

TrackPort Covert Installation Guide

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This installation guide details installing a TrackPort tracker with a J1939, J1708, RP1226 or OBD Y-Cable in a covert setup. The tracker and cable are hidden behind the vehicle panel, while a single diagnostics port is mounted to the panel and remains exposed. This setup represents best practices for installing the TrackPort product line to maintain OEM-like appearance, reliable connectivity, and moisture management.

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Applicable Products

This installation guide is applicable to the following BrickHouse Security and BrickHouse GPS products.

GPS Trackers

Product Features	TrackPort 4	TrackPort Pro	TrackPort Pro MAX	TrackPort Pro MAX X
				
	Also branded as: TrackPort OBD		Serial # starts with "88X"	Serial # starts with "87X"
LTE Network Connectivity	Cat M1/NB1 with 2G fallback	4G LTE Cat M1	4G LTE Cat M1	4G LTE Cat M1
Real-Time Track, Trace & Geofencing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Last Gasp Battery	Li-Polymer, 60 mAh	Li-Ion, 115 mAh	Yes, 300 mAh	Yes, 300 mAh
Internal Buzzer	No	No	No	Yes
Vehicle Diagnostics Protocol Supported				
OBD / Odometer	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
J1939 Heavy Duty	No	No	Yes	Yes
J1708 Heavy Duty (Legacy)	No	No	No	Yes

Y-Cable Harnesses

	J1939 9-Pin Y-Cable	J1939 9-pin Y-Cable Panel Mount	J1708 6-pin Y-Cable	RP1226 Y-Cable Panel Mount	OBD Y-Cable	OBD Extension
						
Plug	J1939 (9-pin)	J1939	J1708 (6-pin)	RP1226 (14-pin)	OBD	OBD
Output Ports	J1939 OBD-II (16-pin)	J1939 OBD	J1708 OBD	RP1226 OBD	OBD OBD	OBD
Other names	8-600	8-600D	8-700	8-1226	Flat Y-Cable	Flat Cable
SKU	AC-OBD-J1939SY3	AC-OBD-J1939DY3	AC-OBD-J1708Y3	AC-OBD-RP1226Y	OBD-FLAT-Y-CABLE	OBD-FLAT-CABLE
Length	3-feet	3-feet	3-feet	3-feet	12 in	12 in

Safety Notice

Always prioritize safety. Disconnect the vehicle's battery if working with electrical components that are not plug-and-play. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

Always follow best fleet maintenance practices while working in or near the vehicle. Only install in a safe well-lit environment (e.g. a garage) away from any moving traffic. Make sure the vehicle is parked on level ground, with parking brakes engaged, and wheels chocked. Ignition should be powered off. Use caution when working near airbag deployment zones, pedals, and steering linkage.

Ensure the work area and vehicle are not humid or wet, as the trackers are susceptible to water and humidity. Do not install during a lightning storm. Do not disassemble the trackers. Before unplugging a tracker from a vehicle, the vehicle ignition **MUST** be OFF.

Only install trackers in vehicles running on 12V or 24V power.

Obtain Customer Work Authorization

Before commencing any installation, ensure written authorization from the customer is obtained, acknowledging the installation of the tracking device and any modifications made to the vehicle. This is critical for legal compliance and data privacy. Potential modifications include:

1. Removing an existing Customer Device occupying the OEM Service Port
2. Cutting a new port hole in the vehicle panel

Glossary

ELD: Electronic Logging Device

IMEI: International Mobile Equipment Identity. A 15-digit number uniquely identifying a mobile device, often found on the device label.

J1708: A communication protocol and 6-pin connector standard. Primarily used in pre-2005 heavy-duty vehicles for transmitting data between vehicle components.

J1939: A higher-layer protocol and 9-pin connector standard. Supersedes J1708.

OBD-II: On-Board Diagnostics, Second Generation. A standardized system and 16-pin connector used mostly in light duty vehicles for self-diagnostics and reporting.

RP1226: A modern heavy-duty diagnostics protocol and 14-pin connector standard. Introduced in commercial vehicles from 2019.

