TAILGATE - LUGGAGE RACK

TAILGATE

CJ MODELS

General

The hinged tailgate is held in the closed, up position with hooks which pass through slotted brackets on the tailgate and on the body. The hinges are designed in such a way that the tailgate can be easily removed. The body half of the hinge is slotted and the tailgate half has a matching flat surface. However, to prevent accidental dropping of the tailgate, the flat surface on the left hinge is not in line with the flat surface on the right hinge.

Removal

(1) Rotate the tailgate approximately 45° from full up position and disengage the right hinge.

(2) Rotate the tailgate an additional few degrees and then disengage the left hinge.

Installation

(1) Hold the tailgate at approximately 45° from full up position and engage the right hinge.

(2) Rotate the tailgate an additional few degrees and then engage the left hinge.

Adjustment

(1) Loosen the hinge attaching bolts and slide the body half of the hinge up, down or to the sides as needed.

(2) Tighten the bolts.

CHEROKEE AND WAGONEER

General

The tailgate is a horizontally hinged unit equipped with a manual or electrically operated window regulator. An access hole in the inner panel is for installing and servicing the window regulator and latch assemblies (fig. 16-1).

A torque rod serves as a counterbalance to assist in opening as well as closing the tailgate.

Tailgate hinges are now accessible at the body side of the hinge for easier adjustment/replacement.

Redesigned and relocated dovetail assemblies provide better tailgate closure for improved weatherproofing and rattle elimination.

Tailgate weatherseal is now body-mounted for better wind and water-leak resistance.

Adjustment

Tailgate adjustment is similar to side door adjustments: proper alignment is obtained by changing the position of the hinges relative to the body. Cherokee and Wagoneer vehicles have hinge cover plates in the body floor and tailgate for easy access to hinge bolts (fig. 16-1). The dovetail assemblies, which stabilize the tailgate and function as an overslam bumper, are adjusted by bringing the dovetail studs into alignment with the dovetail cap. The dovetail studs are located on the body pillars near the striker plates, and are adjustable. The dovetail caps are located on the tailgate and are non-adjustable.

Hinges

(1) Remove dovetail studs from body pillars.

(2) Remove the two body hinge cover plates.

(3) Loosen bolts attaching hinges to body and adjust floating plates until lower portion of tailgate closes flush or underflush with body sheet metal to ensure proper compression of the weatherseal. Tighten hinge bolts 15 to 20-foot-pounds torque.

(4) Replace body hinge cover plates.

(5) Replace and adjust dovetail studs.

