

ELSTON

HEATERS



Owner's Manual for Universal (HC) Heater

Another Quality Product of:



ELSTON MANUFACTURING INC.

Sioux Falls, SD 57103 1-800-845-1385

www.elstonmfg.com

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Valid for all models with Serial Numbers beginning with #H6030

1 Safety Information

For your safety, please take the time to read the appropriate sections of this manual before installing, servicing, or operating the heater.

⚠ WARNING Use only propane vapor for fuel. Use this heater only with regulators and tanks that provide propane vapor at 10.5 to 11 inches of water column. Use of a different fuel, a liquid withdrawal cylinder, and/or propane vapor at a significantly different pressure risks fire or explosion.

⚠ WARNING Use a carbon monoxide detector
A damaged heater could lead carbon monoxide into the heated area. As with a home, it is strongly recommended that a carbon monoxide detector is used whenever people are regularly in the space heated by this heater.

⚠ WARNING Use only exact parts or manufacturer approved replacements for repair
For proper function and safety, critical parts such as hoses, regulators, guards, and controls, must match the existing part.

⚠ CAUTION Do not service heater until unit has cooled for at least 10 minutes
Heat exchanger and attached parts remain hot enough to cause burns after unit is shut off until they have cooled for a few minutes.

Turn off power to the heater during service. Keep power off unless necessary for testing as heater can start unexpectedly resulting in pinched fingers or damage to heater components from tools. Also protects against shock.

NOTICE Use only in accordance with local regulations. Current regulations in your area may require that the installer of this heater or that the person servicing the propane fuel system meet certain requirements. If it is unsure what is required, please refer to the current regulations in your area or speak with the authority having jurisdiction before beginning installation.

⚠ WARNING During operation, the exhaust of this heater produces carbon monoxide, a chemical known to the state of California to cause birth defects and/or other reproductive harm.

As always, apply common sense and beware the perils of ignorance. If you are not sure it is safe or do not have enough knowledge to know if it is safe, **then do not do it!**

BE SAFE!

2 *Description of Heater*

The Universal Cab Heater, i.e. the HC Heater, you have purchased is a thermostatically controlled propane heater. It is designed to be mounted on the inside of the cab of heavy equipment or inside a small building.

It is a heavy duty forced air heater with electronic ignition. To maximize safety, the combustion air is completely separate from the inside air. The combustion air is drawn from the outside, burnt with propane, heat exchanged to warm the inside air, and exhausted outside the sealed heating area.

Specifications

Dimensions.....	16 in wide x 11.5 in tall x 8 in deep
Weight.....	27 lbs
Shipping Weight.....	38 lbs
Rating.....	20,000 BTU
Combustion Air Inlet Diameter.....	.2 in
Exhaust Outlet.....	1.5 in stainless steel pipe
Hot Air Outlet Diameter.....	.6 in
Rated Voltage.....	12 VDC
Operating Voltage Range (with heater running).....	11.5 – 13.5 VDC
Average Current Draw.....	3 Amps DC
Fuel Requirement.....	Propane (LP gas)
Fuel Consumption.....	0.8 lbs/hr (Max)

We always welcome feedback on our products. If you have comments, suggestions, or problems with the unit please contact us at 1-800-845-1385 or email at sales@elstonmfg.com or engineer@elstonmfg.com

3 Operating Instructions

Please read the safety information on page 1 if you have not already done so. These instructions assume the heater has already been installed. For installation instruction, please go to *Installation* (page 16).

Operating Precautions

This heater is designed to heat the occupied areas of vehicles and heavy equipment and provide freeze protection of cargo in trailers and truck bodies. It should not be used for heating buildings or recreational vehicles.

⚠ WARNING To prevent fire or explosions, keep solid combustibles such as paper, cardboard, or clothing, a safe distance away from the heater. Do not store explosives, flammable liquids, or flammable gases in the heated area.

⚠ WARNING Carbon monoxide could be produced by a damaged heater. Symptoms of carbon monoxide exposure include headache, dizziness, burning eyes and nose, nausea, and dry mouth or sore throat. If you experience any of these symptoms, immediately seek fresh air and seek medical attention. Ventilate the area to reduce the carbon monoxide concentrations to safe levels before reentering.

⚠ WARNING Never enter the heated area after the heater has set unattended for extended period of time with the gas on while operating a device, such as a phone, cigarette, or forklift that could be a source of ignition. If a propane leak developed, you may not detect the odorant in the propane soon enough to extinguish the source of ignition and prevent it from igniting the mixture.

⚠ WARNING If you smell propane or suspect flammable vapors may be present (from a spilled flammable liquid, etc.) when entering, take immediate action. Follow your company's procedure if one is established. Otherwise:

- Do not do anything that could ignite the mixture including operating an electrical switch, disconnecting an extension cord, or using your phone. Do not light matches or any other source of flame.
- Get everyone away from the area immediately.
- Call your fuel supplier and/or the fire department
- Do not re-enter the area until the heated area has been aired out and declared safe by your fuel supplier, fire department, or trained safety director.
- Have a properly trained service person repair any leaks and bring the heater back into service.

NOTICE Do not disconnect power from the running heater except in an emergency. Stopping the heater before it has finished its cool down cycle will cause it to wear out significantly faster. Turn down the thermostat or use the switch on the remote box to turn off the unit during normal operation. Wait to use the switch on the side of the heater until the fans have stopped. Propane has a chemical added to give it a distinctive odor. If you are not

familiar with that odor, please contact your local LP supplier. They can provide you with a scratch and sniff pamphlet. Use extra caution if you smoke or strong odors are present as this can make the odor difficult to notice. Like most other odors, extended exposure can reduce your sensitivity to the smell. Since LP gas is heavier than air, please remember that the odor will be stronger at lower levels.

Before Running the Heater the First Time

Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with your heater. The cover to the heater is attached with four bolts as shown in Figure 1.

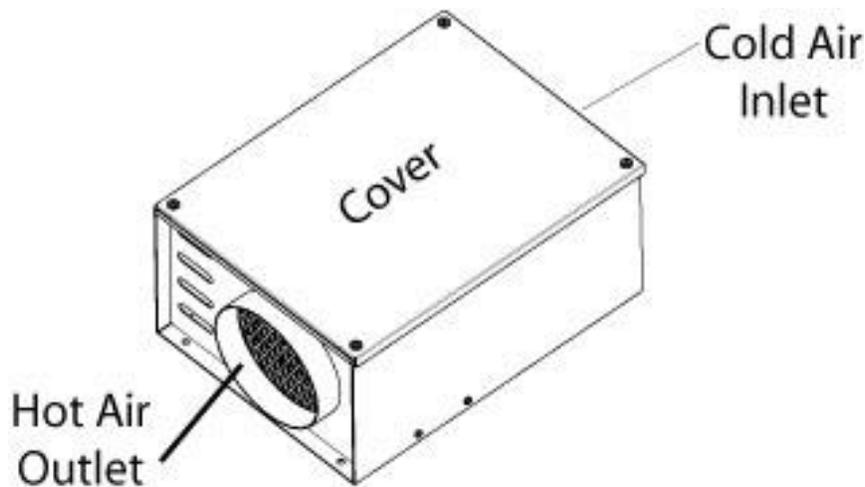


Figure 1: Overall View of the HC Heater

The combustion air enters in an opening on the bottom of the lower left of the heater. It is combined with propane and burnt in the stainless steel combustion chamber, travels through the heat exchanger, and exits outside through the combustion air outlet on the bottom upper right of the heater. The inside air is blown over the heat exchanger by the fan, where it captures the heat produced by the burning propane. The air inlet and exhaust outlet can be seen in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Bottom View of the HC Heater

Near the heater, you will see a thermostat. Please consult the manual that came with the thermostat for instruction on how to operate it.

A switch, a green indicator, and a red light are located on the side of the heater where the gas and the power enter the heater. It should be used when the heater is not needed for an extended period of time and should not be used for shutting off the heater when it is running or for day-to-day operation. For day-to-day operation, the thermostat or remote box should be used instead since it will allow the heater to safely cooldown. The green indicator light is on when there is power to the heater and the internal circuit breaker has not tripped. The red indicator light is controlled by the ignition module and is an indication of when the module is attempting to light the heater. Therefore, the red indicator light is on any time there is a call for heat and the gas valve is not energized.



Figure 3: Side View of HC Heater (Indicator Face)

Normal Operation for Heater

When the switch on the heater is turned off, the propane is turned on, and the thermostat set to its minimum setting, no lights will be on and no fans will be running. When the switch is turned on, the green indicator light will come on if power is supplied to the heater. If the thermostat is turned up until the heater starts (this will be unnecessary below 20 °F), the blower and fan will start and after a short delay, the red indicator light will come on. After a 15 to 30 second delay, the gas turns on, the red light turns off, and a faint clicking sound will be heard as the ignition module sends a high voltage spark to the spark probe. The heater will attempt to light for approximately 10 seconds. If the heater lights, the red light will turn off. If not, the red light will turn back on and the heater will wait 15 to 30 seconds to try again.

The heater will run until the heated area reaches the temperature set on the thermostat. The gas will turn off but the blower will run for an additional 2 to 3 minutes to cool down the heater.

Running the Heater for the First Time or After the Unit has been sitting a Long Time

Whenever you need to verify that the heater is working properly, please follow the five steps below:

1. Check that the air inlets and outlets are undamaged and unblocked

Check that the air inlets and outlets are undamaged and unblocked, especially the ones that are outside.

2. Check the fuel system

Check that the propane tank(s) is/are securely mounted and contains fuel. Check the gas lines and fittings between the propane tank and the heater are tight and undamaged. Turn on the valve on the propane tank.

⚠ CAUTION If you smell propane, immediately discontinue operation of the heater until the source of the leak has been found and fixed.

3. Set the thermostat to the maximum value

If the temperature is above 80 or 90 °F, you may not be able to turn the thermostat high enough for the heater to start in the next step. If you wish to continue setting up the heater you will need to chill the thermostat probe.

4. Turn the heater on

The heater will start and after a few seconds, ignite. The red indicator light near the powerswitch will turn on until the heater has ignited. You should hear it quietly ignite just after the fan turns on and you will feel the air exiting the heater get warm within a minute. If the heater doesn't ignite after a few minutes (the red indicator light will turn on and stay on), please refer to the troubleshooting guide to help fix the problem.