TrackPort OBD: Basic OBD-II plug-in tracker that provides track and trace. Does not read vehicle diagnostics data.

TrackPort Pro: Light- and medium-duty plug-in tracker that provides track and trace and reads OBD-II vehicle diagnostics data.

TrackPort Pro Max: Heavy-duty plug-in tracker that provides track and trace and reads J1939 and OBD-II diagnostics data.

TrackPort Pro Max X: Heavy-duty plug-in tracker that provides track and trace and reads J1708, J1939 and OBD-II diagnostics data.

VIN: Vehicle Identification Number. A unique serial number used to identify individual vehicles.

Y-Cable: An adapter cable that splits an existing port into two, allowing multiple devices to connect to a single source.

What You'll Need

- TrackPort, TrackPort Pro, Pro Max or Pro Max X OBD plug-in tracker
- A **Y-Cable** with a **"Covert" plug of type J1939, J1708, RP1226 or OBD-II** and splits it into a **cloned, mountable "Panel" port** and a discrete **OBD-II port**
- Panel removal tools (plastic pry tools)
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Small screwdriver set
- Digital Multimeter (for troubleshooting voltage checks)
- Torque Wrench Set (if OEM fasteners require specific torque values for panel mounting)
- Vehicle's Owner's Manual available for reference if needed

Tools if cutting a new panel opening:

- Drill and appropriate bit
- Utility knife or rotary tool
- Deburr tool
- Marker or pencil for template tracing

Consumables:

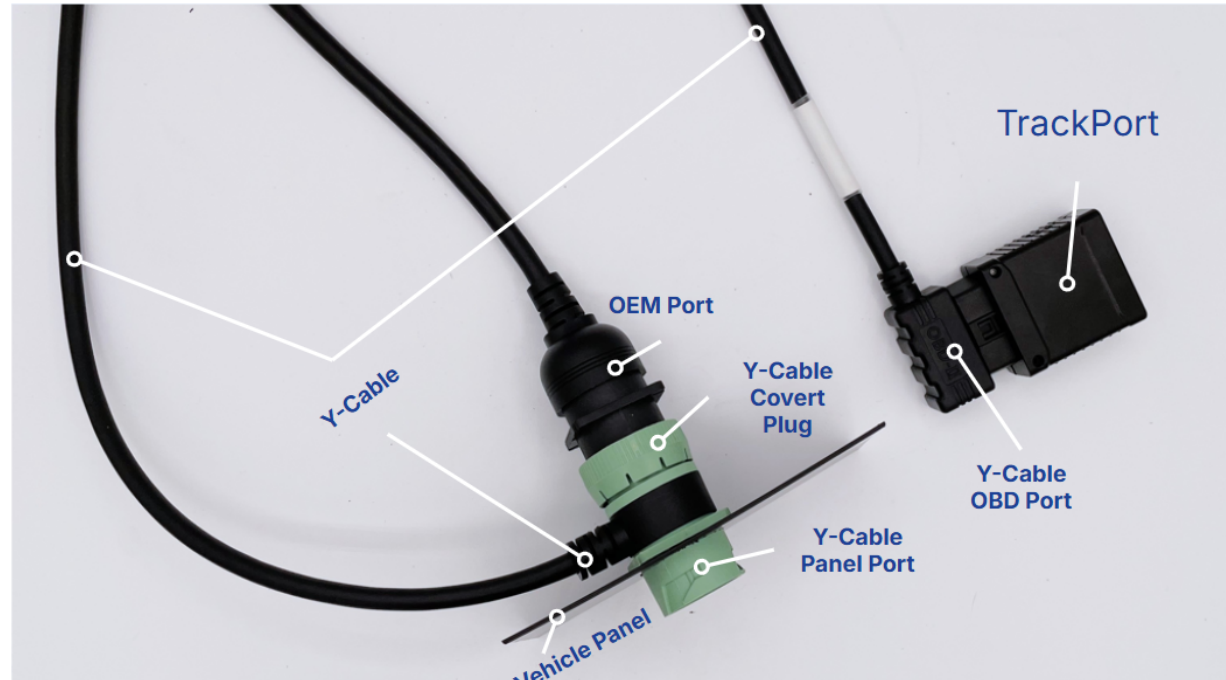
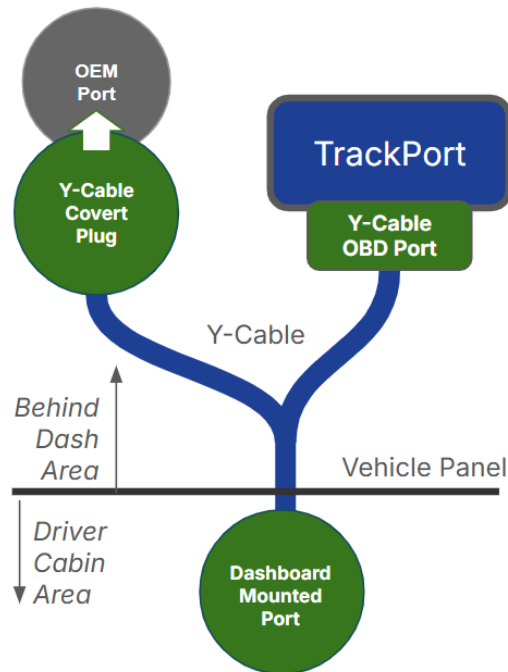
- Zip ties (assorted lengths)
- Electrical tape
- Velcro or adhesive backed mounting pads (for mounting the tracker)

