

Model 60 Manual Brake Bleeding, 11-2011

The first step in bleeding the brakes is to make sure the coupler is fully extended or pulled out all the way. There is a lock nut on a threaded rod extending forward from the master cylinder that can be seen when looking down just behind the leverlock (or handwheel) assembly. That is part of a pushrod assembly that forces brake fluid out of the master cylinder into the trailer brake system. There is also a ½" hole in the coupler case directly below the end of the pushrod. The pushrod can be manually stroked by using a large flat blade screwdriver, inserting the end into the ½" hole, and using it as a lever to force the pushrod into the master cylinder and send brake fluid the trailer brake system. Take the filler cap off so that brake fluid level can be monitored. Maintain a minimum of 1/3 full reservoir of DOT 3 brake fluid. As the pushrod is stroked, observe the air bubbles coming from the small replenishment port in the center of the reservoir. Continue stroking the pushrod until no more air bubbles are seen. Then brake fluid will squirt up through the same opening. **Caution: If the stroking is done too vigorously, brake fluid may spurt out of the master cylinder and cause eye injury or damage to painted surfaces.**

Start bleeding the brake assemblies that are the longest distance from the actuator first. A helper is needed to open and close the bleeder screw on the brake assembly. An open end wrench, a piece of clear plastic tubing that will fit over the end of the bleeder screw and a clean plastic container for the brake fluid are necessary. The tubing should be long enough so that an upward loop in the tubing (higher than the level of the bleeder screw) can be used to more easily detect air bubbles. The bleeder screw should be opened about ½ turn before the pushrod is pushed toward the master cylinder. When the pushrod is all the way in, the bleeder screw should be closed. Return the screw driver & pushrod to the neutral or vertical position and wait several seconds before repeating the cycle. Continue the process until no more air bubbles are seen in the clear plastic tube. Tighten the bleeder screw and move the next brake. Continue until all the brake assemblies have been bled. Refill the master cylinder reservoir to within 3/8" of the top of the cover threads. Install the filler cap securely. If brake fluid has come in contact with a painted surface, clean up the spill immediately and wash the area with water.