

How to make a mount for a trunk

5 July, 2010

More and more people are trying to convert the Liners into full-flexed touring bikes by adding fairings and trunks. Our saddle bags are too oddly shaped to carry a lot of things. It's great to be able to lock my helmet, jacket, etc. in my trunk when I ride to work. Unfortunately there are few luggage racks available for the Liners that lend themselves to mounting a trunk.

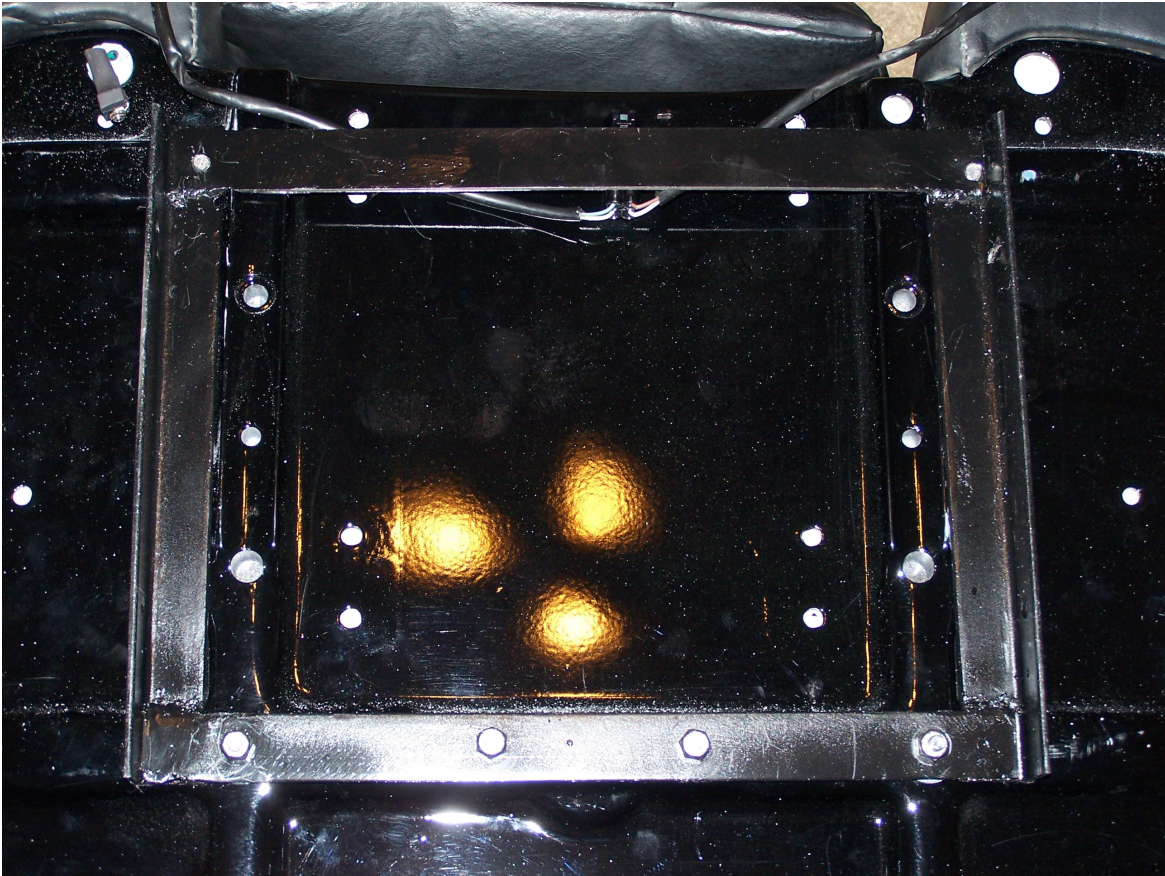
This article describes the method I used to mount two different trunks on my Stratoliner. The picture below illustrates my first mount. The trunk is a Mutazu DMY vivid black trunk with the optional wrap-around backrest and luggage rack. I added reflectors on each side and LED Run/Brake lights on the rear of the trunk.





The mount itself is made of 3/4" x 1/8" angle iron and 1" x 1/8" flat steel. The uprights are cut from a piece of 1/2" galvanized water pipe. The angle iron, flat stock, and pipe is available at places like Lowes, Home Depot, hardware stores, etc.

Start by cutting two 12" lengths of angle and two 11-1/4" (12-3/4" for the HD trunk) lengths of flat stock. Lay the angle on a flat surface and place the flat stock cross-wise between the two angle pieces. I drilled a hole and riveted the flat stock to the angle so it would stay in place while I welded it. The picture below shows the mount attached to a trunk. That's my third mount that I'm using to mount a Harley Ultra Classic Tour Trunk. The idea is the same for all three of my mounts, only the uprights and dimensions are different among the three.

