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ARB RECOVERY POINTS

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A few years ago, ARB launched an exhaustive engineering program in order to set a new industry benchmark for how recovery points are designed, tested and selected by 4WDers in Australia. Instigated by countless customer enquiries and a lack of industry standards regarding rated tow points, ARB's new recovery point range seeks to address issues surrounding generic tow points and their unsuitability for a range of recovery situations. These issues include questionable and untested mounting locations, confusion regarding the selection of rated shackles and straps, and the inability of generic tow points to safely handle stresses generated by an angled pull during vehicle recovery.

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Of critical importance in the design stage was the commitment to finding an optimal mounting location for the recovery point on each vehicle. Generic tow points, while rated to 10,000lbs or similar, are not vehicle specific and so mounting them is often left in the hands of the purchaser, who is unable to ascertain whether the surface they have mounted the tow point to can handle the load exerted during a recovery or whether air bag deployment is affected.

Each ARB recovery point has been built from the ground up and underwent considerable research and design involving actual vehicle chassis samples and CAD data relating to critical front sections of the vehicle. Dozens of designs were explored, with the more promising models built into prototypes and tested on the actual vehicle chassis using ARB's various load and destructive testing equipment.

Some vehicle models demanded very complex mounting systems to ensure fitment did not affect air bag deployment in the event of an accident. But with months of design and testing dedicated to each individual recovery point, ARB's engineers have ensured that the crush pulse of the vehicle remains unaffected, whilst also ensuring the recovery points are fitted in the optimal location to handle the stresses experienced during vehicle recovery.

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ARB recovery point



Close-up of HiLux recovery point

ARB's engineers also focussed considerable attention on the development of a 'recovery train', in which they tested and verified what rated strap and bow shackle size is compatible with the recovery point. This has not only simplified the use of recovery points out on the track, it has increased customer safety and reduced the likelihood of vehicle damage through misuse or incorrect selection of associated recovery point equipment. In doing so, the engineers were able to create a standard across all of the recovery points, with the recommended rated bow shackle for all ARB recovery points being 4.75t, paired with an 8000kg rated snatch strap.

Another important design requirement was the ability of these points to be rated in an angled direction of pull, and this has been achieved for angles up to the maximum turn angle of the front wheels of the vehicle. With this requirement came questions of how the snatch strap is attached to the point, and for this reason ARB recovery points have a long slot that allows the bow of the shackle to be fed through and the strap then attached via the pin instead of the bow. This allows the shackle to pivot within the recovery points to avoid side loads on the pin.

Coming with a two year warranty, ARB's recovery point range is available now from ARB stores and stockists across the country. For further information, contact your nearest stockist or visit www.arb.com.au.

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About ARB

Founded in 1975 in Melbourne, ARB 4x4 Accessories is now Australia's largest manufacturer and distributor of aftermarket 4WD accessories. With products including bull bars, protection equipment, Old Man Emu suspension, Air Lockers, roof racks, canopies and recovery equipment, our primary mission is to prepare vehicles for the remote and harsh conditions typically encountered off road. ARB currently has 43 stores and over a hundred stockists located across Australia, an office in Seattle, USA, and an export network reaching more than a hundred countries