

Pro Lift, 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ " Instructions

Effective December 2023



Review full instructions prior to use for important safety information.
Always check Rockler.com to confirm that you are using the most recent version of instructions for your product.

GENERAL SAFETY WARNINGS

This product is designed only for specific applications as defined in the instructions and should not be modified or used for any manner not described in these instructions. Use only recommended accessories. Before using the Pro Lift, 8¼" x 11¼" Instructions: **READ, UNDERSTAND** and **FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND SAFETY WARNINGS. KEEP THESE INSTRUCTIONS READILY AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.**

- > Always confirm that you are using the most recent version of the instructions and safety warnings for your product (see the instructions link on the product page at Rockler.com).
- > Before using another tool with this product, always read, understand and follow the instructions and safety warnings in the owner's manual for that tool. If you do not have the owner's manual, obtain one from the tool's manufacturer before using it with this product.
- > Before using any chemical with this product, always read, understand and follow all safety warnings and guidelines in the manufacturer's Safety Data Sheet (SDS; formerly called "MSDS"), especially regarding:
 - How to safely use the chemical, including potential hazards and recommended first aid measures;
 - Personal safety equipment required to safely use the chemical (e.g. gloves, eye protection, mask/respirator, etc.);
 - Proper and safe handling, storage and disposal of the chemical.
- > Before using this product, review and verify that all tools to be used with it have safety equipment installed and are in proper working order as defined by the tool's owner's manual.
- > Do not use this product until you have read and are confident you understand:
 - Product Specific Warnings (p. 3);
 - Important - Does Your Router Need an Adapter? (p. 4);
 - Assembly: Level the Insert Ring (pp. 5-7);
 - Assembly: Mount Your Router (pp. 6-9);
 - Installing/Changing Router Bits (pp.9-10);
 - Using the Column-Locking Knob (p. 10);
 - Using the Starter Pin (p. 11);
 - Maintaining the Pro Lift (p. 12).
- > The user assumes all risk and responsibility for the proper and safe use of this product and for ensuring product suitability for the intended application.
- > It is the sole responsibility of the purchaser of this product to ensure that anyone you allow to use this product reads and complies with all instructions and safety precautions outlined in this manual prior to use.
- > Follow all standard shop safety practices, including:
 - Keep children and bystanders away from the tool operating area;
 - Do **NOT** use power tools in explosive environments, or in the presence of flammable liquids, fumes or dust;
 - **TURN OFF AND UNPLUG** all power tools **BEFORE** making any adjustments or changing accessories;
 - Remain alert and use good judgment. Do not use this product if you are in any way impaired by medications, alcohol, drugs or fatigue;
 - Keep your work area well lit and clean;
 - Dress appropriately. Secure loose clothing, remove all jewelry and tie up long hair before using this product;
 - **ALWAYS** wear safety glasses, hearing protection and respiratory protection that complies with NIOSH/OSHA/ANSI safety standards;
 - Use dust collection tools and dust face masks to reduce exposure to dust;
 - Use safety equipment such as featherboards, push sticks and push blocks, etc., when appropriate;
 - Maintain proper footing at all times and do not overreach;
 - Do **NOT** force woodworking tools.
- > These warnings and instructions do **NOT** represent the total of all information available regarding tool safety, use and technique. Always seek out opportunities to learn more and improve your skills and knowledge.

⚠ WARNING: Drilling, sawing, sanding or machining wood products can expose you to wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood.

⚠ DANGER

Danger indicates a hazardous situation that, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury.

⚠ WARNING

Warning indicates a hazardous situation that, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury.

⚠ CAUTION

Caution indicates a hazardous situation that, if not avoided, may result in minor or moderate injury or property damage.

NOTICE

Notice indicates important or helpful information and/or user tips.