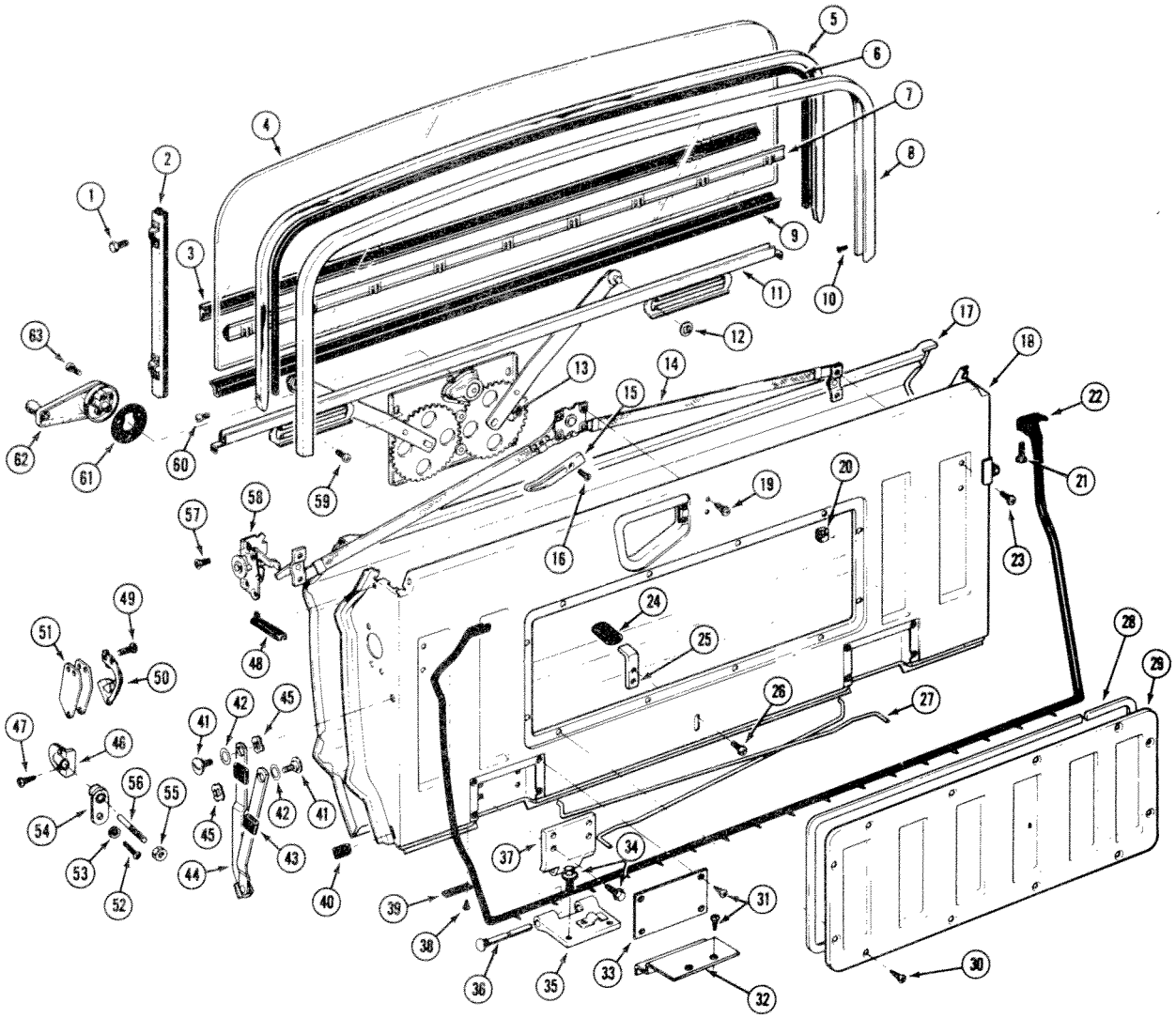
Dovetail Assemblies

(1) Loosen dovetail stud locking nuts.

(2) Close the tailgate into the locks.

(3) Adjust dovetail studs into dovetail caps and tighten stud locking nuts.

(4) Check tailgate for proper alignment and adjust-



1. Hexagon Screw
2. Lower Channel
3. Weatherstrip
4. Tailgate Glass
5. Run Channel
6. Upper Cushion
7. Weatherstrip
8. Glass Frame
9. Channel Sealer
10. Tapping Screw
11. Bottom Channel
12. Stud Retainer
13. Window Regulator
14. Remote Control
15. Release Handle
16. Oval Head Screw
17. Outer Panel
18. Tailgate
19. Machine Screw
20. Speed Nut
21. Plastic Rivet
22. Tailgate Sealer
23. Machine Screw
24. Bracket Bumper
25. Stop Bracket
26. Machine Screw
27. Torque Rod
28. Cover Gasket
29. Access Cover
30. Tapping Screw
31. Tapping Screw
32. Cover Plate
33. Cover Plate
34. Hinge Screw
35. Body Half Hinge
36. Hinge Pin
37. Tailgate Half Hinge
38. Plastic Rivet
39. Dust Seal
40. Arm Bumper
41. Shoulder Bolt
42. Spring Washer
43. Arm Sleeve
44. Support Arm
45. Lock Washer
46. Dovetail Cap
47. Tapping Screw
48. End Cap
49. Machine Screw
50. Tailgate Striker
51. Striker Shim
52. Machine Screw
53. Lock Washer
54. Tailgate Dovetail
55. Hexagon Nut
56. Dovetail Stud
57. Machine Screw
58. Tailgate Latch
59. Machine Screw
60. Machine Screw
61. Handle Gasket
62. Regulator Handle
63. Machine Screw

Fig. 16-1 Cherokee-Wagoneer - Manual Regulator

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ment. Be sure tailgate latches properly with strikers, and dovetails align into caps.

