



+ JT Autostyle Acura NSX

+ JT Autostyle Chrysler 300

First, there are currently two basic types of tilt-up door hinge kits on the market: the bolt-on (which is vehicle-specific) and the weld-on (designed as a universal fit for any vehicle). Each type includes new hinges and gas-filled shocks that act like a spring to make heavy doors easy to open and close. The companies mentioned in this article have all made changes and improvements on these two original styles.

Installation time for the bolt-on kit is one-tenth that of weld-on kits, which take one to two days. On the downside, some say weld-on kits can be a problem if you have a wreck; on the upside, they never need adjustment. If you are leasing your vehicle or don't plan to keep it for years, you might want to buy a bolt-on kit because it's easily reversible.

Demetrius Ham of Decah (Newton, New Jersey) invented the bolt-on type hinge named the Vertical Door Conversion (VDC). "The VDC is a lot more than a hinge," says Ham. "It's a bi-directional pivotal assembly system made from high-quality steel with precision bends and uniform welds—a structural, moving work of art—a neatly balanced combination of form and function providing you with the true exotic look at just the right angle."

A leader in the industry that has created its own patented bolt-on kits based on the VDC-style hinge is Vertical Doors, Inc. (Corona, California) with more than 100 vehicle-specific applications. "Every one of our 100-percent American-made hinge systems is designed on the vehicle in



+ JT Autostyle Evo kit

our own shop by experienced engineers and machinists," says VDI's Louis Connole. "All of our direct bolt-on kits are true 'factory-fit' with no cutting or drilling, fully adjustable to ensure trouble-free operation, and made from 'high-hardness' heat-treated steel that is laser-cut and precision welded." Vertical Doors also has qualified installers on-site (which gives them constant customer feedback), and they even offer a universal kit for "unusual" applications.

Taking a more "evolved" approach to the bolt-on style hinge is JT Autostyle (Rosemead, California) with their Evo door kits. "We use high-quality materials for our hinges, precision cut, welded and then nickel plated to inhibit rust and corrosion," says JT's Steven Wong. All Evo kits are application-specific (including their new weld-on Chevy truck kits) and guaranteed to fit. JT also installs the kits at their retail facility. "We pride ourselves on customer service, and we've hooked up many top car clubs with Evo doors," Wong added.

LSD (Lambo Style Door) Solutions North America (Sanger, California) is another innovative company with its own distinctive approach to the bolt-on style hinge system. "Safety is a priority with LSD and we have invested in our customer's safety to provide the best and safest product available," says LSD's George Ciordas. LSD is the only kit available with a safety lock and their patented "Magic Stick" to provide a precise factory fitment and prevent the door from ever contacting the fender or doorsill. "Our manufacturing process is second to none, utilizing the latest



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