PRODUCT SPECIFIC SAFETY WARNINGS

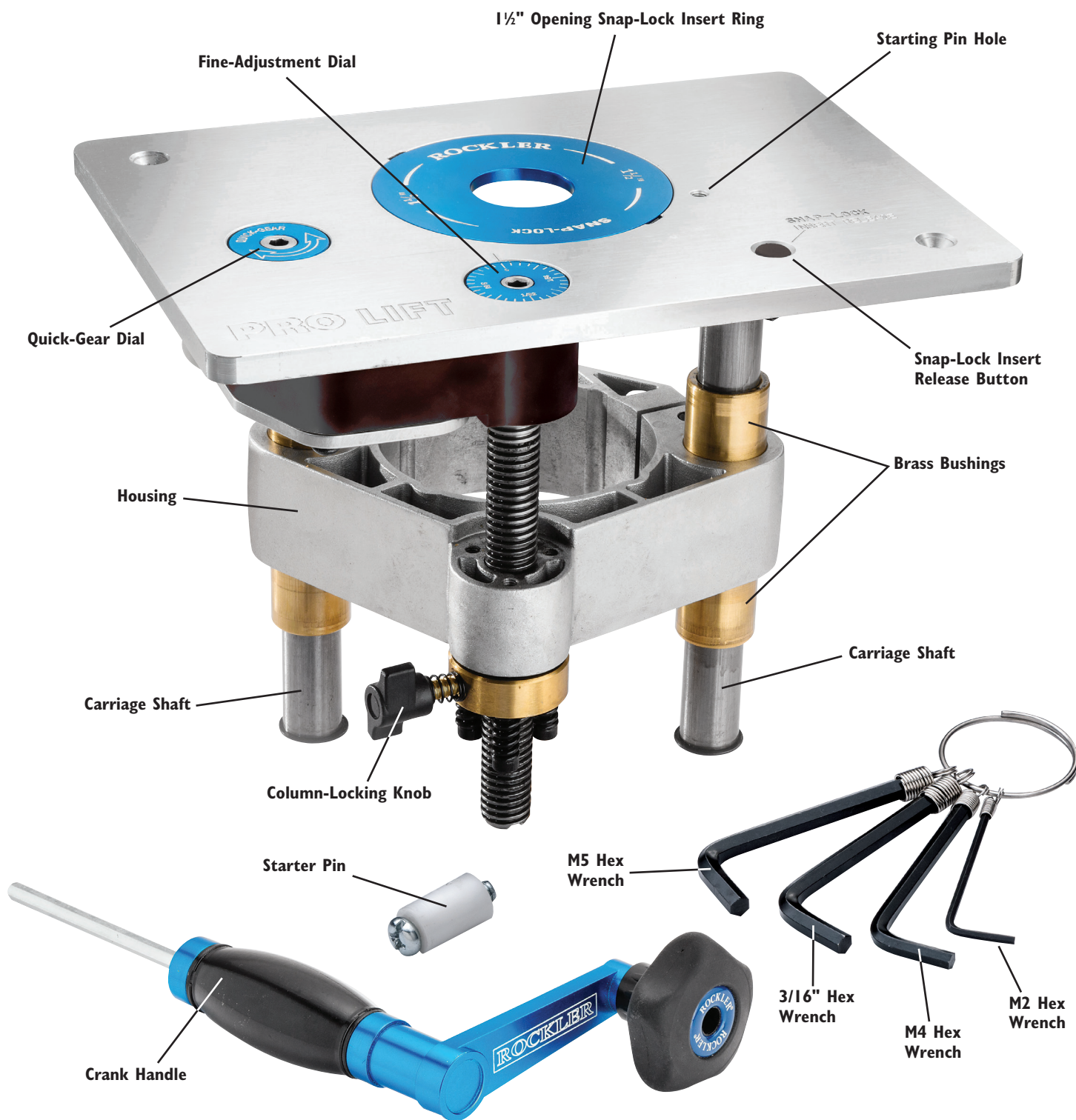


DANGER

- > To avoid serious injury, keep hands and fingers away from spinning router bit. Maintain awareness of the bit at all times.

