip pan or cardboard below the caliper you are bleeding.
- Position your box end wrench over the lower bleed screw on the passenger rear caliper, followed by the hose from your bleeder bottle.
- With a friend behind the wheel and working the brake pedal, loosen the lower bleed screw and have your friend pump the brakes to the floor to flow some of the old brake fluid out of the system.
- You should see some air bubbles flowing through the bleeder hose. Once you get mostly fluid, have your friend hold the brake pedal to the floor, and snug the lower bleed screw back up.
- Check the fluid in your reservoir, and refill to the max line if necessary.
- Move to the upper bleed screw. Tell your friend, "pressure." S/he will pump the pedal 3 times slowly and hold pressure to the brake pedal on the last pump. Loosen the bleed screw. The pedal will slowly drop to the floor as fluid flows out of the bleed screw. When the pedal hits the floor your friend holds it there, and tells you, "down." Tighten the bleed screw. Repeat this process until no more air bubbles are flowing out of the caliper. On your friend's final press, close the bleed screw when his foot is half way to the floor.
- Check the fluid in your reservoir, and refill to the max line if necessary.
- Move to the next caliper in the prescribed caliper order above, continually checking the fluid level in your reservoir. It will drain quickly, so keep a close eye on it.
- When you are done bleeding, wipe up any brake fluid on the calipers, lines, etc. with brake clean and rags. It will destroy the finish of any painted surface it touches.
- Fill your fluid reservoir to the max line and tighten the cap.
- Have your friend apply pressure to the brake pedal, while you examine the connections at all corners of the car for leaks.
- Due to the internal fluid passages in the Radi-CAL™ calipers, air can sometimes get trapped inside the caliper. We recommend doing a quick re-bleed of the calipers after the initial test drive to be sure all of the air is bled out.
- For maximum performance, routine bleeding of the brakes before track use will ensure fresh fluid is always present in the calipers.

Please note: After bleeding the system, there will remain a small amount of residual brake fluid inside the bleed screws and/or around the threads. As the calipers heat up, this fluid will force its way out and may look like the calipers are leaking. This is perfectly normal and will go away after a short time. If you experience a spongy pedal or continue to see fluid leaking after a day or so then re-torque the bleed screws to the proper 150 in/lbs.

Step 13 - Install wheels

- Check wheel clearance before tightening. Be aware adhesive wheel weights inside the wheel barrel could potentially come into contact with your calipers.
- Torque your wheels to manufacturer's recommendation.

Step 14 - Reconnect Battery and Safety check

- Reconnect negative battery terminal and install cowl and side panels.
- Drive the car at low speeds in a safe location to ensure proper functioning of the brakes.

Step 15 - Bedding and preparation

Properly preparing your new brake pads before heavy use is extremely important. Please visit www.essexparts.com/learning-center for detailed bedding information in both written and video format.

The goal of bedding-in your brake pads and discs is to mate them together properly and prepare them for heavy use. When prepared properly, or bed-in, your pads will transfer a thin layer of material to the disc face (transfer layer). The pads in your caliper will then actually ride on that thin layer of pad material you've put down on the rotor, rather than rubbing directly on the iron rotor face. A good transfer layer is going to give you superior brake pedal feel, less noise, superior pad wear, and lower the chances of cracking your discs.

Important Notes- PLEASE READ!

First, make sure you have a safe location to perform a proper bed-in. You need a stretch of asphalt with long straights, good visibility, and no potential obstructions. Make sure you are in a position to safely, legally, and repeatedly hit the necessary speeds to perform the bed-in procedure. A controlled racetrack is the best place to perform this procedure. AP Racing and Essex in no way suggest or condone speeding or breaking the law in your car, nor do we take responsibility for any damage or injury that occurs as a result of using our product or these procedures. You are performing the bed-in procedure at your own risk. For complete details, please read the Disclaimer of Warranty located on the previous page of this document.

Bed-in Procedure:

During these procedures, it's critical that you never come to a complete stop with your foot on the brake pedal. If you have brake ducts on your car, you may want to block them off to allow your brake system to heat up easily.

The procedure outlined below is a generic procedure for most types of mild race pad. Please check your pad manufacturer's recommended bed-in procedure.

1. Accelerate to approximately 60mph and then decelerate down to 5 mph. If your car has ABS, you should try to hold the brakes at a point just before ABS intervention.
2. Once the car slows to 5mph, immediately accelerate back up to about 60mph, and brake again to roughly 5mph.
3. Repeat this series of stopping and accelerating 8 to 10 times. Again, do not come to a complete stop with your foot on the brake pedal.
4. Cool the brake system down by cruising at 45mph+ for 5 to 10 minutes.
5. Visually inspect your discs. They should be a blue/grey color (instead of shiny silver), and have an even layer of pad material across and around the entire rotor face.
6. If the pads don't have a layer of pad material on them, perform another series of stops in the manner outlined above.

For more details, photos, theory discussion, and video instruction on bedding-in brakes, please visit www.essexparts.com/learning-center

Notes:

Thank you again for choosing Essex and AP Racing. If you need any assistance, please call customer support at 704-824-6030.