Striker Assemblies

(1) Loosen dovetail stud locking nuts.

(2) The latch teeth should be aligned and nest on the center of the strikers.

(3) Add or remove striker shim to obtain this adjustment.

(4) Adjust the strikers so the latches enter the strikers freely, and the tailgate provides a flush fit with adjacent panels.

(5) Perform dovetail assemblies adjustment.

Hinge Replacement

(1) Open tailgate (and, if vehicle is equipped with cargo area floor covering, remove moulding, and place floor covering aside).

(2) Remove access hole cover plate(s) from body and tailgate.

(3) Raise tailgate to vertical position to unload counterbalance torque rods, and pry rods from clip welded to body half of each hinge.

(4) Scribe outline of existing hinge(s) on body and tailgate for reference.

(5) support tailgate in horizontal position, remove screws attaching hinge(s), and remove hinge(s).

(6) Install replacement hinge(s), being careful to align with scribe marks. Tighten screws to 15 to 20 foot-pounds torque.

(7) Raise tailgate to vertical position and install counterbalance torque rods in welded clips on body half of hinges.

(8) Check tailgate alignment and adjust if necessary.

(9) Install access hole cover plates on body and tailgate (and if so equipped, replace cargo area floor covering and moulding).

Tailgate and Torque Rod

Removal

(1) Remove tailgate access cover plate and disconnect wiring.

(2) Remove tailgate seal cover assembly.

(3) Close tailgate and drive out hinge pins.

(4) With tailgate in a vertical position, counterbalance torque rods are unloaded and can be pried from the clip which is welded to the body half of the hinge.

(5) Remove screws holding lower end of support arms to tailgate.

Installation

(1) Attach support arms to tailgate and raise tailgate to a vertical position in tailgate opening.

(2) Insert curved end of one torque rod in hole at bottom edge of tailgate and right-angle tapered end of rod in clip which is welded to body half of the hinge. Attach other torque rod in same manner.

(3) Install hinge pins with head of pin on inboard side of hinge.

(4) Install tailgate seal cover assembly.

(5) Connect wiring and replace access cover plate.

(6) Adjust tailgate.

Tailgate Lock Remote Control

Replacement

NOTE: *Should there be interference between the tailgate glass lifter channel and the tailgate remote control assembly, the remote control assembly must be replaced with a new assembly.*

(1) Lower tailgate and move tailgate glass to the extreme out position so remote control assembly will be accessible. Tailgate glass should be supported to relieve the stress on its lower edge.

(2) Remove access cover and tailgate latch handle from tailgate.

(3) Remove screws holding center of remote control assembly.

(4) Remove the screws on each end of the remote control rods.

(5) Release lower edge of vinyl water shield on vehicles so equipped.

(6) Pull rods down toward bottom of tailgate to obtain side clearance.

(7) Move the remote control assembly toward the side of the tailgate so as to free remote control from latch opening in tailgate. The remote control assembly is now free to be removed through the access cover opening.

Tailgate Lock Replacement

(1) Lower tailgate and move tailgate glass to the extreme out position so remote control assembly will be accessible. Tailgate glass should be supported to relieve stress on its lower edge.

(2) Remove access cover and remove screws attaching ends of remote control rods to tailgate.

(3) Remove screws attaching lock assemblies to ends of gate and remove lock assemblies.

Tailgate Glass Replacement

Tailgate glass is operated by a double-arm window regulator which is connected directly to an outside window regular handle. The complete window assembly will slide up and out of the run channels when the pins at the ends of the regulator arms are withdrawn from the slot in the lifter channel.

(1) Remove the access cover on inside tailgate panel and pry off retainers with a screwdriver.

NOTE: *Retainers can be damaged when removed and their condition should be checked. When installing retainers, the tabs must be firmly locked in groove of pin. If difficulty is experienced when installing retainers, they were probably damaged during removal and should be replaced.*

(2) When installing tailgate glass check the glass assembly and regulator separately to make sure that both operate freely before connecting the two together.

