

‘the better dock hinge’ install instructions

Key points to note:

- Ensure max connection angle for your installation does not exceed the ‘the better dock hinge’ limits.
- Ensure the male side of the hinges are installed square to the dock.
- The male side of the hinges have a side/side adjustment slot to allow for the pitch between the male and female sides to be set exactly the same.
- Ensure pins are tightened when the ramp is in place.
- Lubricate the balls as required.

Full install instructions

Confirm the ramp angle will not exceed limits of the dock hinge

1. The maximum connection angle for ‘the better dock hinge’ is 22.5 degrees – see Image 1. Determine the ramp length and ramp rise when the water level is at its lowest point as shown in Image 2. For every 12” of ramp length, the ramp rise should not be more than 4” as in the table.

Plan the mount locations

2. The female side of the hinges should be installed on the ramp, the male side of the hinges on the dock or landing. These instructions describe the ramp/dock connection. ‘Dock’ can be replaced with ‘landing’ if that is the connection that is being made.
3. Determine locations on ramp and dock that allow for hinges to be installed clear of framing obstacles.
4. The male side of the hinges have a side/side adjustment slot to allow for the pitch between the male and female sides to be set exactly the same – see Image 3.

Install the female hinge

5. Using #8 wood screws, install both female hinges on the ramp the same distance below the decking surface (see Image 4 below).
6. Install ½” carriage bolts to secure female hinges using backing plates as required.

Install the 1st male hinge

Note: The pins on the two male hinges need to be parallel for easy install of mating hinges on the ramp. Installing both hinges square to the dock ensures they are parallel.

7. Using #8 wood screws, install the 1st male hinge on the dock the same distance below the deck surface as the female hinge is below the deck surface on the ramp. **Ensure the mounting bracket is square to the dock (see Image 5 below).** Recommend installing screws by hand rather than with an impact driver so that screws are centred and don't move the mounting plate as the screws are installed. Double check the mounting bracket for square before installing second screw.
8. Install ½" carriage bolts to secure male hinge using backing plates as required.
9. Leave the pin on the 1st male hinge loose enough that it can move side to side.

Install the 2nd male hinge

10. Measure inside distance between mounting plates of the female hinges on the dock and mark the position of the 2nd male hinge on the ramp.
11. Using #8 wood screws, install the 2nd male hinge on the dock the same distance below the deck surface as the female hinge is below the deck surface on the ramp. **Ensure the mounting bracket is square to the dock.**
12. Install ½" carriage bolts to secure the male hinge using backing plates as required.
13. Leave the pin on the 2nd male hinge loose enough that it can move side to side.

Install the ramp

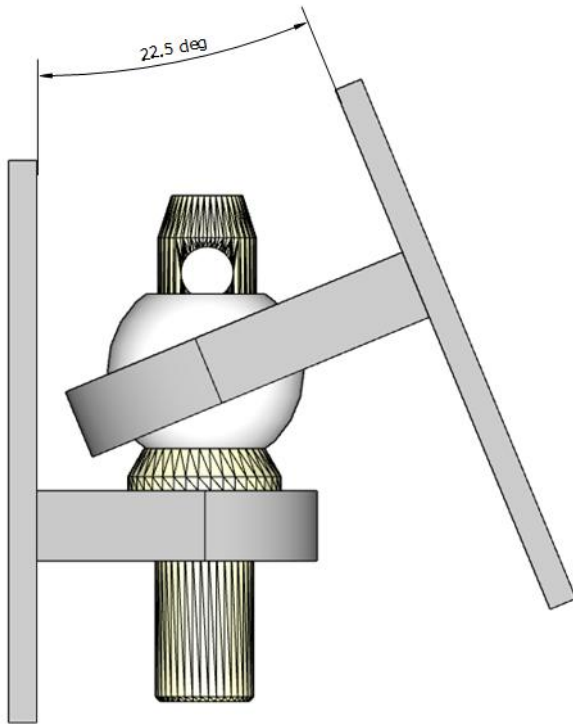
14. Set the female hinges of the ramp on the male pins of the dock. Move the pins that are loose side to side so that the pin pitch matches the pitch of the female hinges.
15. Fully tighten the pins on the male side of the hinges with a 1-1/8" socket or wrench. Hold the lynch pin hole parallel to end of ramp so the lynch pin can be easily installed when the ramp is in place.
16. Check the ramp can be easily lifted off and set on the pins. If there is binding, move the pin so that the balls are centered on the pins by using a pin punch as show in Image 6 below and tap with a hammer.