5. Set the thermostat to the desired temperature

Your heater is now ready for use.

Normal Operation

1. Check the air inlets and outlets are undamaged or unblocked

Check that the air inlets and outlets are undamaged and unblocked, especially the ones that are outside.

2. Check the fuel system

Check that the propane tank(s) is/are securely mounted and contains fuel. Check the gas lines and fittings between the propane tank and the heater are tight and undamaged. Turn on the valve on the propane tank.

CAUTION

If you smell propane, immediately discontinue operation of the heater until the source of the leak has been found and fixed.

3. Set the thermostat

Set the thermostat to the desired temperature.

4. Turn on the heater

Your heater is now ready for use and will automatically run as necessary to maintain the space at the desired temperature.

5. Turning off the heater

If you need to turn the heater off for the night or the weekend, turn off the heater by using the thermostat or the optional remote box. This guarantees that the heater has time to cool down properly.

If you need to turn the heater off for longer than a few days, turn off the heater using the power switch on the side. It is very important that the heater is not running when you shut off the power. If the heater is running, first turn off the heater using the thermostat or remote box, wait until the fan has stopped, and then turn off the heater. Turning off the heater with the power switch while it is running is not inherently dangerous, but it will reduce the life of some of the components inside the heater. Once the heater is turned off, close the valve(s) on the propane tank(s).

4 Service Instruction

Every time you walk by the heater and at least once a week

- Check the air inlets and exhaust outlet for damage or obstructions
- Check the exterior gas lines for damage

Annually before the start of the winter season

- Carefully inspect the propane tank, regulator, and fuel lines for leaks or damage. Replace any damaged components and tighten any loose fittings.
- Clean the air inlet and exhaust outlet. Remove any debris that has collected during the summer.
- Remove the heater cover. Carefully remove any dust or dirt from the grill and the large fan inside the heater.
- Start up and run the heater for a couple of minutes to check that everything is in working order.
- If you are using a digital thermostat, replace the battery.

Every three years or when ignition problems occur

In addition to annual maintenance:

- Remove the spark probe and check for damage and deposits. The metal probes should not be darker than a light gray or have an excessively rounded tip. If the metal probes are damaged or excessively rounded, they should be replaced. If the spark probe has deposits then carefully remove them with a damp rag or abrasive plastic pad. Figure 4 shows the original condition of the spark probe as a reference. When you reinstall the spark probe, always use a high temperature anti-seize compound rated for at least 1200 °F on the threads of the mounting screw and, if necessary, seal the joint between the spark probe and the combustion chamber with a high temperature exhaust or furnace cement rated to at least 900 °F. Be careful to avoid getting any cement on the mounting screw to allow future removal of the spark probe.



Figure 4: Spark Probe as Originally Installed

5 Troubleshooting

If this guide does not help you fix your problem, please contact the company where you purchased the heater for additional assistance. If you are unable to contact them or you need additional help, please contact Elston Manufacturing at 1-800-845-1385.

If the repair is something that is beyond your abilities or you want the heater repaired professionally, uninstall the heater and send it back to Elston Manufacturing for repair. Any components that need to be replaced for proper operation will be replaced. Maximum repair time is 4 hours at the current shop hourly rate. All repairs will be documented and billed to you accordingly. If you would like to follow this option, send the unit back to:

Elston Manufacturing
Attn: HC Heater Repair
706 N. Weber Ave
Sioux Falls, SD, 57103
Phone #: 1-800-845-1385

CAUTION

For your safety, the propane should always be turned off and the power turned off when troubleshooting this product except when necessary for testing. The heater can start unexpectedly and could pinch or cut fingers, sustain damage from tools, or cause burns from rapidly warming internal surfaces.

What is wrong with the heater?

- A. Heater fails to ignite and fan does not run
- B. Fan runs but heater fails to ignite
- C. Heater usually ignites but sometimes does not
- D. Black smoke from exhaust outlet

Problem A: Heater fails to ignite and fan does not run.

Turn down the thermostat and turn off power to the heater using the switch.

Does the green indicator come on when the power is turned on?

No. Check that the heater is receiving power and the positive and ground wires have not been reversed. The positive connection from the battery should connect to post #1 of the terminal block, as shown in Figure 13. The ground connection from the battery should connect to post #2 or post #3. Using a digital multi-meter, check the voltage across post #1 and post #2 or post #3. The digital multi-meter should read 12 VDC. If voltage is not detected, do a quick inspection of the electrical system from the heater to the vehicle for obvious

problems. If there are no obvious problems, it is recommended that you start at the thermostat and work your way through the components supplying power from the vehicle to the heater until you find the problem. Possible problems include loose connections at terminal bolts, corrosion or mechanical damage to wires, and tripped circuit breakers and blown fuses.

Yes, but just for a moment. There is probably a short inside the heater. Check for loose or damaged wires and connections.

Yes. If you turn up the thermostat all the way, does the red light turn on after 2-3 seconds?

No. If applicable, check that the thermostat is turned on and set to heat. Check that the temperature of the thermostat is set high so enough that it will turn on the heater. If the thermostat is a digital model, replace the batteries. If none of these things work, check that the +12 VDC is coming into the thermostat from the heater and there are no loose connections inside the thermostat. Check the thermostat for an electrical short caused by water damage. Check the thermostat capillary bulb for physical damage or severed connection between the thermostat and the capillary bulb. If the thermostat is working correctly, check that the heater is receiving at least 12 VDC when the fans are not running. When the fans power up, this should result in a 0.5 VDC voltage drop to roughly 11.5 VDC. When the ignition module is sending spark to the spark probe, there should be a 0.15 VDC voltage drop to roughly 11.35 VDC. The heater needs at least 11 VDC to function correctly but may fail to function completely below 10 VDC. The ignition module needs 9.2 VDC minimum to operate. Check connections for the fan monitor (HC-440), and the combustion blower (HC-441). The fan monitor, as shown mounted inside heater in Figure 5, operates based on pulse sensor output from the combustion blower. If the voltage is too low, the electrical connection between the fan monitor and combustion blower is damaged or the fan monitor is not connected properly into the safety circuit, the combustion blower will not generate the proper signal needed for the fan monitor relay to close a normally open switch on the PCB inside the fan monitor housing, thus causing the heater to not process through the ignition phase.

Yes. The safety system for the heater does not have the correct initial setup. The safety system consists of 3 switches wired in series with the ignition module. The 3 switches are:

- High Temperature Safety Switch (Elston P/N HC-414W)
- Recirculating Fan Airflow Sail Switch (Elston P/N HC-405)
- Combustion Blower Fan Monitor (Elston P/N HC-440)

Check the combustion blower for obstructions, performance and proper electrical connections with the fan monitor. Check wiring associated with the safety circuit. Check that the flap for the sail switch is not stuck in the open or closed position. If the sail switch is not physically stuck open or closed, check that the resistance across the sail switch is in the range of 0 to 2 Ω when the heater is off. If the resistance reading is above this value or behaves erratically, the sail switch needs to be replaced. See Figure 6 for where to place probes while holding down switch and Figure 7 for a read out from a digital multi-meter for resistance measurement for the sail switch when lever is depressed, closing the switch.

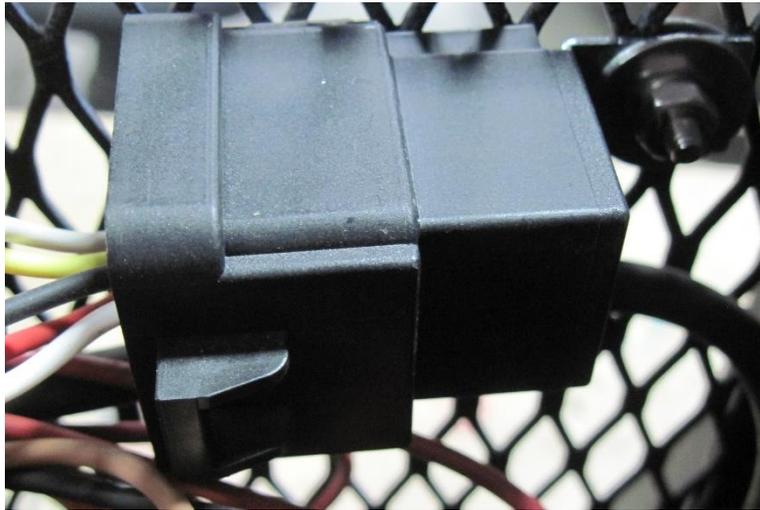


Figure 5: Fan Monitor

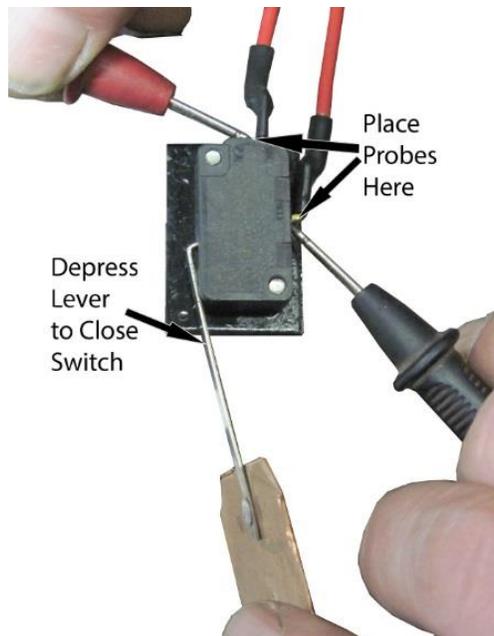


Figure 6: Resistance Measurement for Sail Switch



Figure 7: Digital Multi-meter Readout for New Sail Switch

Problem B: Fan runs but heater fails to ignite

With the gas off, start the heater by turning up the thermostat to the maximum temperature. The red indicator should turn on a couple seconds after the fan starts and you should hear a faint clicking noise, an indication of the ignition process, fifteen to thirty seconds after the blower starts. If you do, then:

Rule out general problems. Carefully check the fuel system: specifically the propane tank(s) for fuel levels, the propane lines for damage or leaks, the propane line fittings for tightness, and the regulators for proper pressure and liquid build up. Check the connections at the thermostat for problems. Remove the cover of the heater and check the wiring for damage or loose connections and the components in the heater for obvious damage. Using a digital multi-meter, check the voltage across post #1 and post #2 or post #3 of the terminal block shown in Figure 13. The digital multi-meter should read 12 VDC with no fans running, 11.5 VDC with fans running, and 11.35 VDC with the fans running and within ignition process.