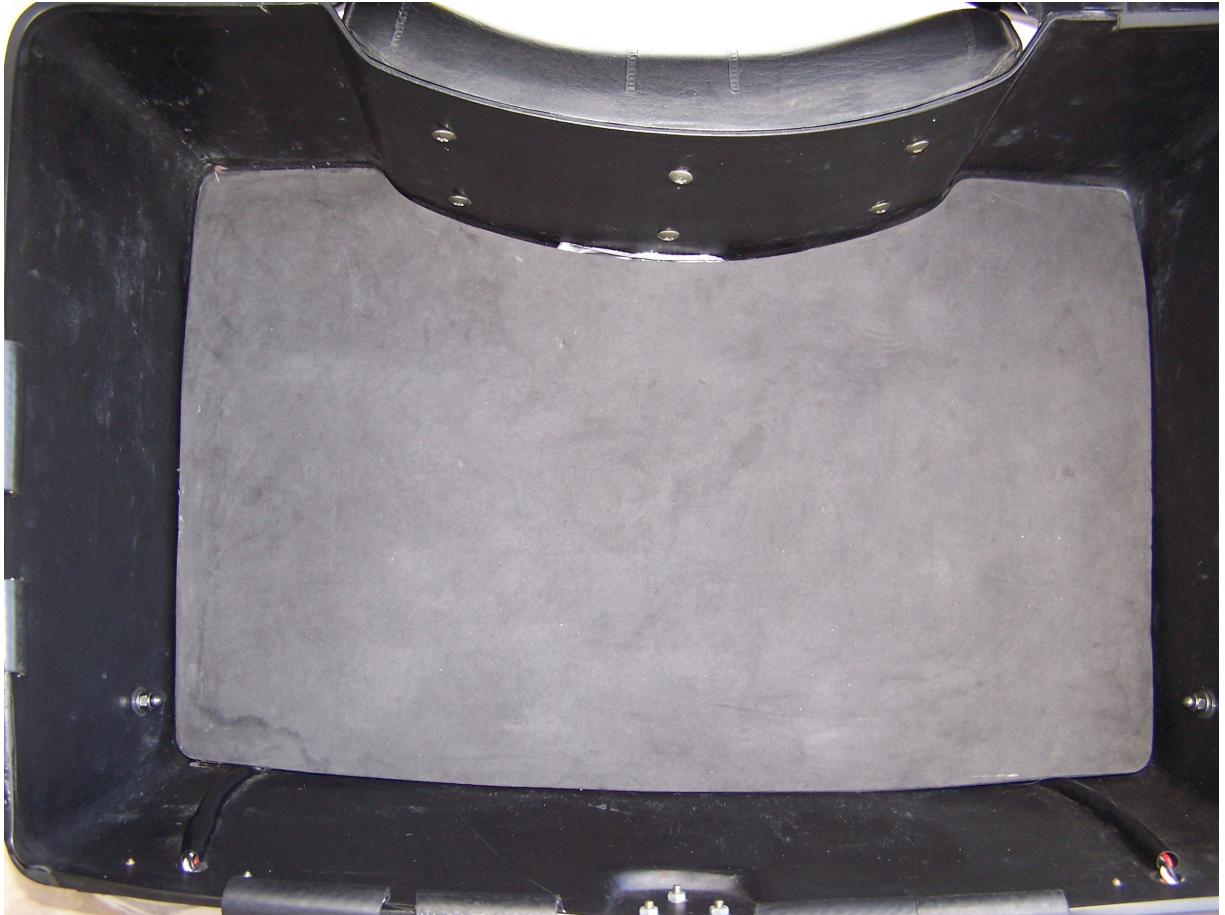


Mounting a Mutazu trunk to the trunk mount

The Mutazu trunk comes with some mounting hardware. I used the screws and nuts and the two flat metal strips. I drilled holes through the angle iron, laid the mount on the bottom of the trunk, and marked and drilled matching holes in the trunk. The flat metal strips go inside the trunk. See the picture below. The duct tape covers the wiring for my LED lights.



The trunk comes with some pads, so I placed one of them in the bottom of the trunk to cover my handy work.



Making the Upright legs for the mount

The legs are made from half inch galvanized water pipe. I cut two pieces to length (you'll need to determine the length based on how high you want the trunk). Next I squeezed one end of each piece in a vise until it was flat. I drilled a hole in the vertical side of each angle and then in the flattened end of each pipe. This allowed me to bolt the legs to the mount and hold them in place while I welded them.

