

Beefy Tow Hook Work Platform

<http://www.ford-trucks.com/forums/showthread.php?p=8731380#post8731380>

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As far as I can find, the original concept for this mod was posted by Craven (Jeff) back in January 2006. I've always liked the concept, but was too concerned about my weight being on it, so I've waited until I could decide how to strengthen it and have now completed my own "beefed up" version of Jeff's concept. The pics of my job are below, more details following, and here's the link to Jeff's original post on www.Ford-Trucks.com (FTE).

<http://www.ford-trucks.com/forums/453357-work-platform.html>

This platform serves two purposes:

1. Platform from which to work and reach under the hood, and
2. Cargo retainer to help keep things from sliding around too much in the bed of the truck



What did I do differently than Jeff's original concept?

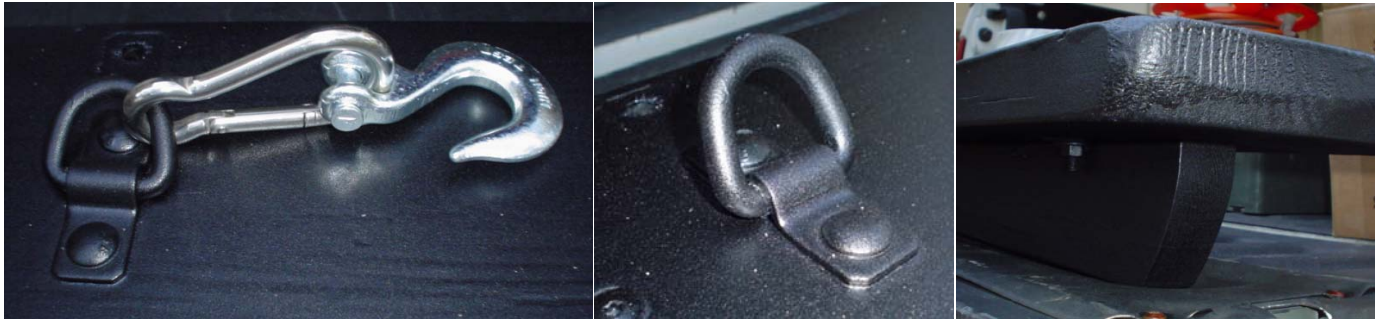
1. I used a vertical support beam (2x4) underneath the stepping platform so I could be sure it would easily support a heavy load (me).
2. I used extra heavy duty hardware which is both bolted all the way through the platform with two bolts per anchor point, and this hardware is also removable to minimize any potential interference with loading materials in my truck.
3. I covered the entire platform and galvanized d-ring hardware with textured spray-on bedliner so that I would not have to worry about either potential rotting or a slippery surface if I have to rely on this platform while having to work under the hood away from a covered working area in foul weather.

Here are the dimensions and raw materials:

- Platform, 1-1/2" thick x 9" wide x 56" long
- Vertical support made from a 2x4, center-mounted about 4" from each end for 48" overall length
- 2 ea., Extra HD zinc-plated bolt-on d-rings, ~\$3-\$4 each
- 2 ea., Extra HD 3/8" spring link (SS), 400 lbs safe working load, ~\$7 each
- 2 ea., 5/16" zinc-plated Clevis hooks, 3900 lbs safe working load, ~\$6 each
- 4 ea., 2-1/2" long zinc-plated carriage bolts with nuts and flat washers
- D-rings mounted in center of platform's width, centered over length with 38-5/8" between, each of the two mounting carriage bolts landing on either side of the vertical support beam (may need to chisel a little of the beam out for the washers to seat flat underneath the board)
- 1 can of primer paint (I used black chalkboard paint)
- 3 cans of Rustoleum spray-on Truck Coating, ~\$8 each (2 cans are probably enough)

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I even went ahead and cut out a “grabber” stick so I could reach and pull things to me from the middle or far side of the bed near the cab. The handle is covered with spray-on Plasti-Dip.