Inspect the spark ignition system. The spark ignition system should create one spark across the tip of the metal probes in the combustion chamber on each faint click. The spark can be in an incorrect location for any of the following reasons: damage to the spark probe wires, loose connections, and deposits on the spark probe. To access the spark probe to check for deposits, remove the access panel on the side of the heater by the combustion chamber. The metal tips of the spark probe should only be slightly rounded with a 1/8" gap at the tip. In addition, the insulator on the probe should have no cracks or chips missing and only have light deposits on the insulator. If the spark probe is damaged or excessively round, it should be replaced. If the spark probe only has deposits, carefully remove them with a damp rag or abrasive plastic pad.

A new igniter, as installed, can be seen in Figure 4. If replacing an igniter with bent igniter rods, make sure to bend the ignition rods into the configuration of the original igniter. The original igniter was altered to provide maximum performance for proper ignition.

The combustion chamber could have been separated from the combustion air supply inlet. The combustion chamber can separate and lose the seal between the combustion chamber and the air supply chamber, resulting in improper combustion of the LP gas supply. This is noticeable by hearing a loud poof and/or smelling exhaust fumes in or around the heater. When the seal is lost, the fan cannot supply the proper amount of air to combust the LP gas. This results in a fuel-rich combustion, leading to carbon deposit build up within the combustion chamber and exhaust and lack of performance.

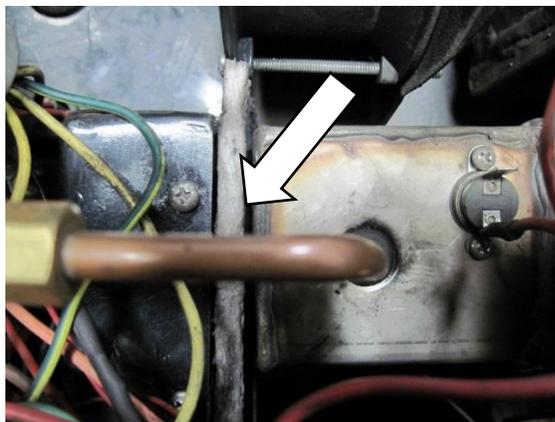


Figure 8: Combustion chamber separation from the air supply chamber

Remove the cover to the heater and inspect the area where the stainless steel combustion chamber interfaces with the combustion chamber inlet gasket and the air supply chamber. This interface can be seen in Figure 8. If there is separation, as shown in Figure 8, you may need to remove the combustion chamber and remove built up carbon deposits for the heater to function properly. Once cleaned, reinstall the burner while ensuring that the burner is properly fixed to the shell to create a firm seal to the combustion chamber inlet gasket.

If the red indicator does not come on and you do not hear the faint clicking noise:

The combustion blower may not be working correctly causing the fan monitor to not work properly. With the LP gas off, check that the air is flowing through the combustion chamber and that the combustion blower is turning. If it is not working, check for the loose connections or obstructions or damage to the blower. If you find nothing obvious, remove the blower and test it at 12 VDC to see if it is functioning correctly. You can also identify if the combustion blower is working by holding your hand over the air inlet to see if the fan is creating suction. If not, there is a good chance that the blower is malfunctioning and needs replacing. Hold your hand over the air supply inlet shown in Figure 9 in a manner consistent with what is shown in Figure 10. Again, if the supply voltage is too low, the electrical connection between the fan monitor and combustion blower is damaged or the fan monitor is not connected properly into the safety circuit, the combustion blower will not generate the proper signal required for the fan monitor relay to close a normally open switch on the PCB inside the fan monitor housing, thus causing the heater to not process through the ignition phase.



Figure 9: Air Supply Inlet to check for suction and obstructions



Figure 10: Hand placement over air supply inlet to check for suction

The sail switch or high temperature switch may be malfunctioning. If the sail switch fails to close or the high temperature switch is stuck open the heater will not attempt to ignite. Also loose or damaged wire to either of these items will cause the same problem. Check the wiring to these two items. With the power turned off to the heater, use a multi-meters to check the resistance of the high temperature switch. If the resistance measurement is less than 1 Ω , the switch is fully functional. If the resistance measurement is more than 1 Ω , then the high temperature switch should be replaced. Also, check to see if the sail switch closes when the heater runs by disconnecting the wiring to the sail switch and checking if the resistance drops to zero when the fan is running. If the wiring and two switches check out okay, refer to the troubleshooting tips above for troubleshooting the sail switch.

If the red indicator comes on but you do not hear the faint clicking noise:

This indicates either a short in the High voltage cable or a malfunctioning ignition module. Check the high voltage cable for damage. If no problems are found, remove the high voltage cable from the spark probe on the combustion chamber (it can be accessed by removing the access panel on the side of the heater by the combustion chamber). With the gas off, double check that no spark is being produced by improvising a 1/8" spark gap from the end of the high voltage terminal to the combustion chamber. IF a spark is being produced, remove and inspect the spark probe. Check and fix any possible shorts, adjust the spark gap to 1/8" if necessary, and reinstall the spark probe. If this does not fix the problem refer to the troubleshooting tips at the start of this problem. If no spark is being produced, the spark ignition module need to be replaced.

Problem C: Heater usually ignites but sometimes does not

Check that the propane tank fuel level is not low and gas is getting to the heater. Carefully check the fuel system: specifically the propane tank(s) for fuel levels, the propane lines for damage or leaks, the propane line fittings for tightness, and the regulators for proper pressure and liquid build up.

Is any extra ductwork connected to the exhaust or air inlets or outlets?

Yes. The heater should have less than 5 feet connected to the hot air inlet and outlet. Any additional pipe connected to the exhaust should be 1.5" diameter or larger pipe that is less than 5 ft. long and have minimal number of bends. Disconnect all pipe and ductwork from the heater to see if this corrects the problem.

No. Carefully check all the inlets, outlets, and blower for debris and obstructions. Follow the troubleshooting suggestions for Problem B. Using a digital multi-meter, check the voltage across post #1 and post #2 or post #3 of the terminal block shown in Figure 13. The digital multi-meter should read 12 VDC with no fans running, 11.5 VDC with fans running, and 11.35 VDC with the fans running and within the ignition process. Typically, operating voltage should be 11.5 VDC to 13.5 VDC for the heater to operate reliably. Operating at low voltages (11 to 11.5 VDC) for substantial amounts of time will cause the heater to build up carbon deposits, choking the unit, and cause poor ignition with chunks of carbon deposits exiting the exhaust upon start up.

Problem D: Black Smoke from Exhaust Outlet

Under normal use, the heater will produce very little, if any, black smoke near the exhaust outlet. A white “smoke” of water vapor is normal during cold weather but darker smoke is often an indication of a problem with the heater and often shows up first when the vehicle powering the heater is not running. These deposits typically indicate that one of the openings in the heater is obstructed or the heater is not receiving enough voltage while it is running.

Check if the heater is running off of the battery only (i.e. the vehicle is not running). If the battery is significantly run down or running many accessories, the heater cannot receive enough voltage to operate properly. Running the heater for less time on the battery or starting the vehicle should correct the problem.

If this problem occurs when the vehicle is running or after less than an hour of running on the battery, check the following:

1. Check that none of the inlets or outlets to the heater are partially blocked or any ductwork leading to or from the heater is damaged.
 2. Check the combustion fan for obstructions or blockages.
 3. Remove ductwork from inlets, outlets, and exhaust to see if this eliminates the black smoke. If so, the ductwork maybe too long or have too many bends causing the heater to run fuel-rich due to excessive exhaust backpressure.
 4. Using a digital multi-meter, check the voltage across post #1 and post #2 or post #3 of the terminal block shown in Figure 13. The digital multi-meter should read 12 VDC with no fans running, 11.5 VDC with fans running, and 11.35 VDC with the fans running and within the ignition process. A voltage below 11.5 VDC, when the fans are running, typically indicates a problem in the electrical system between the heater and the vehicle. Start by looking for loose or corroded connections.
 5. Check that the regulator is producing the correct pressure of 10.5-11 inches of water column. A high pressure will cause the heater to receive too much propane resulting in a fuel-rich combustion leading to carbon deposit build up, smelly and black exhaust, and potentially more problems down the line.
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6 Installation

⚠ WARNING

Improper installation of this heater creates a substantial safety hazard including the risk of property damage, fire, and/or death.

NOTICE

Compliance with local regulations is the responsibility of the installer. If you are unsure what local regulations require, please refer to the current regulations in your area or speak with the authority having jurisdiction before beginning installation.

Overview

The choices you make in installation have huge effects on the safety and reliability operation of this heater. There are four primary issues to focus on:

1. Safe and robust installation of the propane fuel system
2. Safe and robust installation of the electrical system
3. Securing mounting of all parts against long-term vibration
4. Ensuring adequate and consistent air-flow to the heater

The purpose of these instructions is to aid you in installing a fully functional heater that is safe and secure under both normal condition and, as much as possible, during an accident. However, these instructions are not a substitute for personal knowledge and experience with installing propane and/or electrical systems. Please do not install those areas of the heater unless you have personal knowledge and experience in these areas.

These instructions were written with the latest standards for the US and Canada in mind and are intended to guide you in an installation that meets these standards. At the time of the writing, the latest standards were the [2014 edition of the NFPA 58: The Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code](#) and the [2010 edition CAN/CSA-B149.5-10: Installation Code for Propane Fuel Systems and Tanks on Highway Vehicles](#). However, if the regulations that apply in your area conflict with these installation instructions, the local regulations should always be followed instead.

Throughout this guide, the word “must” is used for any instruction that if not followed would create safety hazard and/or yield an installation that would not comply with current standards. An instruction with the word “should” is necessary either for the proper function of the product or improves the long-term safe operation of the product. If you are unable to follow any instructions with the words “must” or “should”, please contact us and/or the authority responsible for regulating or approving your installation to discuss how your installation can be completed in a manner that is functional, safe, and compliant. Finally, an instruction that recommends an instruction designed to maximize the working life of the product, simplify installation, or improve the appearance of the installed product.

