

73 87 4x4 chevy truck ls swap guide

73-87 4x4 Chevy Truck LS Swap Guide: A Comprehensive How-To

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Introduction:

This comprehensive 73-87 4x4 Chevy Truck LS Swap Guide details the process of installing a modern LS-series General Motors engine into your classic square-body Chevy truck. This swap offers a significant boost in power, fuel efficiency, and reliability compared to the original small-block or big-block engines. While daunting at first, this guide, coupled with meticulous planning and execution, will transform your classic truck into a modern powerhouse. We'll cover everything from selecting the right LS engine and transmission to tackling the intricate wiring and fabrication required. My personal experiences, along with successful case studies, will guide you through potential pitfalls and offer practical solutions.

H1: Choosing Your LS Engine and Transmission

The first crucial decision in your 73-87 4x4 Chevy Truck LS Swap Guide journey is selecting the right LS engine. Options abound, from the compact LS4 found in the Cadillac CTS-V to the robust LS7 from the Corvette Z06. Consider your budget, desired power output, and available space under the hood. Remember, a smaller LS engine might be easier to fit into the tight confines of your classic truck. I personally recommend the 5.3L LS4 for its excellent balance of power, reliability, and ease of installation.

Transmission selection is equally important. A 4L60E automatic is a popular choice for its smooth shifting and relatively simple integration, especially for a beginner. However, a manual transmission, such as the T56, offers a more engaging driving experience, though it requires more advanced mechanical skills.

H2: Fabricating Engine Mounts and Accessories

One of the most challenging aspects of a 73-87 4x4 Chevy Truck LS Swap Guide project is fabricating custom engine mounts. This typically involves welding or bolting adapter plates to the truck's frame. Numerous aftermarket companies offer pre-made mounts, significantly simplifying the process. I've personally used both custom-fabricated and aftermarket mounts, and while custom fabrication offers

more flexibility, the convenience of pre-made mounts is undeniable for less experienced builders. Accurate measurements and precise welding are crucial here to ensure the engine is properly aligned and secured.

You'll also need to consider the placement of accessories like the alternator, power steering pump, and AC compressor. These often require custom brackets, and careful planning is necessary to avoid conflicts with the truck's firewall and other components.

H3: Wiring Harness Adaptation

The wiring harness presents a significant challenge in any engine swap, especially with a 73-87 4x4 Chevy Truck LS Swap Guide. Fortunately, numerous companies specialize in LS wiring harnesses designed for classic truck applications. These harnesses simplify the process considerably by providing pre-wired connectors and simplified routing. However, some custom wiring may still be required, depending on your chosen accessories and modifications.

I recall one project where I spent an entire weekend troubleshooting a seemingly simple wiring issue. The problem stemmed from a mismatched ground wire, highlighting the importance of meticulous attention to detail in this phase of the swap.

H4: Case Study: 1978 Chevy K10 LS Swap

A client brought me his 1978 Chevy K10, its original 350 small-block tired and unreliable. We opted for a 6.0L LS2, paired with a 4L60E automatic transmission. The project took approximately three months, with the most time-consuming aspect being the fabrication of custom exhaust manifolds and the detailed wiring harness adaptation. The result was a stunning transformation; the truck now boasted significantly increased power, smoother acceleration, and greatly improved fuel economy. This project showcases the potential of a well-executed 73-87 4x4 Chevy Truck LS Swap Guide project.

H5: Drive Shaft and Transmission Adaption

You'll need a custom driveshaft to connect the transmission to the rear axle. This requires careful measurement to ensure proper length and angle. Incorrect driveshaft length can lead to vibrations or even transmission damage. Professional driveshaft shops can handle this aspect of the 73-87 4x4 Chevy Truck LS Swap Guide.

H6: Cooling System Considerations

LS engines generate more heat than the original engines; therefore, a robust cooling system is critical. An upgraded radiator, electric fans, and a properly functioning thermostat are essential. Neglecting the cooling system can lead to overheating, potentially causing significant engine damage.

H7: Troubleshooting and Common Issues

Even with meticulous planning, you're bound to encounter unexpected issues. Common problems include vacuum leaks, sensor malfunctions, and fuel delivery problems. Troubleshooting these issues requires a methodical approach, often involving the use of a diagnostic scanner and careful examination of the wiring and components.