(3) Should difficulty be experienced in raising the window from its lowered position, replace the existing glass stop bumper.

(4) Push the new bumper on the bracket as far as possible.

(5) Position its free end to lay up against the outside panel.

Tailgate Window Regulator Replacement

(1) Remove the access cover.
(2) Remove tailgate window.
(3) Remove regulator handle by sliding name plate cover aside and rotating handle until hole in handle is aligned with screws that attach handle assembly to the tailgate. Remove attaching screws and handle.
(4) Remove the screws that attach the regulator assembly to the tailgate.
(5) The regulator assembly can now be removed through access cover opening.
(6) After installation and before access cover is replaced, run window up and down to check that window fits properly. The window regulator can be adjusted by loosening the attaching screws and moving the regulator assembly in the slotted screw holes until proper window adjustment is obtained.
(7) Adjust handle to be in vertical position when window is full up.

Tailgate Glass Adjustment

The tailgate glass, when closed, must seat fully into the upper glass channel to obtain a positive seal at the horizontal weatherstrip located at the top of the tailgate. If the tailgate glass does not seat properly when closed, check the upper glass channel to be certain it is bottomed in the body opening, also check alignment of the tailgate glass to tailgate glass run channel.

(1) If adjustment is necessary, loosen the two capscrews on either side panel of the tailgate(fig. 16-2).
(2) Raise and lower the glass several times with the tailgate in the closed position. This will align the glass with the channel.
(3) Open the tailgate slightly and tighten the adjusting screws with the tailgate in the vertical position.

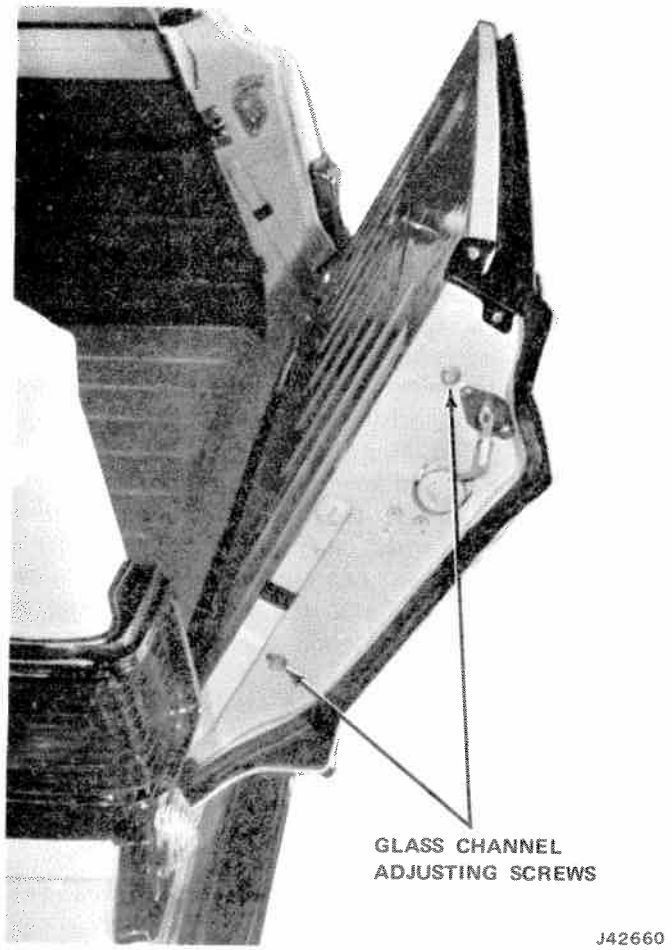

Fig. 16-2 Glass Channel Adjustment

TRUCK TAILGATE

Thriftside Pickup

The tailgate on the Thriftside Pickup box is hinged at the rear, with hinges bolted to the side panel posts. The hinge attaching bolts are accessible for hinge adjustment or replacement while the tailgate is in the closed or open position.

The tailgate is held in the up position with hooks which pass through slotted brackets on the side panel posts.

Townside Pickup

The tailgate on the pickup box is hinged at both sides. It is necessary to lower the tailgate for access to the cross recess countersunk attaching bolts.