Documentation:

- Customer Work Authorization Form (signed)
- Installation Checklist (See [Appendix A](#))
- *This installation guide*

Cabling Diagrams

The below diagram and test bench photo shows the theory of operations:



Step-by-Step Installation Guide

Take photos before and after each step.

1) Unmounting the Vehicle Panel and OEM Service Port

- ☐ Identify the OEM Service Port under the dash

Typically found on the driver's side, near the steering column, or sometimes in the center console. Refer to the vehicle owner's manual if unsure.



- ☐ Unmount Vehicle Panel and OEM Service Port

Gently unmount, using plastic panel removal tools. Avoid excessive force to prevent damage. Be sure to retain all clips & screws.

- ☐ Dry-fit the Y-Cable's Covert Plug with the OEM Service Port, ensuring a secure connection

If the Y-Cable's Covert Plug does NOT match with the OEM Service Port, remove the Y-Cable, reinsert the existing Customer Device (if removed earlier), confirm that you have the correct Y-Cable, and restart the installation.

- ☐ Identify the Y-Cable's Panel Port, preparing it to be mounted

If the Panel Port has a twist-off cap, remove it before mounting the port. For a square mount with 4-notches, identify the screws/nuts/bolts needed to mount into these notches.

- ☐ Dry-Fit the Y-Cable's Panel Port to the now-available panel opening, ensuring it is able to be placed securely, solidly and flush

2) (Optional) Preparing a Hole in the Vehicle Panel

Skip this step if the existing panel hole can be reused

- ☐ Identify an inconspicuous area on the vehicle panel where the cut will be made
- ☐ Trace the connector
- ☐ Cut the new opening & deburr the edge

Make sure to trace on the back side (hidden side) of the vehicle panel

Carefully use a utility knife to cut along the traced line. Ensure the opening is clean and precise.

Test fit the Panel Port before deburring the edges.

3) Installing the Panel Port into the Vehicle Panel

- ☐ Mount the Y-Cable's Panel Port to the panel opening

Verify the correct port orientation.

If the Panel Port is secured through a twist-off cap, make sure to tighten the cap fully.

If the Panel Port is secured with screws/nuts/bolts, DO NOT OVERTORQUE. Consult the OEM torque requirements if appropriate.

- ☐ Verify the port is firmly seated and level with the panel, adjusting as needed.

Goal is to give the customer a reliable mount with a professional, OEM-like appearance!