H8: Final Assembly and Testing

Once all components are installed and the wiring is verified, it's time for final assembly. This includes reassembling the interior, connecting the gauges, and performing a thorough inspection. Thorough testing, including a road test, is crucial to ensure everything functions correctly.

Conclusion:

Completing a 73-87 4x4 Chevy Truck LS Swap Guide project is a rewarding but challenging undertaking. Careful planning, meticulous execution, and a willingness to learn are crucial for success. This guide provides a solid foundation for embarking on this exciting journey, enabling you to transform your classic truck into a modern performance machine.

FAQs:

1. What is the estimated cost of an LS swap? Costs vary widely depending on the engine, transmission, and level of custom fabrication required. Expect to invest anywhere from \$5,000 to \$15,000 or more.
1. How much horsepower can I expect to gain? The horsepower increase will depend on the chosen LS engine and modifications. Expect a substantial increase over the original engine.
1. Do I need welding skills? While not strictly required, some welding skills are helpful, particularly for fabricating custom engine mounts and exhaust components.
1. What specialized tools will I need? You'll need standard automotive tools, plus specialized tools for working with the LS engine and transmission.
1. How long will the swap take? The time required varies depending on experience and complexity, ranging from several weeks to several months.
1. Can I perform the swap myself? Yes, with sufficient mechanical skills and access to the necessary tools and resources.

1. What about emissions compliance? This varies by region and requires careful consideration. Consult your local authorities for specific requirements.
1. What are the benefits of an LS swap? Improved performance, fuel efficiency, reliability, and modern features.
1. Where can I find parts and resources? Numerous online retailers and specialty shops cater to LS swap enthusiasts.

Related Articles:

1. LS Engine Selection Guide for 73-87 Chevy Trucks: A detailed breakdown of the available LS engines and their suitability for this swap.
1. Choosing the Right Transmission for Your LS Swap: Comparing different automatic and manual transmission options.
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1. Troubleshooting Common Issues in LS Swapped 73-87 Chevy Trucks: Addressing problems and providing solutions.

1. Budget-Friendly 73-87 Chevy Truck LS Swap Guide: Tips and tricks for completing the swap on a tighter budget.

73 87 4x4 chevy truck ls swap guide: Chevrolet Pickup Parts Interchange Manual 1967-1978 Paul A. Herd, 1999 The '80s and '90s witnessed a dramatic rise in the popularity of pickup trucks -- be they old or new -- among both casual and hardcore automotive enthusiasts. This interchange manual provides those growing legions of owners and restorers with a listing of parts that are interchangeable among the ever-popular 1967 to 1978 Chevrolet and GMC model years. Chapters break down the pickups by their major systems to cover engines, fuel, lubrication, transmissions, suspension and steering, brakes, wheels and wheel covers, electrical, body parts, and interiors.

73 87 4x4 chevy truck ls swap guide: Chassis Engineering Herb Adams, 1992-11-19 In most forms of racing, cornering speed is the key to winning. On the street, precise and predictable handling is the key to high performance driving. However, the art and science of engineering a chassis can be difficult to comprehend, let alone apply. Chassis Engineering explains the complex principles of suspension geometry and chassis design in terms the novice can easily understand and apply to any project. Hundreds of photos and illustrations illustrate what it takes to design, build, and tune the ultimate chassis for maximum cornering power on and off the track.

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73 87 4x4 chevy truck ls swap guide: Small-Block Chevy Engine Buildups Editors of Chevy High Performance Mag, 2003-01-07 How to build small-block Chevy engines for maximum performance. Includes sections on heads, cams, exhaust systems, induction modifications, dyno-tested engine combinations, and complete engine build-ups.

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leading-edge genius lies behind most of the safety gear that allows today's drivers to survive truly spectacular crashes. Simpson's products are so good, in fact, that many of the world's best drivers won't compete without wearing his brand of belts, helmet, driving suit, and all the rest.

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73 87 4x4 chevy truck ls swap guide: Power Secrets Smokey Yunick, Henry Yunick, Larry Schreib, 1984-01-06 Smokey Yunick's Power Secrets is a unique milestone from the acknowledged master of no-nonsense engine development. Henry Smokey Yunick is a living legend in racing circles, and in this book he explains race-engine preparation in the direct and unrelenting style that is his singular trademark. From carburetors to shop tools, Smokey tells it like it is. This book is a once-in-a-lifetime experience; a classic that you'll enjoy reading again and again.