The tailgate on the pickup box is held in the up or closed position with spring-loaded latches at the top of the gate. A paddle handle, located in the center of the tailgate operates the latches at each side through connecting rods.

Pin type hinges are located on the sides of the pickup box. The hinge pin brackets are attached with countersunk attaching bolts and cage nuts for easier adjusting.

The left side hinge pin is a solid round bar. The right side pin is similar but with two flat surfaces which correspond with a notch in the tailgate half of the hinge. The notch and the two flat surfaces allow the tailgate to be quickly removed from the tailgate opening.

To remove, open and lower the tailgate. Remove the side supports and then raise the tailgate to about 45° from horizontal. Disengage the right side hinge and move the tailgate to the right to disengage the left side hinge.

ELECTRIC TAILGATE WINDOW

The ignition switch must be in either the accessory or ignition position to energize the window lift circuit.

The rear window control switch is located left of the steering column on instrument panel. The switch is spring-loaded and will return to the neutral position.

The tailgate glass can also be lowered or raised, by inserting the ignition key in the tailgate lock. Turn the

key to the left to lower it and to the right to raise it.

After the glass has been lowered, the tailgate can be opened by lifting up on the tailgate latch release handle on the inside of the tailgate at the center.

Safety Switch

A safety switch mounted in the upper left side of the tailgate prevents raising the glass when the tailgate is in the open position to avoid possible damage to glass channels and regulators.

Circuit Breakers

The electric tailgate regulator motor and wiring harness are protected by two 30-ampere circuit breakers located in the fuse block.

Instrument Panel Switch.

The rear window switch is mounted at the lower left side of the instrument panel. The switch is retained to the instrument panel by two screws.

Wiring Harness

The tailgate circuit is a two-section wire harness: the body section, which is routed along the left side of the vehicle, and the section in the tailgate. The two harnesses are connected at the rear body crossmember.

Remove the tailgate cover plate to gain access to the wiring harness.

Tailgate Key Lock

The tailgate key lock assembly is held in place by two special screws located under the key hole cover.

Tailgate Window Switch

The tailgate window switch is mounted to the bottom side of the left regulator mounting support. It is fastened with two screws which are visible and accessible after the window regulator is removed.

Diagnosis Guide

Three colors are used for coding the wires in the tailgate electric window regulator circuit.

Refer to Cherokee and Wagoneer Wiring Diagram.

To test the tailgate wiring, switches, and motor, a 12-volt test lamp cam be used at the three-way connector located under the body at rear of the crossmember. Separate the connector 1/16-inch or just far enough to insert a thin test probe without disrupting the circuit.

Connect one probe of the test lamp to ground and the other to the individual tan, brown, or red with green tracer wires.

The red with green tracer is hot at all times to supply the tailgate key-operated switch.

When the ignition switch is in either the off or on position and both tailgate switches are in the neutral position, there is no current flow in the tan or brown wires.

When either switch is operated, current flow will be indicated in both the tan and the brown wires.

The tailgate safety switch must be closed to perform the above test. If the switch is open no current flow will be indicated in the brown wire when the tailgate switch is operated.

NOTE: *The tailgate safety switch is in series with the brown wire to prevent up operation when the tailgate is open.*

The proper assembly of all movable parts is important for satisfactory operation of the tailgate window.

The glass assembly must be in alignment in the tailgate and glass slide channels to operate with free movement.

The window regulator teeth in all gears, the coil springs, and the bottom channel slide sections, must be lubricated with Lubriplate or equivalent to ensure proper operation of the glass when it is raised or lowered.

LUGGAGE RACK

GENERAL

A new type of luggage rack is featured on 1974 Cherokees and Wagoneers. The rack (fig. 16-3) consists of side rails, adjustable end rails, adjustable load restrainers, end and center supports, and roof mounted slats. A spanner wrench, located in the vehicle glove box, facilitates securing the adjustable end rails and load restrainers.

The ends and center supports are attached to the roof top with well nuts and machine screws. The roof slats are attached with sheet metal screws and pressure sensitive tape.

Luggage rack components can be replaced without removing the entire assembly from vehicle.