WARNING

- > The Insert Ring **MUST** be perfectly flush with the Pro Lift plate. If it is not, the workpiece could catch and dangerous kickback could occur.
- > The Pro Lift is sized for routers with a 4.2" diameter motor. If using a smaller router, you must use an Adapter Collar (sold separately). See page 4 for details.
- > To avoid serious injury and damage to your router and the Pro Lift, the router motor **MUST** be securely mounted in the Pro Lift's housing.
- > Refer to your router's owners manual for specific safe operating instructions.
- > Unplug your router motor before installing or removing it or adjusting the Pro Lift router housing.
- > To avoid serious injury, never attempt to cut a workpiece without an Insert Ring installed.
- > If attempting to rout a workpiece without using the router table fence, always use the included Starter Pin to begin the cut. Failure to do so could result in dangerous workpiece kickback and serious injury.
- > Use the Starter Pin **ONLY** with bearing-guided router bits. Use with other bits could result in serious injury.



IMPORTANT - DOES YOUR ROUTER NEED AN ADAPTER?

The Pro Lift is sized to accommodate routers with a 4.2" diameter motor, such as the 3/4HP Porter-Cable® 7518. If you intend to mount a smaller router, you **MUST USE** an Adapter Collar (sold separately). See available Adapter Collar at right; obtain the proper Adapter Collar before proceeding. **If your router requires an Adapter Collar, you will not be able to use the Pro Lift without it.**

3 1/2" Adapter Collar (57022, sold separately):

Fits Bosch model 1617; Porter-Cable 690 and 890 series; DeWalt 616 and 618 routers; and other router motors with an 11" circumference (approx.)

Assembly: Level the Insert Ring

NOTICE

The Insert Ring included with the Pro Lift has a 1½" bit opening. Additional Insert Rings with other bit opening sizes are sold separately.

1. If the removable Insert Ring is not installed in the center of the Pro Lift plate, press it firmly into the opening to snap it in.

⚠WARNING

The insert Ring **MUST** be perfectly flush with the Pro Lift plate. If it is not, the workpiece could catch and dangerous kickback could occur.

2. Use wood or other flat surface to determine whether the Insert Ring is flush with the plate. If it is not perfectly flush, you will need to adjust it. **Fig. 1.**
3. To make the adjustments, press the Snap-Lock button to remove the aluminum Insert Ring from the plate.
4. Set the Pro Lift upside down on a smooth surface and loosen the nuts securing the leveling set screws.
5. Use the included M2 hex wrench to adjust the set screws as needed.
6. Snap the Insert Ring back into the opening and check to see whether it's flush with the plate.
7. If it's not, repeat Steps 3-6 until it is. Then tighten the locking nuts on the set screws. **Fig. 2.**