4) Installing the TrackPort Behind the Vehicle Panel

- ☐ Connect the Y-Cable's Covert Plug to the OEM Service Port.

If there is a twist-off cap, twist it clock-wise until the connector is properly locked

If the connection is done through plugging only (no locking mechanism), attach zip-ties to secure the connection and prevent detaching from vibration

- ☐ Connect the TrackPort tracker to the Y-Cable's OBD-II Port, ensuring it is fully inserted

Secure the tracker and OBD-II port with two zipties to create a bundle that ensures they are not disconnected during vehicle operations

5) Vehicle On Test 1: Verifying Connections

- ☐ Verify safety before turning on the vehicle
 - ☐ Turn on the vehicle to "RUN" position, wait 20 seconds, and verify that the TrackPort LED is flashing ON.
 - ☐ Verify Panel Port functionality by plugging in the diagnostics reader and verifying data reading capabilities.
 - ☐ Turn off the vehicle.
- *Ensure the vehicle is in Park and the parking brakes are engaged*
 - *Ensure there are no exposed electronic wiring*
 - *There is no need to start the vehicle motor for this step.*

6) Routing Cables and Remounting the Vehicle Panel

- ☐ Properly route all cables, ports, plugs and the tracker to ensure safe, covert, reliable, and unobstructed operations.
- *Ensure there is no metal plating nearby to cause interference with the TrackPort*
 - *Ensure the tracker is pointed towards the sky, with its label facing up*
 - *Keep all connectors, cables and loops clear of pedals, steering, sharp edges, and heat sources, as well as airbag modules, HVAC doors, or blocking diagnostic LEDs that could glow through panel gaps.*
 - *Follow factory paths where possible to adhere to an OEM-like cable layout*
 - *Ensure sufficient cable slack to form a **drip loop** to collect and guide condensation away from electronics, and sufficient cable slack to allow a*

- ☐ Secure the TrackPort assembly (Y-Cable, TrackPort, OEM Service Port) to nearby panels with zip-ties to ensure they are firmly tied in and will not move during vehicle operations.

gentle turn radius. See drip loop diagram.

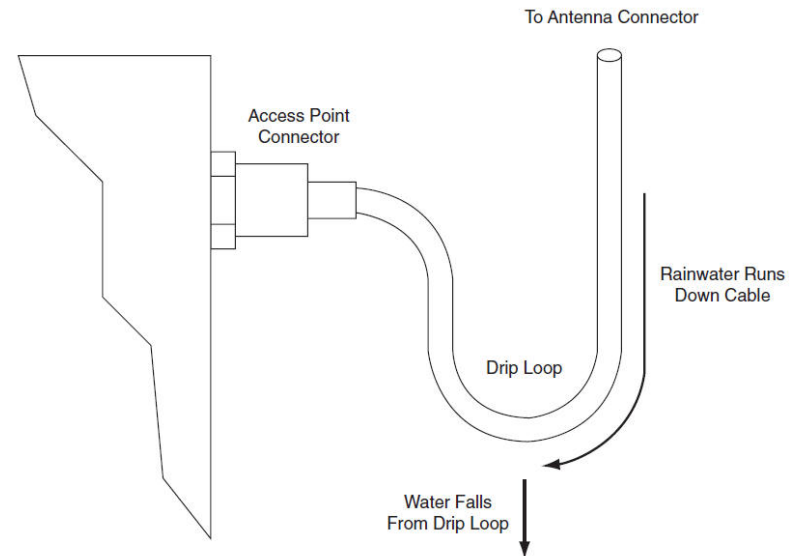


FIGURE 8-20: Diagram of a drip loop.

- ☐ Remount the panel

- *Make sure connectors and cables are firmly stowed and hidden behind the panel*
- *Confirm no cables are visible from the footwell or through panel seams*

7) Vehicle On Test 2: Final Verification

- ☐ Verify safety before turning on the vehicle
- ☐ **Vehicle Start-Up:** Start the vehicle and allow it to idle for at least 3 minutes to ensure the tracker powers on and establishes a connection.
- ☐ Perform a Test Drive to verify vehicle functionality.
- ☐ Verify the tracker is online and reporting.
- For **self-verification**, login to the Locate app or platform and verify the tracker is online, obtaining locations, correct odometer value, and vehicle VIN.
 - For **Partner Installation** verification, call **BrickHouse Support** to complete verification of the installation

When calling BrickHouse Support, please provide the Customer ID, Device IMEI or Serial Number, or the Install Confirmation Number.