Unpacking the Heater and Gathering Supplies

Parts needed for installation included with all models of heater:

- 1 template for mounting holes

- 6 feet self-stick rubber seal
- 1 exhaust flange and pair of ring shaped gaskets
- Clips for attaching electrical lines and thermostat probe to the walls
- Hardware for attaching thermostat to the wall
- 24 feet of 18 gauge tan wire for wiring thermostat
- 12 feet of 16 gauge 2 conductor parallel wire (red and black) for 12 VDC power supply to heater

Parts included with 24 VDC models only:

- 1 HC-525 24-to-12VDC power converter
- 12 feet of 18 gauge black wire
- 12 feet of 18 gauge orange wire
- Mounting hardware for converter box

Additional parts required:

- 4 1/4 inch bolts at least 1/2 inch longer than the thickness of the wall the heater is being mounted on with washers, lock washers, and nuts to match.
- Hardware to attach the exhaust flange
- Brackets and clips for attaching fuel lines to the trailer walls
- Propane fuel system including tanks, tank holders, and propane hoses

Heater Placement

The heater should be located where it is not in the way of normal traffic and, if possible, with enough clearance to remove the cover to the heater and the access panel for the spark probe without unbolting the heater. If you are unable to mount the heater in a position that the ON/OFF switch and indicator lights are easily accessible, a remote box is available as an accessory.

The heater must be mounted in one of the orientations shown in Figure 11 with plenty of room for the air to enter and leave the heater. Figure 11 has two acceptable mounting positions:

1. **Position A** – Floor Mount – the heater may be installed in any position where the exhaust exits the heater straight down.
2. **Position B** – Horizontal Wall Mount – The heater may be mounted on the wall provided it is mounted as pictured (the air inlet is on the left and the air outlet is on the right when facing the cover of the heater).

In order to ensure adequate air flow for the heater to operate properly, the cold air inlet and hot air outlet must be 6” or more from a wall or obstruction. In addition, the sides and top of the heater must have at least 1” of clearance from nearby objects. Figure 12 shows the mounting clearances needed to ensure adequate air flow to and from the heater.

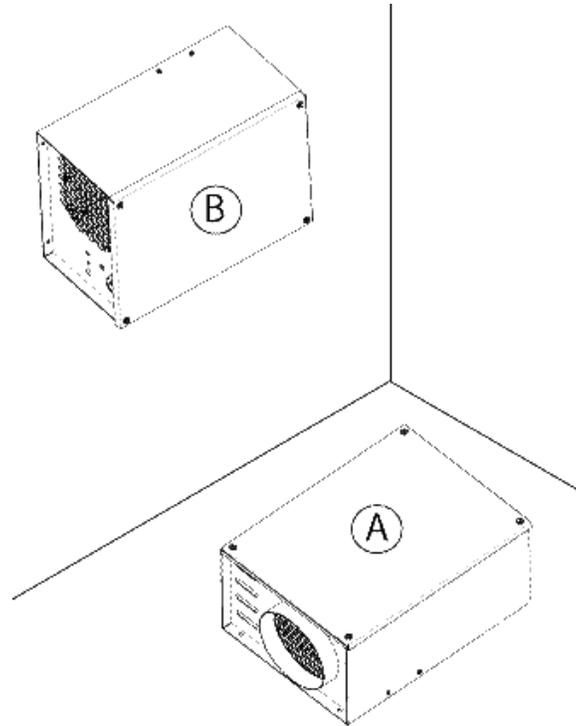


Figure 11: Mounting Positions for the HC Heater

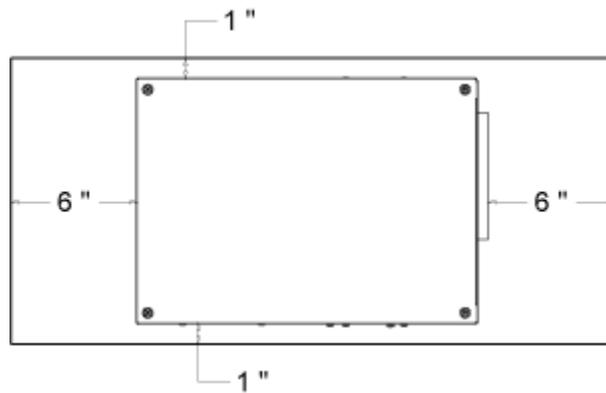


Figure 12: Mounting clearances for adequate air flow

Mounting

Check that the template matches the heater. Tape the drilling template in the desired location for the heater, checking that it is level and flat. Center punch the location of the air inlet and outlet holes and one of the top mounting holes indicated on the template. Remove the template and identify the size of the holes on the wall. If you are cutting the larger holes with a jigsaw or saber saw, use a compass to mark the circles.

Drill all three holes to the size indicated on the template.

Lift the heater into place and align it with the mounting holes. Once the heater is lined up, slide a 1/4" bolt (with a washer) into the top mounting hole you drilled. If desired, finger tighten the nuts on this bolt to keep the heater from pulling away from the wall. Level the heater and mark the other three mounting

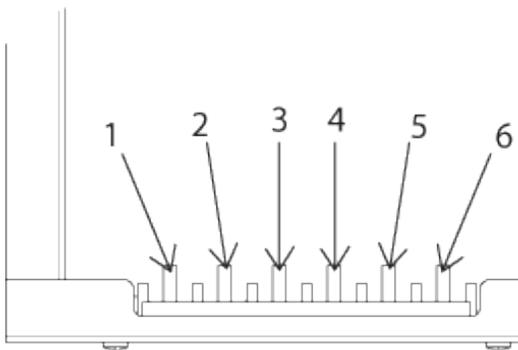
holes. Remove the heater and drill the remaining holes. Lift the heater into place and install and tighten all four mounting bolts. If desired, install the included exhaust coupling to allow redirection of the exhaust or to protect the mounting surface of the heater from damage. An insulating gasket is included for installation between the coupling and the mounting surface for the heater. The coupling fits loosely on the exhaust to allow for slight misalignment of the exhaust pipe and the heater. The small gap between the outside surface of the pipe for the heater exhaust outlet and the inside of the exhaust coupling should be sealed with automotive exhaust sealant or similar compound to ensure an airtight seal.

Mount the thermostat in a location where it may be easily accessed or, if easy access is not desired, on the shell of the heater near the air inlet of the heater. Mount the temperature probe in a location that is shoulder level to the operator. If the thermostat has a remote temperature probe, mount this on a surface that is expected to be the same temperature as what you are heating. In other words, don't mount the probe near the ceiling, the hot air outlet, or on a cold metal surface. If the best mounting surfaces are uninsulated metal surfaces, it is recommended that the probe is mounted with plastic tinnerman clips or similar method that will help get the probe closer to the air temperature of the heated area.

Wiring

The high levels of vibration and the temperature extremes these heaters are exposed to are hard on electrical connections. Always use quality electrical connectors, fittings, and wire as clean, secure connections are essential for both the proper operation of this heater as well as long-term, trouble-free operation.

Check that the power to the heater is off. Connect the wires to the terminal block, positive 12 VDC voltage from the power source to terminal 1 and negative (ground) voltage from the power source to either terminal 2 or terminal 3.



Label	Purpose
1	V+ (12 V)
2	V- (Ground)
3	V- (Ground)
4	Thermostat Hot
5	Fan
6	Thermostat Heat

Figure 13: Terminal Block and Wiring Guide for Terminal Block

Fuel System

NOTICE

These instructions are intended for general guidance only. Consult the current regulations in your area or the latest standards, [NFPA 58 for the United States](#) or [CAN/CGA149.5-10 for Canada](#), for exact requirements.

Before you begin mounting any components, it is recommended that you determine the approximate mounting location of all components to ensure that all parts can be connected with the available lengths of hose and tubing. The recommended order of installation is:

1. Install the propane tanks or propane carriers

All propane tanks must be “DOT” or “ASME” approved, setup for vapor withdrawal, and mounted in line with the manufacturer’s instructions and the applicable code.

Install the propane tank or propane tank carrier, such as the [X-1025 single bottle carrier](#) or the [X-1050 dual bottle carrier](#), following the instructions included with the product. Installation instructions are available for all tanks purchased from Elston Manufacturing. If your tank or tank carrier does not have instructions, contact the manufacturer for guidance and refer to the installation code that applies in your area.

Any tanks should be mounted at least 18” from any portion of the exhaust system for the heater or the vehicle. If this is not possible, it must be shielded from the exhaust components by a vehicle frame member or a baffle of noncombustible material. The item that is shielding the tank must have an air space between itself and the exhaust component itself and the tank to properly shield the tank from the heat. If a baffle is used, it should be constructed so that it is expected to resist corrosion at least as long as the propane tank.

NOTICE

New tanks that are purchased empty come filled with air or an inert gas that needs to be purged before the tanks are filled for the first time. Also, tank fabricators are required by ASME and DOT to complete hydrostatic testing of tanks after fabrication. Hydrostatic testing frequently uses water. **By not removing the air/inert gas and residual water properly, the tank could read false pressures resulting in opening of the safety relief valve and blowing off excess pressure, the tank could slow fill due to container air being compressed above the liquid level, and the tank could supply improper fuel resulting in improper fuel mixture for combustion.**

Remember to inform the propane supplier if your tank is new.

Some propane suppliers will open the bleeder valve and purge the tank until vapor fuel comes out. **THIS IS NOT THE SUGGESTED METHOD FOR PURGING A NEW TANK!** One must purge a new tank according to NPGA safety bulletin 133-89A. Manchester Tank, one of our tank suppliers, references it in [their helpful hints website](#).

[Follow this link to learn how to purge new propane tanks](#). This gentleman worked with our old propane regulator and hose supplier, Marshall Gas, to develop this guide.