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

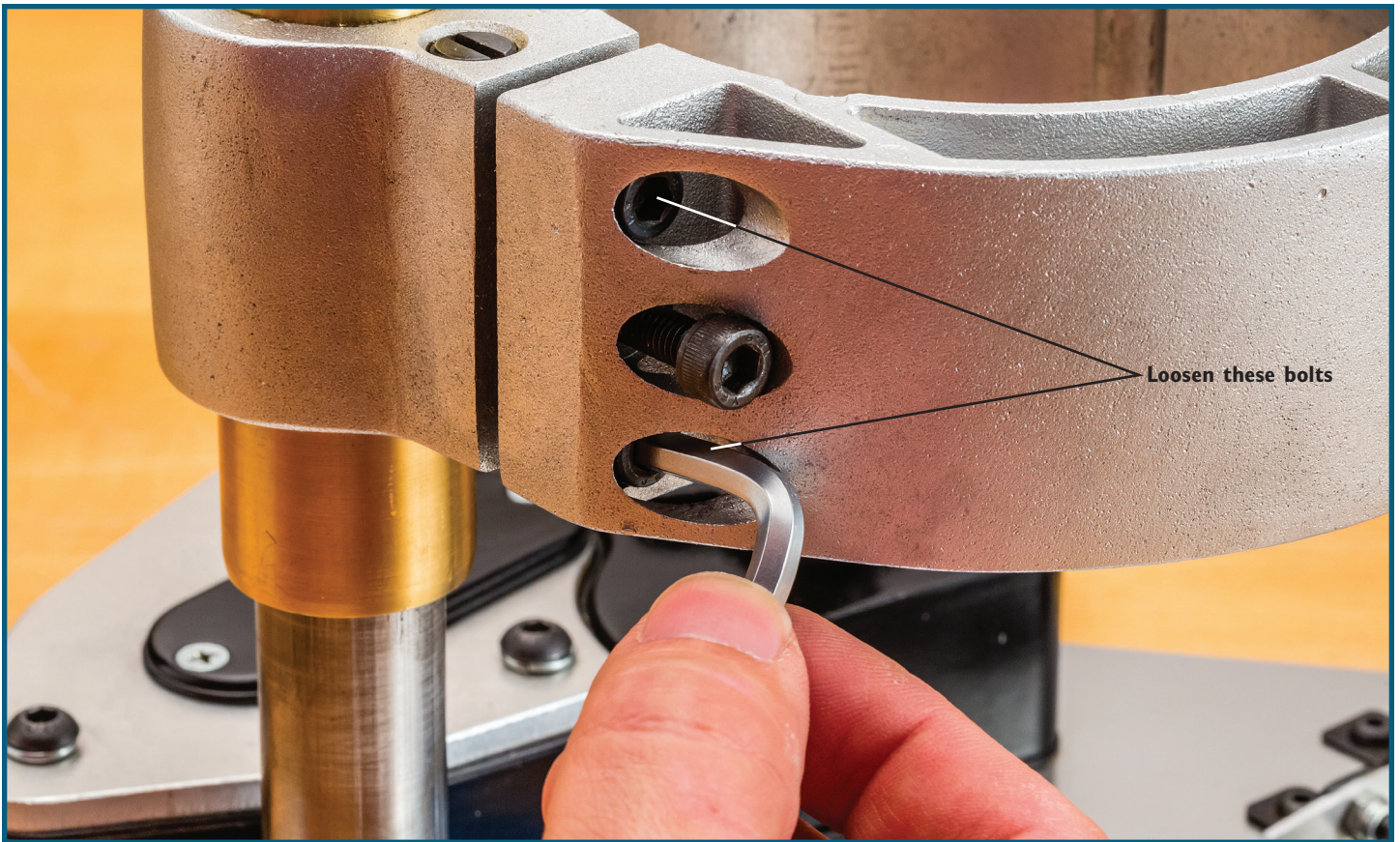


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

8. Press the Snap-Lock Insert Release Button to remove the aluminum Insert Ring from the plate for the rest of the assembly process.

Assembly: Mount Your Router

1. Set the Pro Lift upside down on a smooth surface.
2. There are three hex-head cap bolts on the housing. Use the included 3/16" hex wrench to loosen the outside two. **Fig. 3.**
3. Switching to the included M5 hex wrench, slowly tighten the housing's middle bolt to gradually spread the housing apart until your router (or expanded Adapter Collar, if needed) will fit. To avoid damaging the housing, do **NOT** overspread; the spreader gap **MUST NOT** exceed 3/8". **Fig. 4.**
4. Turn the Pro Lift upright. If an Adapter Collar is required (see page 4 for details), insert it into the housing so that its lipped edge will rest on the housing when the lift is in the upright position. **Fig. 5.**

NOTICE

Do not align the gap in the Adapter Collar with the spreader gap in the Pro Lift housing. **Fig. 5.**