- ☐ For ELD customers, verify the tracker has a Bluetooth signal.

- ☐ Verify Panel Port functionality by plugging in the diagnostics reader and verifying data reading capabilities.

- ☐ Turn off the Vehicle after verification

- ☐ Conduct a final visual inspection to ensure no wires are visible, the panel is securely reinstalled, and the installation is completely covert.

Troubleshooting (Quick Reference)

Problem	Possible Cause(s)	Solution(s)
No Power to Tracker (LEDs off)	1. Loose Y-Cable connection. 2. Faulty OEM OBD-II port. 3. Faulty Y-Cable or Tracker.	1. Reseat all Y-Cable connections firmly. 2. Test OEM port with a known-good OBD-II scanner. 3. Test with a different Y-Cable or Tracker.
No GPS Signal	1. Tracker is in a location with poor sky view. 2. Interference from metallic objects.	1. Relocate the tracker to a less obstructed area (e.g., closer to glass, away from large metal panels). 2. Re-route cabling away from interference.
No Cellular Connectivity	1. Poor cellular signal in the area. 2. SIM card issue. 3. Tracker malfunction.	1. Move the vehicle to an area with better cellular coverage. 2. Verify SIM card is active and correctly inserted. 3. Contact technical support.
Incorrect Data Reporting	1. Incorrect tracker configuration. 2. Vehicle compatibility issue.	1. Verify tracker configuration settings on the platform. 2. Consult technical support for vehicle compatibility details.

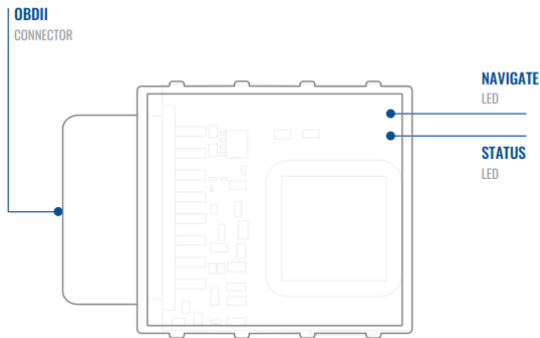
LED Codes

TrackPort 4 LED Codes



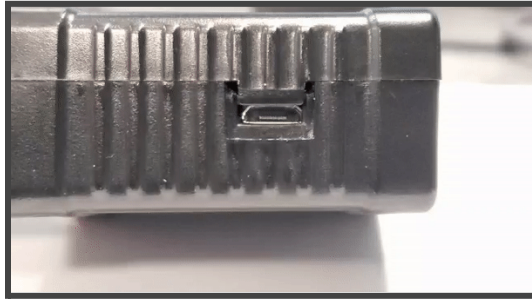
LED	LED Status	LED Detail	How to Clear
CELL & GNSS	OFF	Device is not receiving power	Ensure that the device is seated correctly on the port, all pins are touching, and the connector cap is locked in. If the device is still not generating a LED code there could be an issue with the Y-Cable or there is no power coming from the vehicle's diagnostics port.
CELL LED (Green)	Flashing	Fast: Device searching for network	Check the placement of the device and ensure there is no interference (Metal or RFID) and make sure the device has clear access to the sky.
		Slow: Device has been registered on the network	No action required. The device is working.
	Solid	SIM card requires a PIN code to unlock	<i>This should not occur. If it does, contact technical support.</i>
GNSS LED (Blue)	OFF (CELL is ON)	GNSS is powered off	No action is required. The device is working.
	Flashing	Slow: GNSS is not sending data or data format error occurred	Check the placement of the device and ensure there is no interference (Metal or RFID) and make sure the device has clear access to the sky.
		Fast: GNSS is searching for signal	
	Solid	Device has GNSS location information	No action is required. The device is working.