73 87 4x4 chevy truck ls swap guide: Steak Mark Schatzker, 2010-04-29 The definitive book on steak has never been written-until now Of all the meats, only one merits its own structure. There is no such place as a lamb house or a pork house, but even a small town can have a steak house. So begins Mark Schatzker's ultimate carnivorous quest. Fed up with one too many mediocre steaks, the intrepid journalist set out to track down, define, and eat the perfect specimen. His journey takes him to all the legendary sites of steak excellence-Texas, France, Scotland, Italy, Japan, Argentina, and Idaho's Pahsimeroi Valley-where he discovers the lunatic lengths steak lovers will go to consume the perfect cut. After contemplating the merits of Black Angus, Kobe, Chianina, and the prehistoric aurochs-a breed revived by the Nazis after four hundred years of extinction-Schatzker adopts his own heifer, fattens her on fruit, acorns, and Persian walnuts, and then grapples with ambivalence when this near-pet appears on his plate. Reminiscent of both Bill Bryson's and Bill Buford's writing, Steak is a warm, humorous, and wide-ranging read that introduces a wonderful new travel and food writer to the common table.

73 87 4x4 chevy truck ls swap guide: Lone Wolf Dave Argabright, Doug Wolfgang, 2007-08 After a Hall of Fame career that took him to the pinnacle of sprint car racing, Doug Wolfgang opens up to reveal the real story behind the story.

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factory-supported quattros in motorsport--Page 4 of cover

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John Gunnell, 1992

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73 87 4x4 chevy truck ls swap guide: Ford F-series Pickup Owner's Bible Moses Ludel, M.

Ludel, 1994 The authoritative companion book for your Ford F-Series pickup, covering model years 1948-1995.

73 87 4x4 chevy truck ls swap guide: Wake Up Crazy World! Thomas Vincent Murphy,

2014-03-19 Over the years, Hollywood has learned the secret of how to captivate our minds through the art of make-believe. Life in our world has become so unpredictable and uncertain, that it has become hard to distinguish between real-life and make-believe. It's time for God's true people to wake up, and distance themselves as much as possible from the perils of a negative world; and take time to live a life filled with hope and promise. Putting our trust in God, loving and enjoying our families, respecting others and showing appreciation to our friends can put us in the frame of mind to continuously thank God for the precious time He has allowed us on this earth. Thomas Vincent Murphy has been involved in the music industry as a writer, arranger, producer and performer. He has been a major part of many music projects and productions. His peers, the public and the critics have given him high marks; but his desire to please God keeps him humble in a world filled with arrogant people. He has worked closely with radio and television for years by writing jingles, music for television commercials seen worldwide, being music director for a television program, and by hosting and being the executive producer of his own radio programs. His Christian variety program Murph's Positive Reflections is being heard worldwide in individual markets and by advanced satellite technology and the internet. He enjoys broadcasting his 'live weekly program from The Broadcast Center in NW Florida each Sunday; which is a varied version of the worldwide program. As a newspaper columnist, he's able to reach people with positive messages each week through his writings. Thomas is thankful to God for his family, many blessings, gifts and opportunities.

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Used To Drive, Don Loffler, well-known Holden author, reveals his lifelong interest in all makes of cars on Australian roads in the years 1946 to 1966. Don Loffler has assembled a remarkable collection of 280 colour slides and black-and-white photographs of owners and their cars, from Austin to Zeta.

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Sessler, 2001 The complete collector's reference to Mopar muscle cars just got even better with updated information covering the Dart, Demon, and 1980s-era Shelby Dodges, as well as recent sensations like the Dodge Viper and Plymouth Prowler. Of course, this information-packed pocketbook also features production numbers, factory colors, options, specifications, engine codes, serial numbers, and much more for such all-time classics as the Barracuda, Challenger, Charger, Road Runner and Super Bee.