5. Insert the crank handle in the Quick-Gear dial in the lift plate. Holding the handle grip with one hand, turn the crank clockwise with the other hand to raise the housing so that the brass bushings just contact the top of the carriage shafts. The carriage should be all the way toward the top plate. **Fig. 6.**



Fig. 5

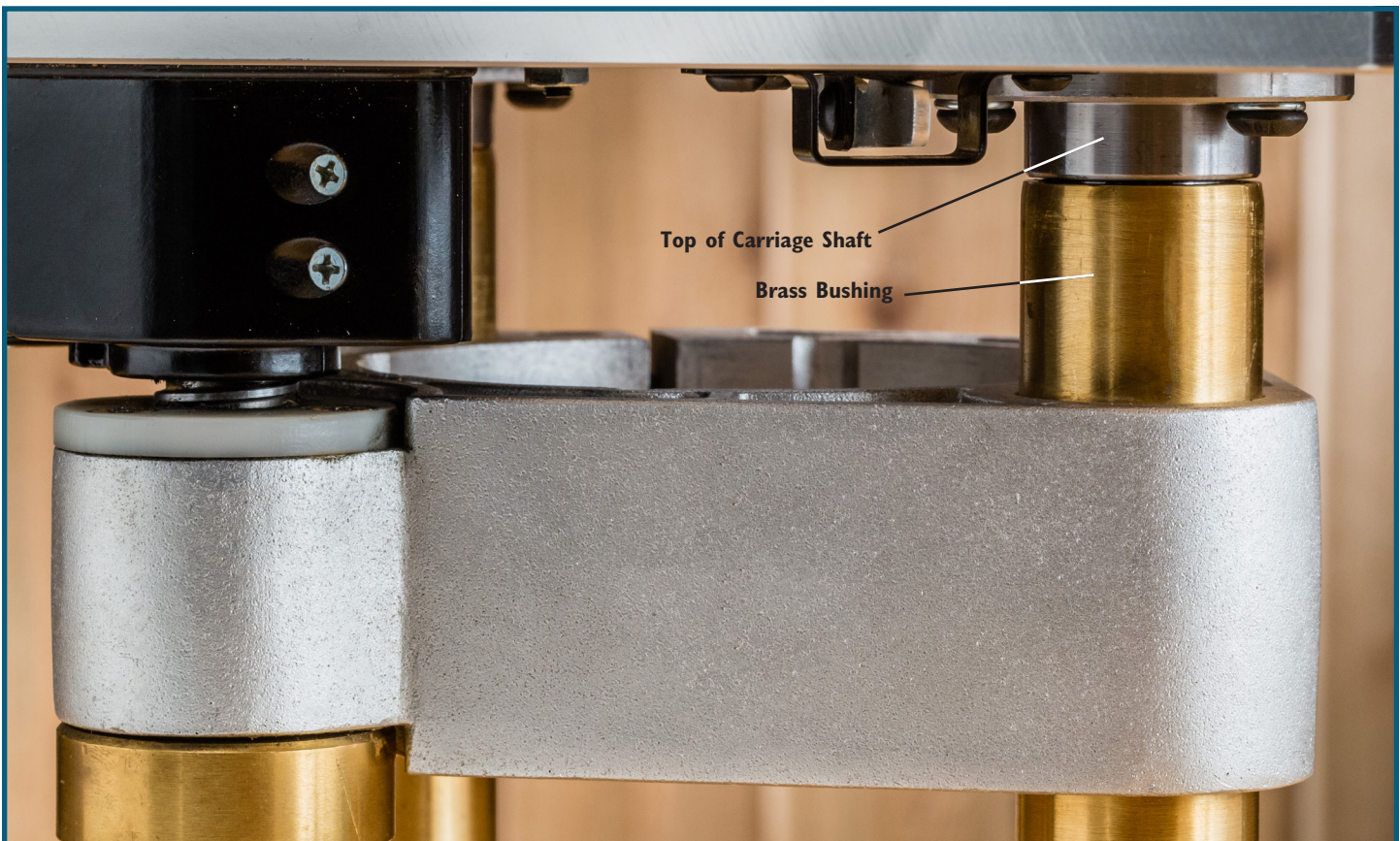


Fig. 6

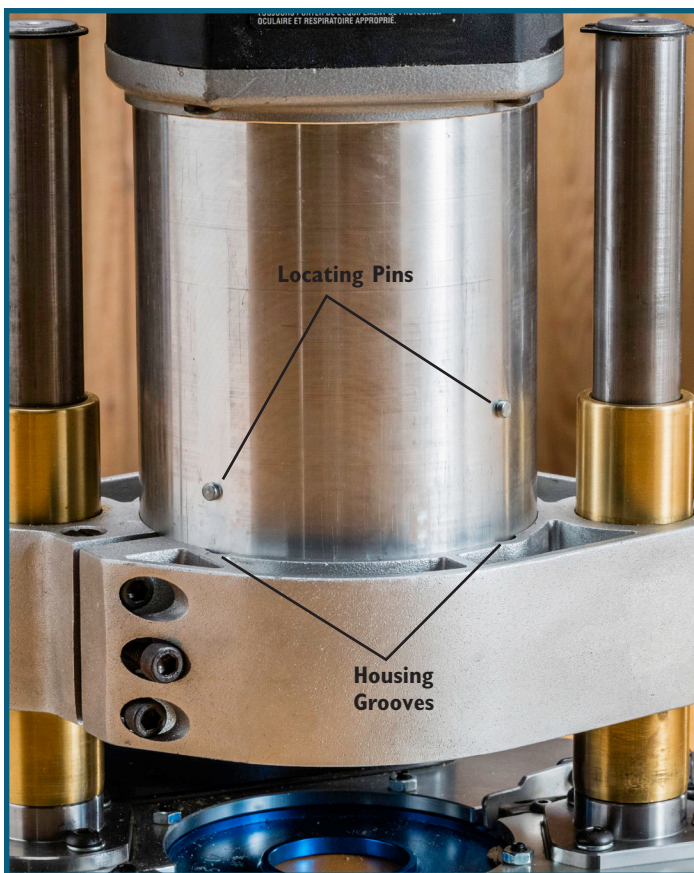


Fig. 7

6. Set the unit upside down again, this time on blocks of wood so the router's collet will be able to extend through the center hole in the plate.

⚠WARNING

Unplug your router motor before installing or removing it or adjusting the Pro Lift router housing.

To avoid serious injury and damage to your router and the Pro Lift, the router motor **MUST** be securely mounted in the Pro Lift's housing. Outside bolts on the housing should be checked and retightened, if necessary, with each use.

NOTICE

Porter-Cable routers have four locating pins. Align these pins with the grooves machined into the Pro Lift housing (and Adapter Collars). **Fig. 7.**

On Porter-Cable 890 routers, you must first remove the factory height adjustment rack from the motor body before inserting the router into the adapter. **Fig. 8.**

7. Slide your router motor into the housing (and Adapter Collar, if being used), stopping just before the motor contacts the Insert Ring release arm. **Fig. 9.**



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11

8. Tighten the housing by removing the spreader bolt from the middle hole and tightening the two outside bolts securely. (Keep the spreader bolt and store it in a place where it will be readily available for future use, or reinstall it without fully tightening.) **Fig. 10.**

NOTICE

If any of the bolts should ever become detached, be sure to properly reassemble the washers.

9. Now that the housing is tight, you must release any tension or misalignment caused by slight variations in router motor diameters. On the post closest to the spreader slot, loosen the three cap screws with the M4 hex wrench, and then retighten. **Fig. 11.** Retighten after the first hour of use and again after the next four hours.