There are several different methods to purge tanks. We will focus on these two:

- **One method** uses a [Propane Tank Purge Kit like the one at this website](#).
 - Hook the tank to be purged (new tank) to the kit and the other end to a tank that delivers propane vapor (supply tank).
 - Open the inline purge lever to purge position, open the new tank's valve and use the bleed port on the purge kit to bleed any shipping air out to 1 atm.
 - Open the supply valve on the supply tank and turn the inline purge lever to the charge position to supply the new tank with propane vapor. Doing this once will result in a mixture of air to propane vapor to be 1:1 (50% air 50% propane vapor).
 - Repeat this process another 3 times to get to 6.25% air or less, which is an acceptable level of air/inert gas for the initial fill.

This process wastes a lot of propane vapor to do this since you must purge the tank 3 times after the initial purge to get the percentage of air down to safe levels to prevent internal rusting, excessive pressures, and etc.

- **Another method** consists of the Vacuum method in which an approved vacuum pump or LP gas compressor is needed to vacuum the tank to 26 in of Hg. Fill the purged container with propane vapor until it reaches 1 atm of pressure. It is then ready to be filled with liquid propane, after disconnecting the vacuum purge kit. This would be the preferred method.

2. Mount the regulators

All regulators must be CSA/UL approved and securely attached with the vent opening facing straight down. It should be mounted on exterior surface and must not be installed in the space that the heater will be heating. It must be attached so it is supported by screws attached to the mounting holes on the regulator and not by the fittings attached to it. If the regulator is mounted in an unsheltered location, it must have either a durable cover or be installed in an enclosure. If the regulator is mounted at or below the floor level of the vehicle, it must be installed in an enclosure. The enclosure must be:

- Sufficient size to allow connection to and replacement of the regulator
- Vapor tight to the interior of the vehicle
- Have 1 square in (in²) or larger vent opening within 1 inch of the bottom compartment and 2 inches below the regulator vent opening
- Contain no flame or spark producing equipment
- Designed and mounted with as much ground clearance as practical

3. Install all hoses and fittings

Attach all fittings to the regulators, heater and tanks. The POL fitting attached to the tank must have a built-in excess flow valve. All fittings including bulkheads must have wrench flat or similar way that each fitting can be individually tightened or loosened (close nipples are not allowed). The threads in fittings must be a tapered pipe thread and sealed with a joint sealant approved for this use.

Attach the hoses as necessary. All hose assemblies must carry a CSA/UL approved label and be 36" or shorter.

4. Install the copper propane line

The copper line should be run as directly as possible between components while maintaining adequate clearance from the exhaust system and areas with a high risk of impact damages such as above tires. Once the route for the copper tubing is determined, any necessary holes in the frame or floor supports can be drilled and installed with grommets and the tubing can be pulled into place, trimmed to length, deburred, fitted with the correct nut, flared, and attached. The 3/8" copper line must:

- Meet either the specification for either ASTM B 88 (Type K or L) or ASTM B 280. In Canadian installations, the tubing must additionally be marked and plastic or rubber coated in accordance with [CAN/CSA-B149.5-10](#).
- Have no joints and cannot be extended in any way.
- Be protected by grommets or another method with similar protection when traveling through bulkheads or portions of the trailer frame, be securely clamped to the front wall of the trailer, and otherwise supported and secured to minimize the effects of vibration.
- Be installed in a protected location that is visible for inspection. It cannot be installed inside the frame or any pipe or tubing.
- Not be installed inside the vehicle except as necessary to hook up to the heater. It should not be closer than 4" to any part of the exhaust system, run directly above any tire, or within 6" of any tire.
- Not be in contact with any electrical wiring.
- Be connected so that slight shifting and the expansion or contraction that occur with temperature do no cause stress on the fittings.

5. Test the system for leaks

The propane system must be tested for leaks before the operation of the heater is tested or it is placed into operation. This leak test must use a pressure gauge or manometer. If a leak is found, it must be located using a combustible gas indicator, suitable leak detection solution, isolated testing and inspection of piping segments, or a combination of these methods.

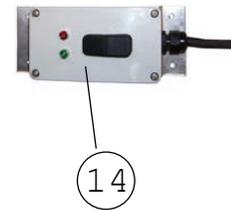
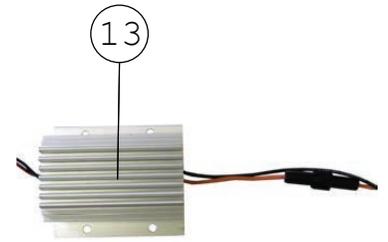
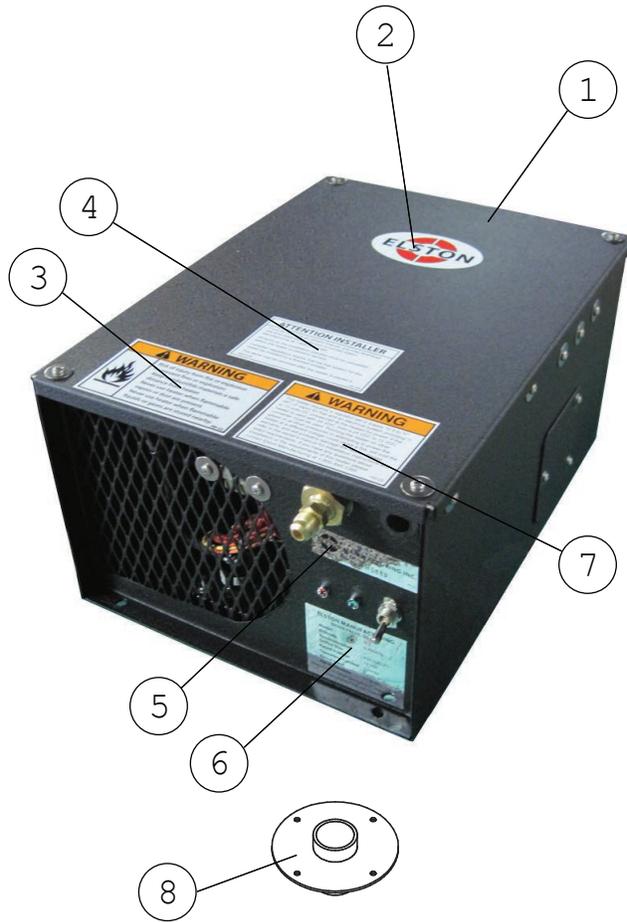
Final Details

Give the installation one final check to make sure nothing has been forgotten or improperly completed. If everything looks good, the heater is ready to be test fired. For instructions on firing up the heater for the first time, please consult the quick start guide. Once the heater has been test fired, the low pressure regulator should be set to deliver 10.5" to 11" of water column of pressure to the heater while it is running.

The installation is now complete and the heater can be placed into service.

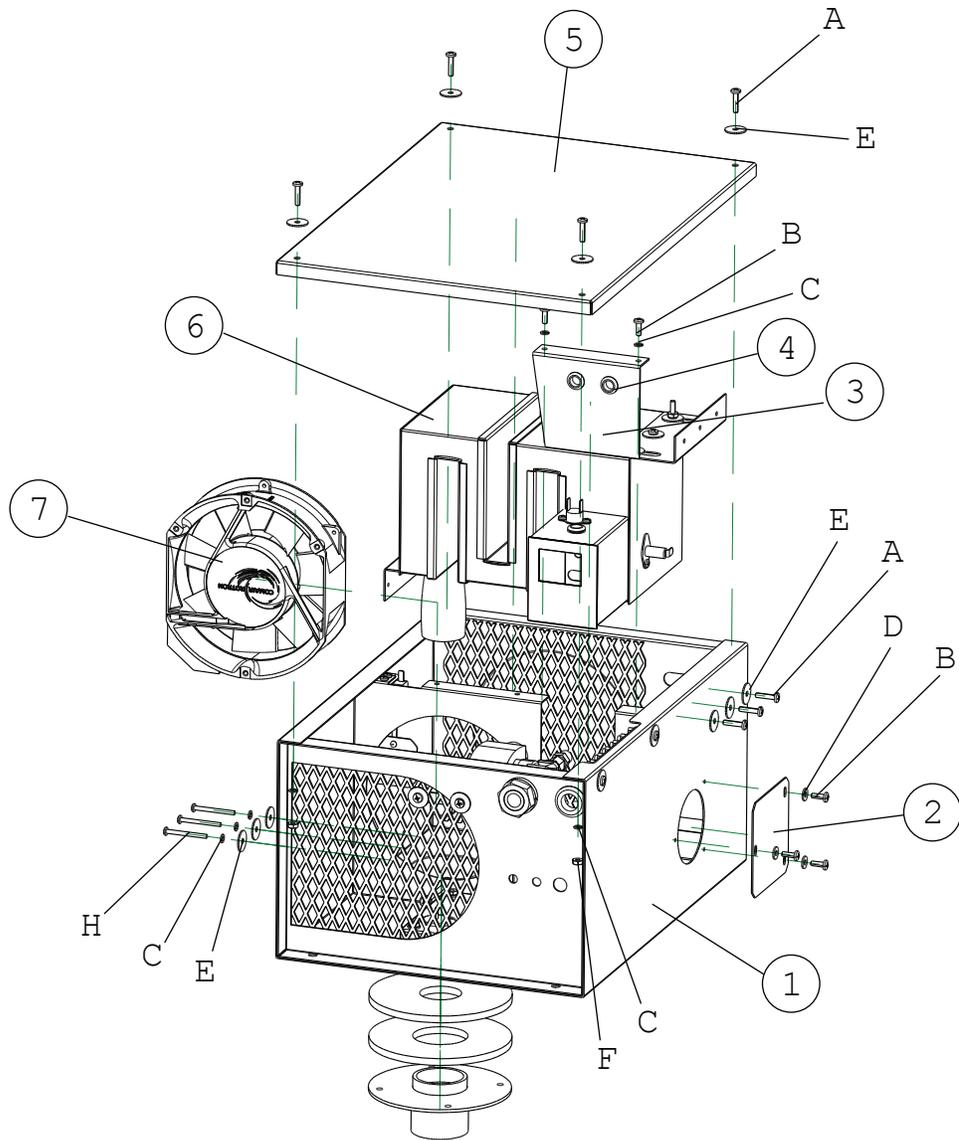
Parts List

Universal Heater - Complete Unit



Ref #	Name	Part #
1	Heater Body	see page A2
2	Elston Decal	SD-02
3	Warning - Clearances	HD-52
4	Attention Installer (removed after install)	HD-48
5	Serial Number	HD-22
6	Product Specifications	HD-42
7	Warning - Product Requirements	HD-23
8	Exhaust Coupling	HC-111
9	Gasket for HC-111 (large hole - not shown)	HC-114-01
10	Gasket for Exhaust (small hole - not shown)	HC-114-02