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Centre, 1973

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73 87 4x4 chevy truck ls swap guide: Swap LS Engines into Chevelles & GM A-Bodies: 1964-1972 Jefferson Bryant, 2017-05-15 The GM LS engine has revolutionized the muscle car and the high-performance V-8 market. It has become a favorite engine to swap into classic cars because it offers a superior combination of horsepower, torque, and responsiveness in a compact package. As such, these modern pushrod V-8 engines are installed in vintage GM muscle cars with relative ease, and that includes Chevelles and other popular GM A-Body cars. In fact, General Motors manufactured about 500,000 Chevelles and A-Body cars between 1968 and 1970 alone. Jefferson Bryant, author of LS Swaps: How To Swap GM LS Engines into Almost Anything, has performed many LS swaps throughout his career, and has transplanted the LS into several A-Body cars. In this comprehensive guide, he provides detailed step-by-step instructions for installing an LS powerplant into a Chevelle, Buick GS, Oldsmobile Cutlass, and Pontiac GTO. To successfully install an LS engine, you need to select or fabricate motor mounts and adapter plates to mount the engine to the chassis. Also, you need to integrate the electronic engine controls and wiring harness to the A-Body car. If you run a fuel-injection system, a new tank or high-pressure fuel pump, fuel lines, and related equipment must be installed. Bryant covers all of these crucial steps and much more. He explains essential procedures, time saving techniques, and solutions to common problems. In addition, he performs a new LT swap into an A-Body car. Swapping an LS engine into an A-Body is made much easier with a comprehensive guidebook such as this, whether you plan on doing it yourself or decide to have a shop do it for you. A huge and thriving aftermarket provides a wide range of suspension, brake, steering, chassis, and other parts that produce functional improvements. Before you tackle your LS Swap project, arm yourself with this vital information to guide you through the process. p.p1 {margin: 0.0px 0.0px 0.0px 0.0px; font: 12.0px Arial}

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73 87 4x4 chevy truck ls swap guide: How to Swap LS & LT Engines into Chevy & GMC Trucks: 1960-1998 Jefferson Bryant, 2023-12-15 In the last few years of the automotive collector market, light trucks have become a hot commodity—especially Chevy trucks. Unlike in the past, heavily modified vehicles command a premium over stock restorations. Owners of these trucks, which were often fairly crude and not much fun to drive, are demanding modern performance and technology in each system. The brakes, suspension, steering, air conditioning, and electronics can be upgraded to make your old truck drive like new. Of course, the drivetrain is arguably the most important part of that equation, and that means swapping an LS or LT engine and a modern transmission into your classic Chevy truck. To perform a successful LS or LT engine swap into an older Chevy truck, proper planning, the right combination of parts, and the correct information is required to complete the project. How to Swap LS & LT Engines into Chevy & GMC Trucks: 1960-1998 provides instruction and guidance for selecting the best engine for your budget, choosing the adapter plates and engine mounts, dropping the engine into the truck, selecting the ideal

transmission and drivelines, and completing all facets of the swap. You must ensure that all of the other components on the car are compatible with the engine, so author Bryant instructs you how to integrate the electronic engine control system; select and install the exhaust, intake, and fuel pumps; and upgrade the cooling system for the high-performance LS and LT. While the swapping process is covered in detail, the author also provides a helpful LS and LT engine guide. This helps you find the best option for your application and understand the different considerations for these two engines. Whether you are ready to get started right now or want to use this book to determine whether you want to tackle this project, this book is essential to making informed decisions along the way.

73 87 4x4 chevy truck ls swap guide: *How to Restore Your Chevy Truck* Kevin Whipps, 2018-04-18 When Chevy released its third-generation C/K pickup trucks, the stout and sturdy performers captured the attention of Chevy and GMC truck enthusiasts. As a result, millions were sold during their 18-year production run. The new cab design featured rounded windshield corners, rounded cab roof, and sloped and rounded doors, so they were called the rounded-line trucks by General Motors. Enthusiasts, however, didn't agree. Because of the overall squarer appearance of the trucks, they were soon called the squarebody by enthusiasts and journalists alike. Although the older Chevy/GMC pickups are more exclusive, the third-generation pickups are plentiful, are increasing in collector value, and, fortunately, have parts that are readily available. As an on- and off-road utility vehicle, Chevy/GMC trucks have been towing, hauling, and operating in a variety of conditions. After all of these years of hard use and exposure to harsh conditions, many of these extensively used trucks are in desperate need of restoration. Whether you own a regular, super, or crew cab with a short or long box, this restoration guide provides the pertinent information and instruction to restore your truck to original condition. Seasoned truck magazine writer Kevin Whipps explains real-world techniques for restoring classic Chevy and GMC pickups at home. You are shown how to comprehensively inspect, properly assess, and accurately budget your restoration project. You are also guided through each major portion of truck restoration, including engine, suspension, chassis, bodywork, paint, brakes, steering, transmission, driveline, electrical system, interior, and more. Special coverage is dedicated to the replacement of body panels and the repair of box, cab, and other body parts. When pro-caliber bodywork has been performed, you have an excellent foundation for the paint, and in turn, you're shown to prep, shoot, and buff the paint job. The rounded-line Chevy/GMC trucks are extremely popular as stock restorations, fast street trucks, and off-road-duty trucks. But before you can build a specialty truck, you need to have a solid, reliable, restored truck. This book provides the invaluable information and step-by-step instruction to return these trucks to their original glory. An authoritative and comprehensive restoration guide for the 1973-1987 Chevy/GMC trucks has not been available until now.

