

ASSEMBLY GUIDE

F/A-18C Left & Right Side Consoles

Console panel, 2040 mounting profiles, brackets, and chassis attachment



Reference configuration shown. Your supplied revision and installed controls may differ.

Version 1.0 / August 2026 | Customer assembly documentation

Use this guide with the packing list supplied for your order. Hardware revisions can change. If a part, fastener, hole pattern, or extrusion differs from the photographs, stop and contact Dogfight Dynamics before modifying it.

Before you begin

This guide converts the original illustrated customer instructions into a repeatable procedure for both Dogfight Dynamics side consoles. The photographs may show either side; repeat the same bracket sequence for the left and right console assemblies.

Simulator hardware only. These products are cockpit-simulator components. They are not aircraft parts, emergency equipment, certified seating, steps, or access handrails.

Work area and preparation

- Place the console on a padded surface with the inner face accessible.
- Separate M6 and M8 hardware before starting; do not mix the two T-nut sizes.
- Identify the three 2040 profiles and three black mounting brackets for each console.
- If control panels are already installed, disconnect power and protect switches, wiring, and connectors.
- Start every fastener loosely so the profiles and brackets can be aligned before tightening.

Tools

- Metric Allen keys for the supplied M6 and M8 socket-head screws.
- Appropriate driver for the M6 flat-head screws.
- Tape measure and small level.
- Padded bench or protective blanket.
- Optional: light dry PTFE or silicone spray for the adjustment channels. Keep spray away from electronics and painted faces.

Hardware to identify

- 12 M6 flat-head screws and 12 M6 T-nuts for the side-panel holes.
- Three 2040 aluminum profiles per console.
- Nine M6 socket-head screws and nine M6 T-nuts for the three black brackets.
- Three black console mounting brackets.
- Six M8 socket-head screws and six M8 T-nuts for the chassis-side bracket edges.

Two-person lift recommended. Use a second person whenever a large panel, seat assembly, or chassis member must be held square while fasteners are started.

Step 01 / Load the panel fasteners

1. Insert the 12 M6 flat-head screws through the console side-panel holes.
2. Start one M6 T-nut on each screw from the rear; leave the T-nuts loose enough to enter the profile grooves.
3. Verify all T-nuts face the same direction and no screw projects beyond the usable groove depth.

Stop and verify. Do not tighten the flat-head screws before the 2040 profiles are installed.



M6 T-nuts and flat-head screws used at the side panel.



Flat-head screw installed through the console side panel.



T-nut started on the rear side of the panel fastener.

Step 02 / Install the three 2040 profiles

4. Align each 2040 profile with its row of loose panel T-nuts.
5. Slide the profile over the T-nuts while keeping the panel supported.
6. Set the three profiles parallel to one another, then snug the flat-head screws without final tightening.

Field note. If the profile will not slide, loosen the screws and rotate the T-nuts into the groove. Do not hammer the profile over a rotated nut.



Profile groove entering the preloaded panel T-nuts.

Step 03 / Prepare the bracket hardware

7. Install three M6 socket-head screws and M6 T-nuts in each black bracket, for nine sets total.
8. Leave the T-nuts loose enough to enter the 2040 profile grooves.
9. Match the bracket orientation shown before sliding the hardware into the profiles.



M6 bracket hardware set.



T-nuts started on the bracket screws.



Bracket orientation and three M6 mounting positions.

Step 04 / Mount the black brackets

10. Slide one black bracket into each 2040 profile.
11. Align all three brackets at a common height and keep them square to the console panel.
12. Snug the nine M6 fasteners while preserving enough movement for final chassis alignment.

Field note. The bracket channels provide height and fore-aft adjustment after the console is attached to the chassis.



Bracket sliding into the 2040 profile groove.



Three brackets positioned on the console profiles.



Reference underside view of the installed bracket set.

Step 05 / Attach the console to the chassis

13. Install the six M8 socket-head screws and M8 T-nuts along the opposite edges of the three brackets.
14. With a second person supporting the console, place the M8 T-nuts into the chassis profile grooves.
15. Set the console height and longitudinal position, confirm clearance to the seat and controls, and tighten all six M8 fasteners.
16. Return to the M6 panel and bracket fasteners and complete the final tightening sequence.

Stop and verify. Do not allow the console to hang from a single bracket during alignment.



M8 chassis-side hardware and bracket connection.



Console attached to the chassis through the three adjustable brackets.

Final inspection

Do not skip this check. Complete the inspection before installing electronics, applying body weight, or moving the assembly.

- All 12 panel flat-head screws are flush and their T-nuts are fully engaged in the three 2040 profiles.
- All nine M6 bracket fasteners are present and the three brackets are parallel.
- All six M8 chassis-side fasteners are installed and fully engaged in the chassis profiles.
- The console is level, does not contact the seat through its adjustment range, and provides the intended pilot clearance.
- Throttle, panels, switches, and wiring have clearance from every bracket and fastener.
- The same checks have been completed independently for the left and right consoles.

Troubleshooting

Condition	Recommended action
Profile will not slide	Loosen the flat-head screws, align the T-nuts with the groove, and remove any burr or rotated nut before trying again.
Bracket heights differ	Loosen all three M6 bracket sets, measure from one common panel edge, align the brackets, and retighten progressively.
Console is too close to the seat	Loosen the six M8 chassis connections, slide the console fore/aft, verify control clearances, and retighten.
Console flexes	Confirm every M6 and M8 T-nut is rotated and seated inside its groove. Check that no bracket is bridging a profile edge.

Need help?

Send your order number, the step number, one wide photo of the complete assembly, and close-up photos of the part or fastener in question through the Flight Desk.

Flight Desk: dogfightdynamics.com/pages/contact