TrackPort Pro LED Codes



LED	LED Status	LED Detail	How to Clear
STATUS	Off	The device is not receiving power	Ensure that the device is seated correctly on the port, all pins are touching, and the connector cap is locked in. If the device is still not generating a LED code there could be an issue with the Y-Cable or there is no power coming from the vehicle's diagnostics port.
	Blinking	Every Second: Normal mode Every 2 Seconds: Sleep mode Fast for a Short Time: Modem activity	No action required. The device is working.
NAVIGATE	Off	GNSS is turned off due to device not working or device in sleep mode	Check Status LED. During installation verification, the navigation LED can be ignored.
	Solid On	GNSS signal is not received	Check the placement of the device and ensure there is no interference (Metal or RFID) and make sure the device has clear access to the sky.
	Blinking	Every Second: Normal mode, GNSS is working Fast: Device firmware is being flashed	No action required. The device is working. For fast blink, do not cut power to the device or interrupt the firmware update!

TrackPort Pro Max & Pro Max X LED Codes



LED Status	Error Description	How to Clear
NO LED Status	The device is not receiving power	Ensure that the device is seated correctly on the port, all pins are touching, and the connector cap is locked in. If the device is still not generating a LED code there could be an issue with the Y-Cable or there is no power coming from the vehicle's diagnostics port.
Green LED Blinks Regularly or Fast	Regularly: The device is working normally Fast Blink: Ignition is On and Device is Charging	No action required. The device is working.
Red LED Blinks 1, 2, 3 or 5 times in series	1 time: Bluetooth Error 2 times: Cellular Error 3 times: GPS Error 5 times: Modem Error	Check the placement of the device and ensure there is no interference (Metal or RFID) and make sure the device has clear access to the sky. For Step 5) Vehicle On Test 1: Verifying Connections , a flashing red LED means successful power connections.
Solid Red Light On Install	NO External Power	The internal battery is close to depleted and the device is not plugged into external power. Plug in the device into external power and turn on the Ignition so the battery can charge.

Technical Support & Contact Information

For technical assistance, advanced troubleshooting, or further product information, please contact:

Expert Phone Support

Representatives available seven days a week, 9am - 9pm ET.

Toll Free: **(800) 654-7966**

International: **+1 (925) 326-3688**

Compliance & Regulatory Information

This installation must comply with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations regarding vehicle modifications, telematics device installation, and data privacy (e.g., FMCSA ELD mandates, specific state privacy laws). Installers are responsible for ensuring all relevant standards (e.g., SAE J1939, J1708, RP1226 for commercial vehicles) are considered where applicable.

Appendix A. Installation Checklist

Installer: _____

Date: _____

Vehicle VIN: _____

Tracker IMEI or Serial # (if IMEI not available): _____

	Task	Complete (Y/N)	Notes
1	OEM Service Port located and unmounted		
2	Y-Cable Covert Plug securely connected to OEM Service Port		
3	New panel opening cut, if required		
4	Y-Cable Panel Port mounted in new panel opening		
5	TrackPort tracker securely connected to Y-Cable OBD-II Port		
6	Tracker covertly placed		
7	Tracker label faces towards sky and away from metal interference		

7	Tracker LED status verified		
8	Cabling properly routed and secured (no pinch points, away from steering column, other electronics, pedals, feet placement, not blocking HVAC, not blocking LEDs, not visible through seams)		
9	Drip loop formed		
10	Excess cabling zip-tied and trimmed		
11	Vehicle panel reinstalled securely		
12	Vehicle started and idle for 5 min		
13	Vehicle test driven		
14	No rattling, no visible cables, plugs, tracker or LEDs, no obstructions to driving. Covert with doors open.		
15	Tracker reporting on platform verified		
16	Customer Work Authorization signed		
17	Final visual inspection complete		

Installer Sign Off: _____