After bolting the legs to the mount, insert the legs into the sissy bar mounts on the Strat (of course you have to remove the sissy bar from the mounting brackets). Be careful not to let them drop all the way in the brackets or they could hit the fender on the right side. Position them and clamp them in place with some C-clamps. Next, mark the legs for the mounting holes. You can now remove the clamps and the complete assembly.

I unbolted the legs from the mount for drilling. To be sure the holes are exactly the correct distance apart, measure the spacing of the holes in the sissy bar and verify the marks on the new legs are the same distance apart.



The holes must be drilled and tapped for the mounting screws that were used to mount theissy bar. I had to get slightly longer screws (30 mm) than the stock screws so they would go all the way through the new legs.

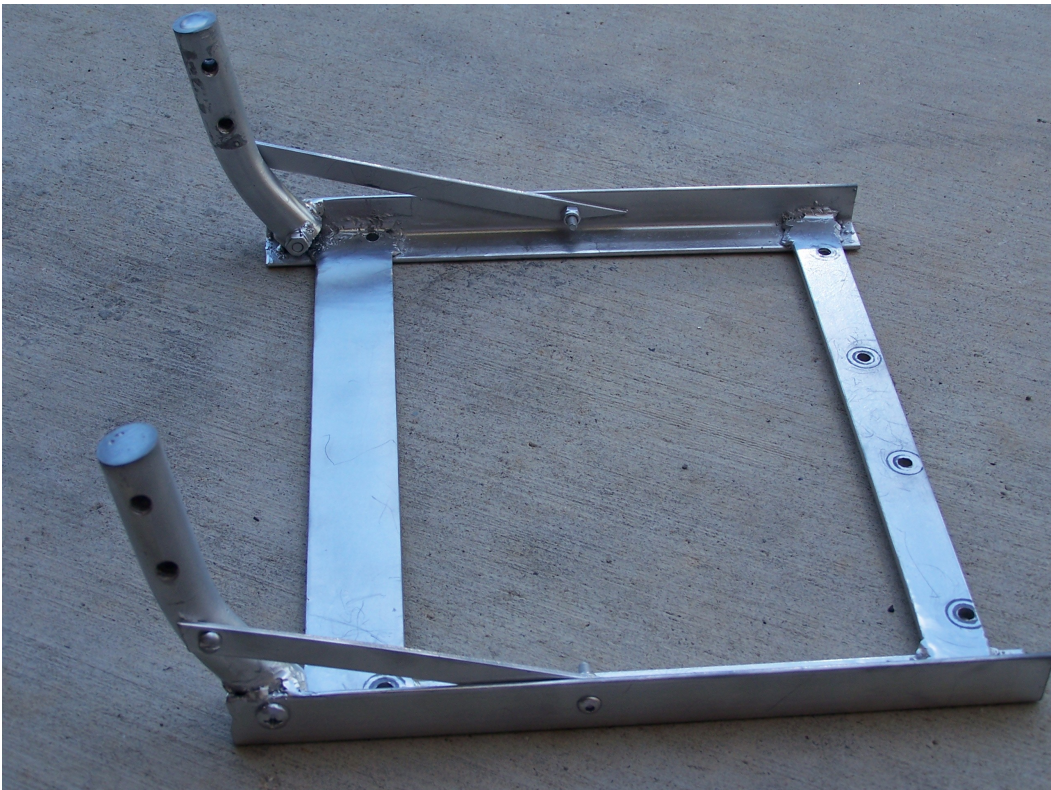
I wasn't sure the hollow pipe would be sturdy enough so I stuffed some Kleenex into the pipes just far enough to go below the bottom holes as seen above. Then I filled the pipes with JB Weld. After the JB cured I drilled and tapped the holes. It's best to use a drill press for the drilling in order to maintain perfectly vertical holes.

The next step is to insert the legs into the brackets, screw the screws in, and mount the brackets on the bike. Then screw the mount to the legs. Use a bubble level to level the mount and tighten the screws as tightly as possible to keep the legs in place for welding.

After everything has been welded, grind all the welds flat, sand the whole thing, and paint it. I painted the mount black to match the trunk and painted the legs with Dupli-Color Chrome paint. Optionally you could have it chrome plated.

Other versions of the legs

My second version required the trunk to be mounted farther to the rear than the vertical legs would allow so I bent the legs before attaching them to the mount. I also added some bracing.



When I decided to mount the HD trunk I wanted to be sure it was supported adequately, so I came up with this idea. Not only does it support better, but it also allows precise positioning of the trunk. Note the holes in the pipes. These are drilled and tapped for 7 mm bolts to secure the mount frame.



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