Ref #	Name	Part #
11	Thermostat w/ Knob	HC-225W
12	Mounting Template (not shown)	HD-28
13	24V Converter Box	HC-525
14	Remote Box	HC-550
1-12, 14	Universal Heater - 12VDC w/ Remote	H-C-1R
1-14	Universal Heater - 24VDC with Remote Box	H-C-1-24VR
1-12, 14 Page A5	Universal Heater - 12VDC with Remote & Propane Installation Kit (HX-R20)	H-C-1RX20
1-14 Page A5	Universal Heater - 24VDC with Remote & Propane Installation Kit (HX-R20)	H-C-1-24VRX20



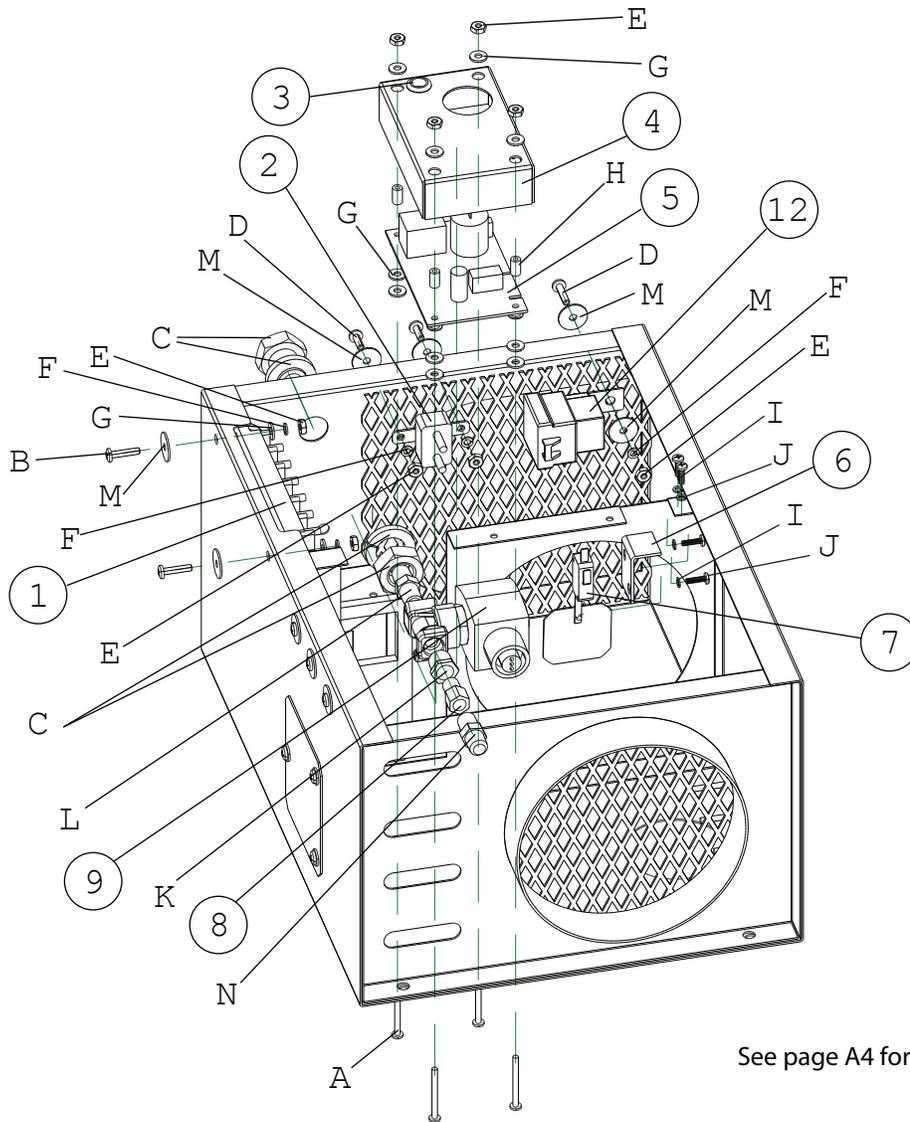
Ref #	Name	Part #	Ref #	Name	Qty
1	Heater Shell	HC-100A	A	3/4" #8-32 SS Machine Screw	7
2	Spark Probe Access Panel	HC-1-05A	B	1/2" #8-32 SS Machine Screw	5
3	Blower Slot Cover	HC-1-01	C	#8 SS Lock Washer	5
4	3/8" ID Grommet	HLC-407	D	#8 SS Flat Washer	7
5	Heater Shell Cover	HC-101A	E	#8 SS Fender Washer	10
6	Combustion Chamber Assembly	see p A4	F	#8-32 SS Hex Nut	6
7	Fan - 6" Diameter	HC-405W	G	2 1/2" #8-32 Machine Screw	2
	Mounting Hardware: C,D,F,G	(not shown)	H	1 1/4" #8-32 Machine Screw	3

See page A3 for electrical and propane related parts

Use high temperature anti-seize compound on all screws attaching combustion chamber assembly

Parts List

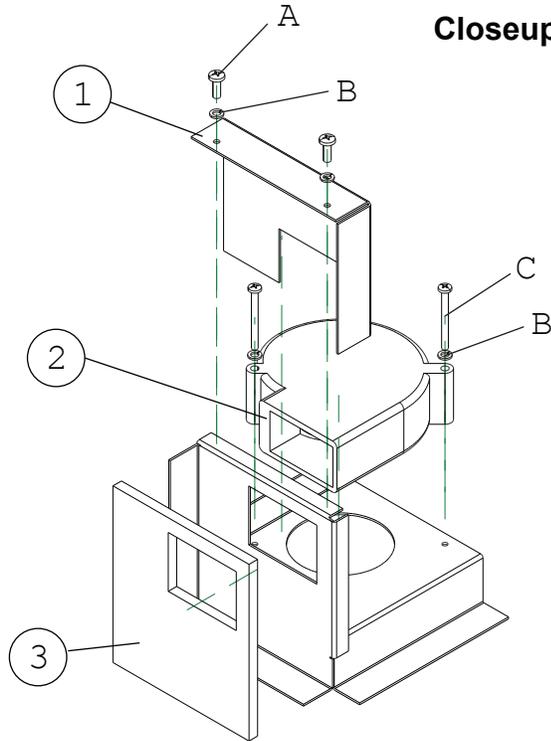
Universal Cab Heater - Electrical Components



See page A4 for close up of blower inlet area

Ref #	Name	Part #	Ref #	Name	Qty
1	Terminal Block	HC-429	A	1 3/4" #8-32 SS Machine Screw	4
2	Circuit Breaker	HC-409	B	3/4" #8-32 SS Machine Screw	2
3	3/8" ID Grommet	HLC-407	C	Bulkhead Fitting - (HLC-218)	1
4	Ignition Module Cover	HC-1-08F	D	1/2" #8-32 SS Machine Screw	3
5	Ignition Module w/Relay	HC-935W	E	#8-32 SS Hex Nut	9
6	Sail Switch Mounting Bracket	HC-1-06	F	#8 SS Lock Washer	5
7	Sail Switch	HC-427	G	#8 SS Flat Washer	14
8	Extension Orifice	HC-413	H	3/4" Plastic Standoff - 0.156" ID	4
9	Gas Valve	HC-435	I	1/2" #6-32 SS Machine Screw	4
10	Green Indicator Light (not shown)	HC-553W	J	#6 SS Lock Washer	4
11	Toggle Switch (not shown)	HLC-401W	K	1/4" - 1/8" NPT Bushing - (B-110-BA)	1
12	Combustion Fan Monitor (Compatible with HC-441 Fan Only)	HC-440	L	1/4" NPT Hex Nipple - (B-122-B)	1
13	Wiring Harness (Not Shown)	HC-920	M	#8 SS Fender Washer	8
			N	1/8" NPT to 1/4 Tube MP Connector (B-68-4A)	1

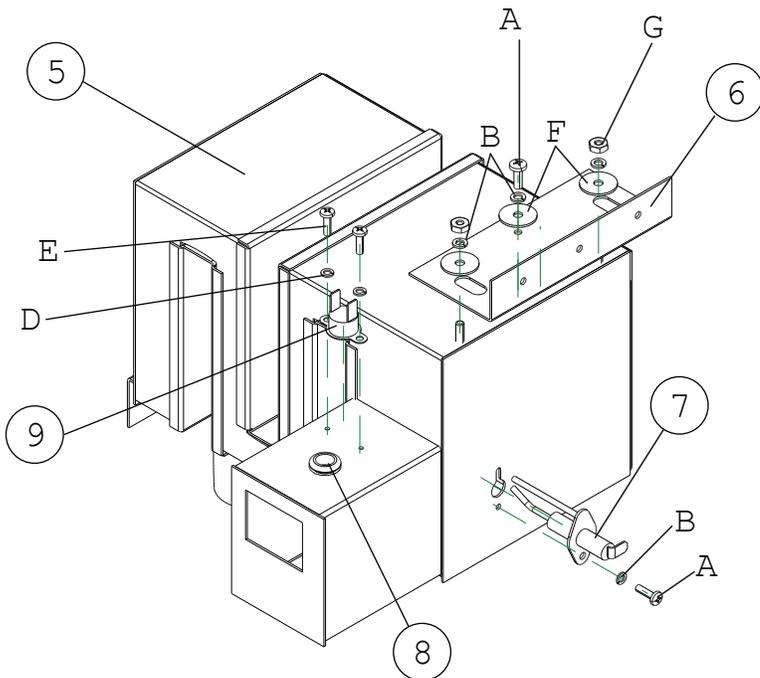
Closeup of Blower Area



Ref #	Name	Part #
1	Blower Inlet Cover	HC-1-02A
2	Combustion Air Blower	HC-441
3	Combustion Chamber Inlet Gasket	HC-1-07A