NOTE: *Do not apply extreme pressure to support mounting screws during removal or installation as this may cause the well nuts to drop between the roof panel and headliner.*

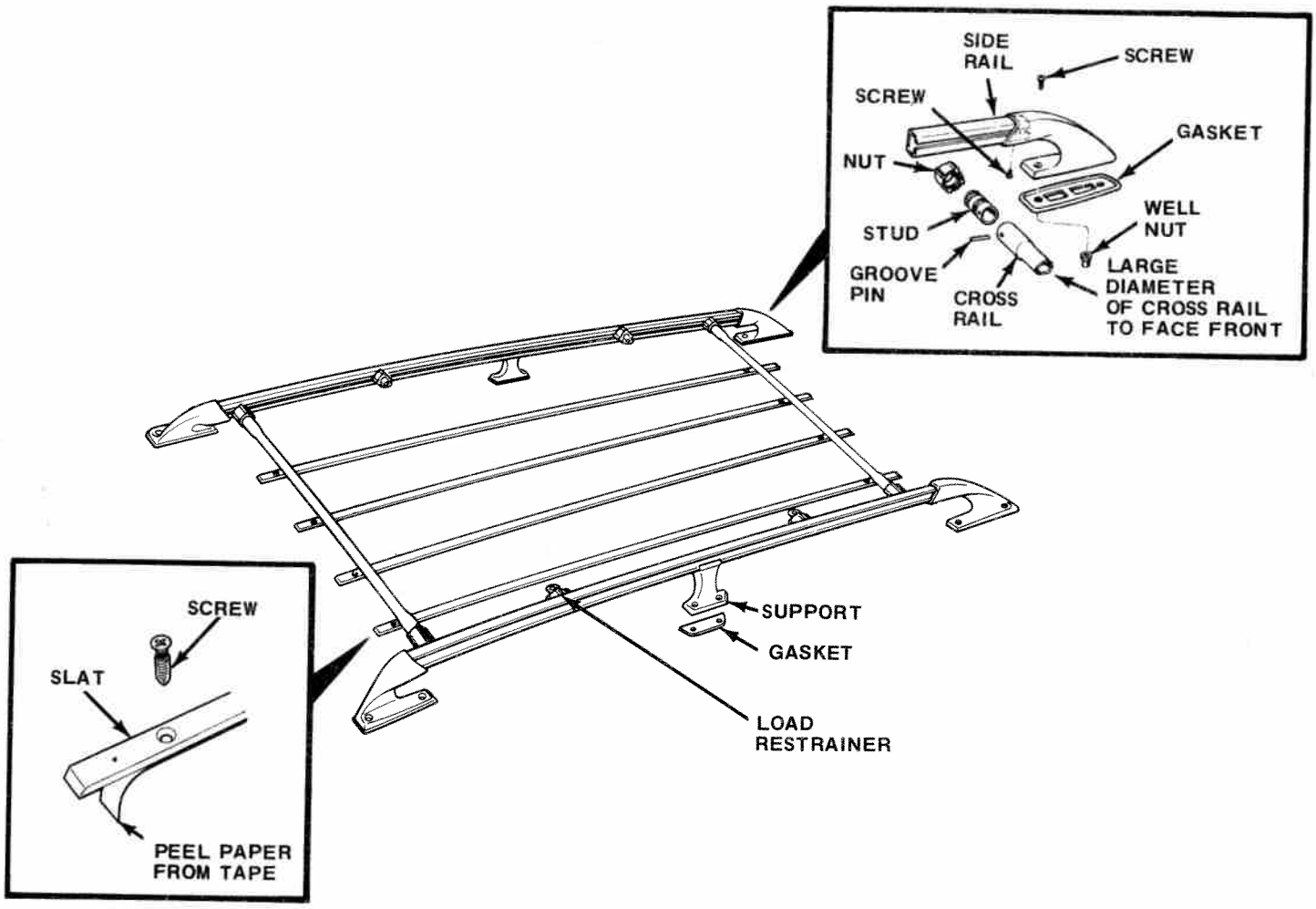

Fig. 16-3 Luggage Rack