



August 12, 2011

Re: Ultimate in short-bed trucks

Does the Andersen Ultimate Connection work in short bed trucks?

So far we have not come across any make or models of short bed trucks that the Ultimate Connection does not work in, including the shorter 5 ft 3 inch beds (see video clip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xxi1rMc42sM>). There are two things to keep in mind when using our hitch in a short bed truck (or any other brand of hitch for that matter):

1. As with all hitches on the market, watch your cab clearance the first time you use your hitch so you are aware of the limitations of your particular combination of trailer, tow vehicle, and hitch. Keep in mind that in some trailer/truck combinations you will not get a full 90 degree turn (more about that below).
2. Watch your side-rail clearance the first time you use your hitch so you are aware of the limitations of your particular combination of pin box, tow vehicle, and hitch. Many of the current trailers on the road use a super-extended pin box that may not clear your side-rails fully and cause damage. The Ultimate Connection can help in this situation (see "Side-Rail Clearance" below).

90-Degree Turns

The question often comes up, "Can I turn 90-degrees with the Andersen Ultimate Connection?" Without a doubt, the Ultimate Connection gives the most clearance available without using a slider – our offset helps tremendously with the front-to-back clearance as it allows around 8 to 9 inches of offset for you –but the answer to that question is totally dependent on the shape and width of your trailer's nose and its position relative to the king pin. However, another point should really be made here – while turning a full 90 degrees may seem to be an ideal situation, it does put tremendous torque on the wheels and axles, basically skidding the tires at the top point of the turn as opposed to pulling your trailer forward. Many people find that they are better off NOT turning as sharply as that in their use of the trailer, which may be why a lot of people end up NOT using their slider fully. In our own trailer-pulling we have found that a full 90-degree turn is almost never needed. So – can the Andersen Ultimate Connection allow a 90-degree turn? Yes, as long as the width and position of the trailer nose (relative to the king pin) allows it. It is those particular variables that directly cause clearance issues.

Side-Rail Clearance

In most set-ups the pin box of your trailer should be able to clear your truck's side-rails, however, if your trailer happens to have a long extended pin box, then there's a chance the pin box might hit your side-rails. If that is the case the coupler block can be rotated 180 degrees to decrease the offset. (To see what rotating the coupler block does, go to minute 4 of this video clip: https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=78l-PadWAro.) In most situations this would be sufficient to take care of any clearance issues, however, keep in mind that by rotating the coupler block, you are now moving the nose of the trailer closer to the truck cab, so watch your cab clearance the first time you use your hitch so you are aware of any changed clearance limitations you might now be facing with your particular combination of trailer and tow vehicle.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us.