Ref #	Description	Qty
A	1/2" #8-32 SS Machine Screw	4
B	#8 SS Lock Washer	8
C	1 3/4" #8-32 SS Machine Screw	2

Combustion Chamber Assembly



Ref #	Name	Part #
5	Combustion Chamber	HC-200-10
6	Comb. Chamber Top Mounting Bracket	HC-107
7	HC Spark Probe	HC-416
8	3/8" ID Gasket	HLC-407
9	High Limit Switch	HC-414W
5,7-9	Combustion Chamber Complete	HC-200
10	High Voltage Cable (not pictured)	HC-422

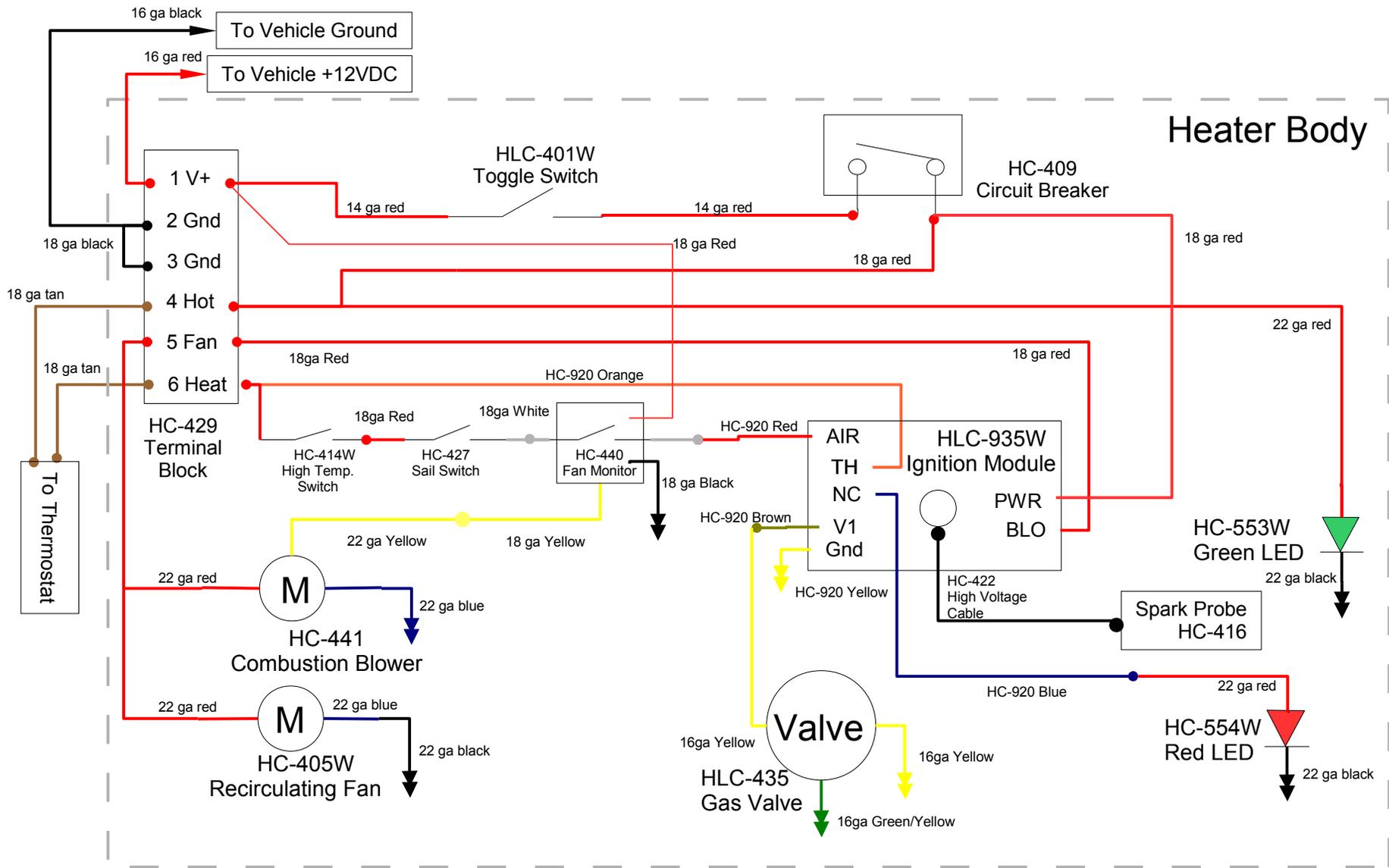
Ref #	Description	Qty
D	#6 SS Lock Washer	2
E	1/2" #6-32 SS Machine Screw	2
F	#8 SS Fender Washer	3
G	#8-32 SS Hex Nut	2

Use high temperature anti-seize compound on all screws in combustion chamber assembly



Label	Name	Part #
1	3/8" Copper Tubing - 10 ft.	H10-25E
2	3/8" Rubber Grommet	HLC-406
3	Regulator Mounting Bracket	H10-482
4	3/8" Cushioned Al Clamps	H10-485
5	2-Stage Regulator	H10-626
6	Cover for 2-Stage Regulator	H10-632
7	Tank Fitting w/ Hose	H10-829

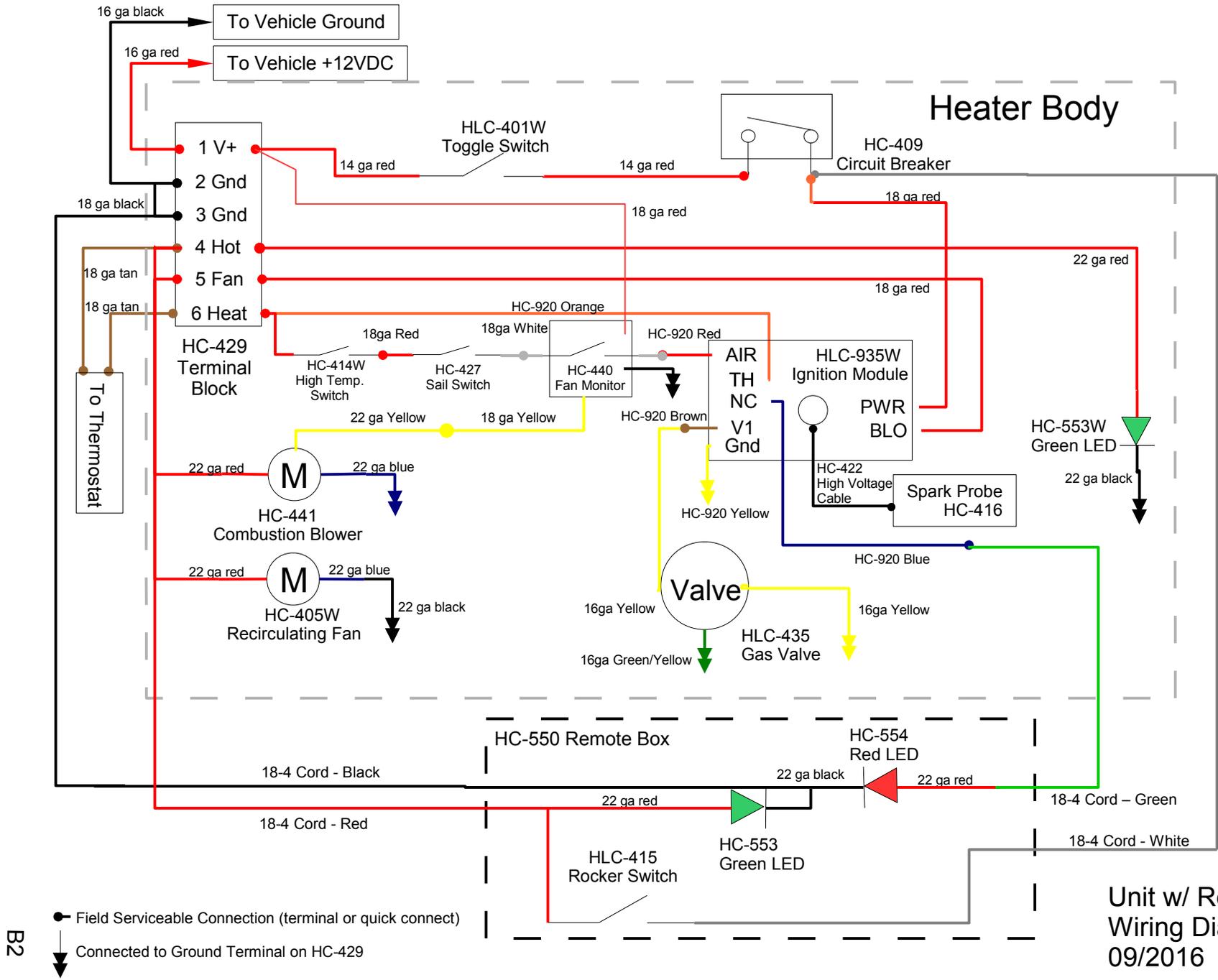
Label	Name	Quan.
A	3/8" NPT Male x 3/8" Male Flare	1
B	3/8" NPT Flare Nut	2
C	1/2" #8-32 Thread Cutting Screws	4
D	#8-32 Lock Nut	4
E	#8 Washer	4