Lubrication

1. When the ramp is not connected, the ball can be lubricated by applying grease directly to the ball. Apply a thin film to the ball by rotating the ball to expose the surface to the top opening
2. When the ramp is connected, the ball can be lubricated by spraying the seam between the ball swivel and the casting (see Image 7) with an aerosol chain lube.
3. The dock hinge should be lubricated during install and every spring/fall. Applications with increased wave action can be lubricated mid season as required with the ramp in position.

Image 1

Maximum connection angle = 22.5 degrees



Ramp Length	Maximum Ramp Rise
72"	24"
84"	28"
96"	32"
108"	36"
120"	40"
132"	44"
144"	48"
156"	52"
168"	56"
180"	60"
192"	64"

Image 2

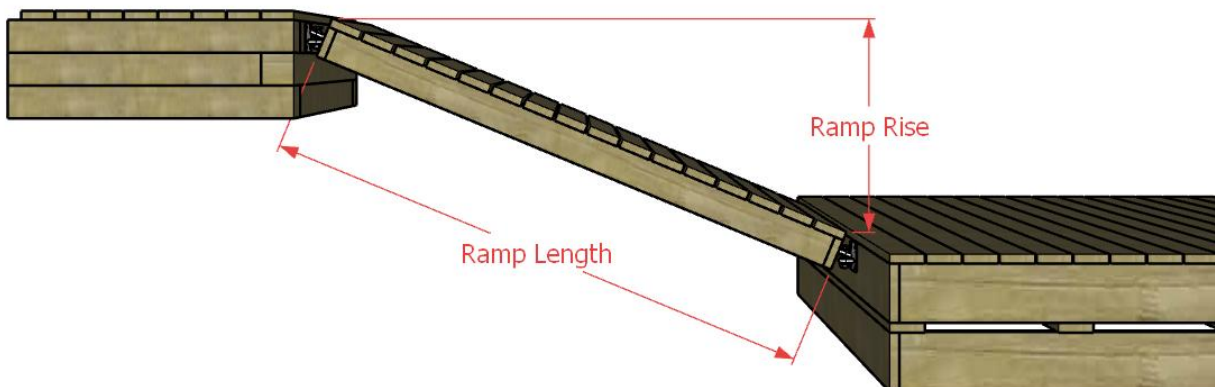


Image 3

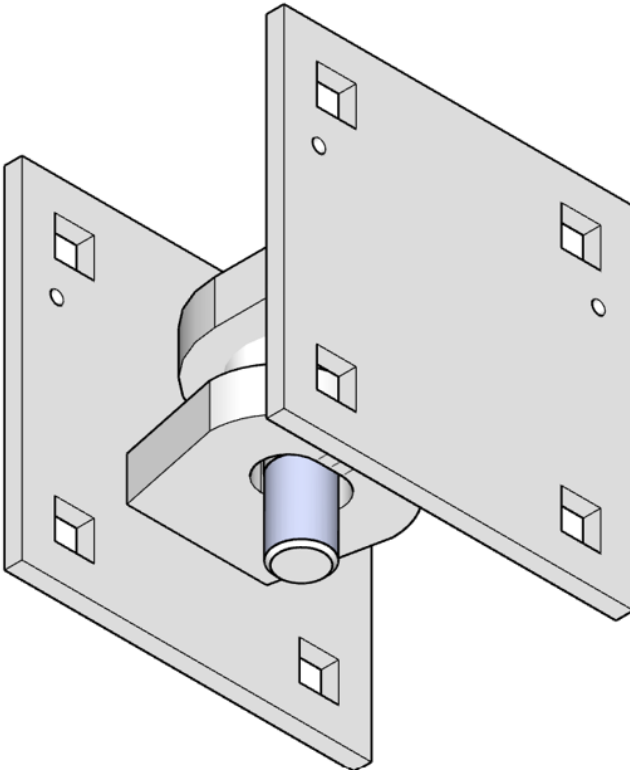


Image 4



Image 5



Image 6



Image 7