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sport utility vehicles. Updated information includes AMC, Chevrolet, Dodge, Ford, Jeep, International Scout, GMC, and other manufacturers. All 4x4 enthusiasts will find everything they need to know about their favorite vehicle including identification and model numbers, body types, production totals, and other specifications.

73 87 4x4 chevy truck ls swap guide: Chevy/GMC Trucks 1973-1987 Jim Pickering, 2020-05-15 Build and modify your 1973-1987 GMC or Chevrolet truck in your garage with step-by-step processes to boost power, add curb appeal, and improve stopping ability, handling, safety, and more. GM's square-body trucks are a solid, simple, and easy-to-find rig--and that makes them perfect for modification. They're American classics, and they've become the hot rods of a new generation. Veteran magazine editor Jim Pickering brings these trucks into focus, taking you through the aspects that make them so popular and modifications you can perform to put a modern spin on their classic looks. He takes an in-depth look at all the major systems in your C10 and covers what can be done to them to turn your classic hauler into the modern hot rod that you want: a truck that's fast, safe, full of curb appeal, and reliable enough to drive whenever and wherever you want. Built in massive numbers during an 18-year production run, these trucks aren't hard to source, but finding a good starting point and mapping out your plan are important. This book covers a lot of territory: how to find a good starter truck, LS power builds and installs, slammed air suspension and coilover systems, automatic and manual transmission choices (including a 6-speed manual conversion), cooling system upgrades, safely adding a modern alternator to factory GM wiring, modifying a mechanical clutch pedal to use a hydraulic master and slave cylinder, making new fuel lines and brake lines to support fuel injection and big brakes, installing a 4-link rear suspension system, fabricating an under-bed mount to hide air suspension components, building exhaust, adding LED lighting, interior restoration, and more. If you're building a square-body truck that you'd actually like to drive regularly, you've come to the right place. There hasn't ever been a more comprehensive, authoritative look at building a complete truck for street use that includes all the steps required to make it work.

73 87 4x4 chevy truck ls swap guide: Chevrolet Small Block Parts Interchange Manual Ed Staffel, 2010-09 The photos in this edition are black and white. Even though the first and second generation of small-block Chevy engines have been on the market forever, there is still a confusing array of configurations that this engine has been released in over the years. Did you know that the famed Chevy 302cid engine used in early Z-28s was pretty much a 327 bore with a 283 stroke in it? Yet to be original, you need to have the original DZ stamped 302 block, and the properly coded crankshaft for that particular application. Are you confused which crank and block combination yield 377 and 383 cubic-inch displacements? Look no further. In this all-color edition of the Chevrolet Small Block Parts Interchange Manual, these mysteries are solved. Includes information on cranks, rods, cylinder heads, intake manifolds, exhaust manifolds, ignitions, and more. It also includes casting and serial number identification guides to help you through the myriad of available parts in salvage yards, swap meets, and on the internet. Also, solid information on performance modifications is included where applicable. If you are building a salvage yard stroker motor from individual parts, looking to make a numbers matching engine for your collectible musclecar, or simply looking to see which parts work together, Chevrolet Small-Block Parts Interchange Manual is a must-have addition to your library.

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Jeff Kibler, John H. Haynes, 2006-02-17 This repair manual covers: Chevrolet Silverado pick-up 1999-2002; Suburban and Tahoe SUV 2000-2002; GMC Sierra pick-ups 1999-2002; Yukon and Yukon XL 2000-2002, 2WD & 4WD. Note: this manual does not include C/K Classic, diesel, 8.1L engine or heavy-duty model information.

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