B1

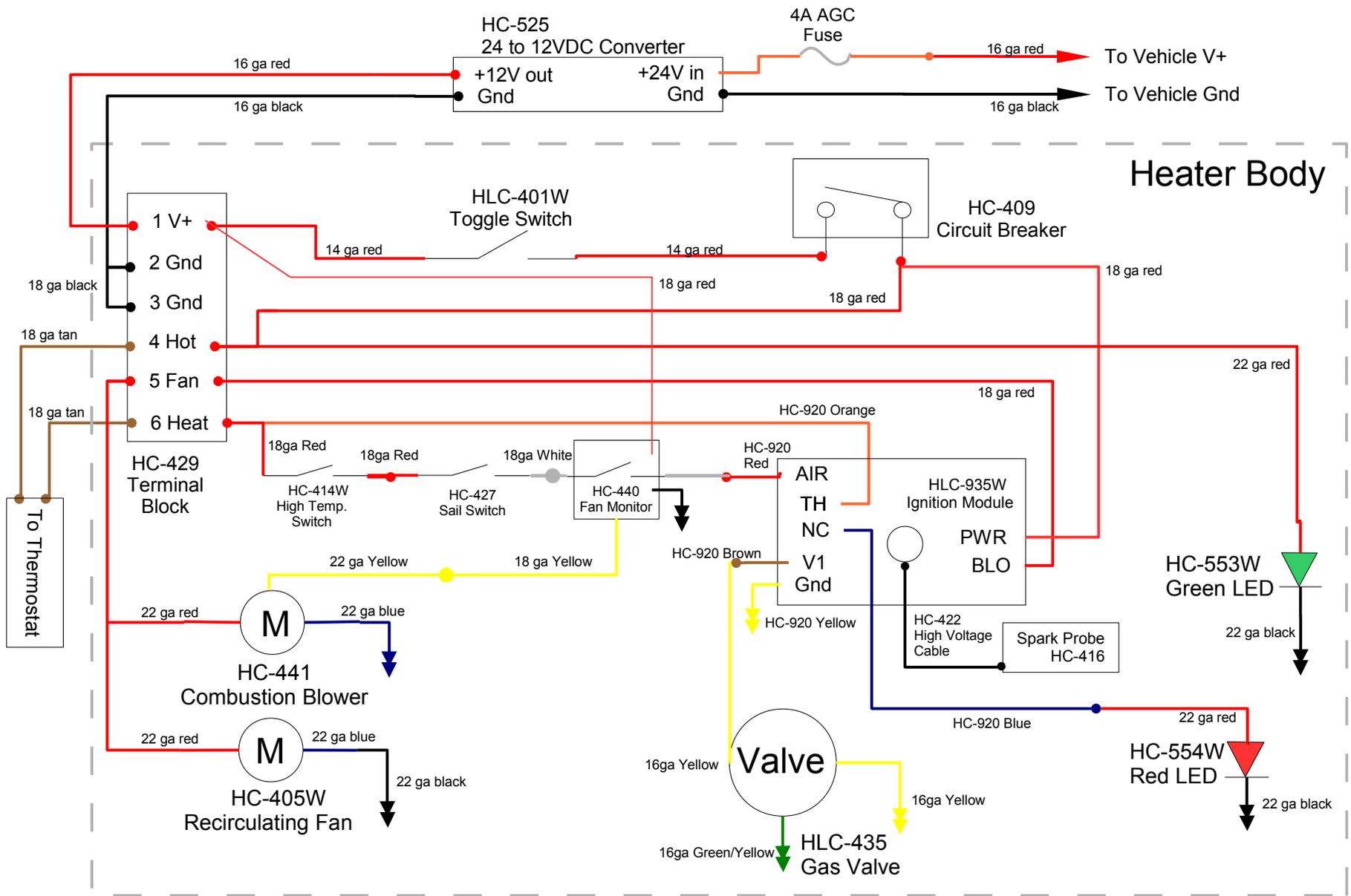
- Field Serviceable Connection (terminal or quick connect)
- ↓ Connected to Ground Terminal on HC-429

Unit Wiring Diagram
 Revision 8
 09/2016



Unit w/ Remote Box
Wiring Diagram
09/2016 Rev. 5

B2



B3

- Field Serviceable Connection (terminal or quick connect)
- ↓ Connected to Ground Terminal on HC-429

H-C-24 Wiring Diagram
 Revision 6
 09/2016

Installation of the HC-550 Remote Box



CAUTION Improper installation of this accessory will prevent the heater from operating and may damage the heater. Always have gas and power off to the heater throughout the installation process and until it is time for final testing.

Overview

The purpose of these instructions is to aid you in installing a HC-550 remote box on a H-C-1 (12V) or H-C-24 (24V) universal heater that uses a 6 terminal block. For older versions of the heater that use a 4 terminal wiring block, refer to revision A of the HC-550 installation instructions or revision F of the HC owners manual for the correct instructions.

As with the installation of the heater itself, the choices you make in installation have huge effects on the safe and reliable operation of this heater. The high levels of vibration and the temperature extremes these heaters see are hard on electrical connections. Always use quality electrical connectors, fittings, and wire, as clean, secure connections are essential for the long-term trouble-free operation of this heater.

Unpacking the Remote Box and Gathering Supplies

Parts Needed for Installation Included with Heater:

- 1 HC-550 remote box with 6' 18-4 cord attached
- 1 parts bag with:
 - (3) #10 ring terminals
 - (1) 1/4" fully insulated push on quick connect terminal
 - (6) #8 sheet metal screws w/ 4 #8 flat washers
 - (4) clamps for 18-4 cord

Additional parts required:

- (6) #8 screws appropriate for attaching remote box and clamps to wall if included sheetmetal screws will not work

Mounting Remote Box

Mount the remote box in a position where the switch can be easily accessed, the lights are visible, and the attached cord will extend at least 6" into the wiring grommet on the side of the H-C heater when properly secured. The preferred orientation of the box is with the switch on the left but the box can be mounted in any position if required. Once the mounting position is determined, remove the cover to the remote box and mark the location of the two mounting holes on the wall. Drill pilot holes if necessary and screw the box to the wall with the #8 screws. Reinstall the cover to the remote box.

Wiring

Please see appendix B of the HC owners manual for the wiring diagram of the heater with and without the HC-550 remote box.

Before beginning the wiring, make sure that power is off to the heater. Remove the cover to the H-C heater. Trim the cord running from the remote box so that it extends 6" into the heater when it runs through the wiring grommet. Strip off the outer black insulation on the cord so that it extends only 1" into the heater shell. Trim the black wire so that it extends 4" into the heater shell and the other three wires so that they extend 6" into the heater shell. Strip 5/16" of insulation from the end of each wire and install #10 rings on the white, black, and red wires and the 1/4" female quick connect on the green wire.

- Remove the red 18ga jumper wire connected between terminal #4 on the terminal block and the bottom terminal of the circuit breaker block.
- Completely remove the red indicator light from the circuitry and uninstall from heater shell.
 - Separate the blue wire from the wire harness connected to the ignition module and the red wire to the red indicator at the quick connects.
 - Disconnect the black wire of the red indicator light from #2 or #3 (ground) stud on the terminal block.
- Connect the green wire with 1/4" female quick connect to the blue wire with 1/4" male quick connect from the wire harness.
- Connect the white wire to the bottom terminal on the circuit breaker.
- Connect the red wire to the #4 (Thermostat hot) stud on the terminal block.
- Connect the black wire to the #2 or #3 (ground) stud on the terminal block.

See Illustration 1 and Table 1 for more information. The HC-550 is now wired to the heater.

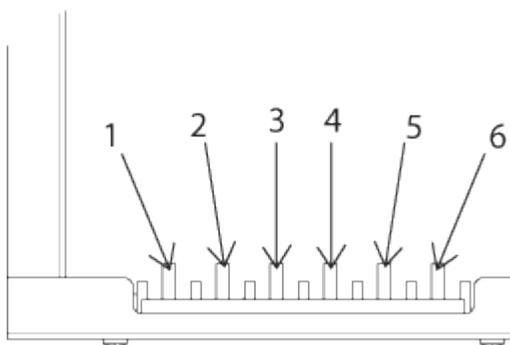


Illustration 1: Terminal Block

Label	Purpose
1	V+ (12V)
2	V- (Ground)
3	V- (Ground)
4	Thermostat Hot
5	Fan
6	Thermostat Heat

Table 1: Wiring Guide for Terminal Block

Testing

Give the installation one final check to make sure nothing has been forgotten or improperly completed. Check that all gas fittings remain tight. If everything looks good, turn off the switch on the remote box and turn the thermostat all the way up. Turn on power to the heater, turn the gas on to the heater, and turn on the switch on the side of the heater. Nothing should happen except the green light on the side of the heater will come on. Next turn on the switch on the remote box. The fans on the heater should start and the green light on the remote box should come on. After a few seconds the red light will illuminate and, after a couple of minutes, the heater will light. Once the heater lights, the red light will go out. Once the heater has lit, turn off the switch on the remote box. The heater should immediately go out, the green light will go dark, and the heater will start its cool down cycle (you will not hear any additional sparking.) After 3 or 4 minutes, the fans will stop. Once the heater has passed this testing with no problems, the heater can be placed in service.

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Elston Manufacturing, Inc. offers a one (1) year, non-transferable, Limited Warranty against specified defects as set forth below for Elston Manufacturing, Inc. product lines from the date of purchase through proof of purchase by providing original receipt.

This Limited Warranty specifically excludes normal wear and tear of products and is provided solely under the conditions that the product has been properly installed, operated and maintained in accordance with all applicable instructions. Proper installation instructions, or operating manuals, are provided with each product and operating condition. Travel, diagnostic cost, labor, transportation and any and all such costs related to repairing a defective product will be the responsibility of the owner. This warranty is extended only to the original owner of any equipment, the end user.

Elston Manufacturing, Inc.'s sole obligation under this Limited Warranty is to, in its sole and absolute discretion, either repair, modify, or replace (i.e. correct), Elston Manufacturing, Inc.'s products subject to this Limited Warranty. The allegedly defective products must be returned to Elston Manufacturing Inc. or an authorized service center freight paid by buyer. After confirmation by Elston Manufacturing, Inc. that a defect does exist in the product that is covered under this Limited Warranty then Elston Manufacturing, Inc. shall, in its sole and absolute discretion, either repair, modify or replace the product(s) and return the product(s) to the owner freight paid by Elston Manufacturing, Inc.

Elston Manufacturing, Inc. products received by Elston Manufacturing, Inc. within one (1) year from the original sale date to customer and found to be defective as referenced above will be corrected as referenced in the previous paragraph at no charge for parts (provided by original factory) or labor but will include freight paid by buyer. Failure to use original factory parts voids this warranty. Elston Manufacturing, Inc. products received by Elston Manufacturing, Inc. after one (1) year from original shipment date to customer will be corrected as foresaid for a charge of the then-current sale price of parts and labor with freight paid by buyer. Exception: Any parts to be found defective at any time that come under a recall status from providing manufacturer, will be covered under the terms and conditions of the recall status provided by manufacturer.

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This Limited Warranty shall not apply to any piece of equipment, parts or accessories repaired by anyone other than Elston Manufacturing, Inc. personnel, or its authorized service organizations.



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