10. Check the column-locking knob to make sure it is not tightened. Do not tighten unless you intend to lock in a particular bit height setting. **Fig. 12.**

11. Fit the assembled Pro Lift and router motor into your router table's opening. Use the leveling screws that came with your router table to bring the plate flush to the table on all edges. **Fig. 13.** Then secure the lift to the table by using the M4 hex wrench to install the two included 1/4"-20 plate-mounting screws.

⚠ WARNING

To avoid serious injury, never attempt to cut a workpiece without an Insert Ring installed.

12. Before use, snap the Insert Ring back into the plate's center opening.

Installing/Changing Router Bits

1. Press the Snap-Lock Insert Release Button to pop the aluminum Snap-Lock Insert Ring off the plate.

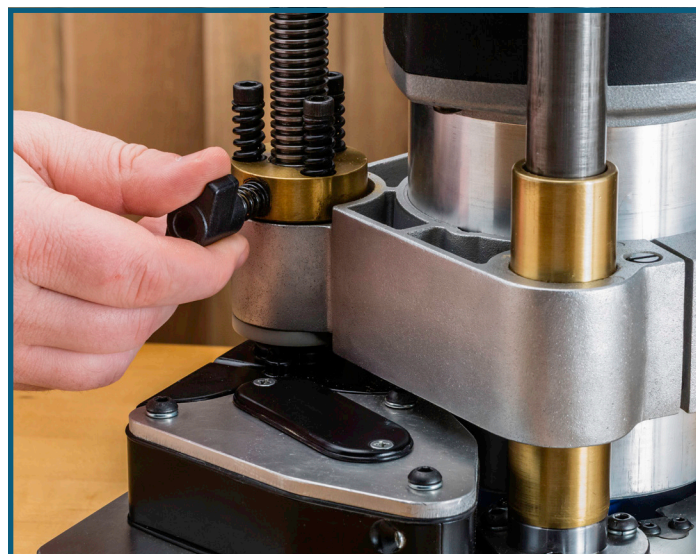


Fig. 12

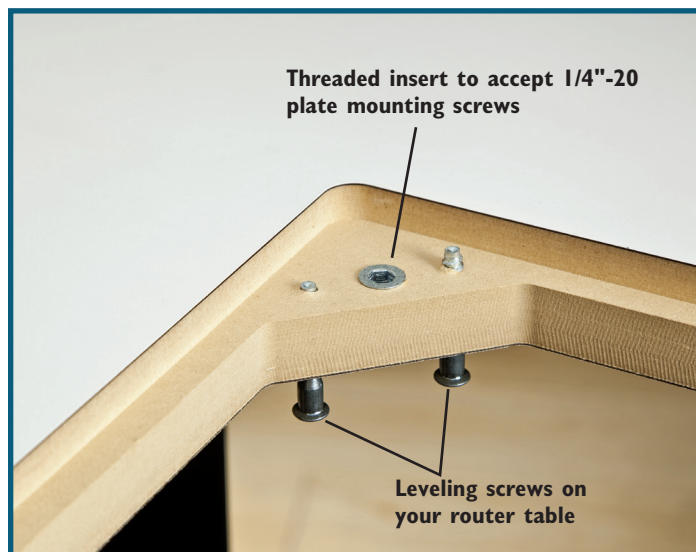


Fig. 13



Fig. 14

2. Insert the Crank Handle in the Quick-Gear Dial in the lift plate. Holding the handle grip with one hand, turn the crank clockwise with the other hand to raise the carriage until the router collet is fully accessible. **Fig. 14.**
3. Use the wrench(es) that came with your router to loosen the collet, if necessary, and insert the desired bit in the collet. Let the bit bottom out; then lift it 1/16" before tightening the collet. This is to help ensure maximum grip of the collet on the bit.
4. Use the crank handle in the Quick-Gear Dial to quickly lower the bit, and then snap the Insert Ring back into place.

NOTICE

To "zero-out" the Fine-Adjustment dial, spin the thumbwheel until the "0" lines up with the engraved line on the plate. The socket must not turn during this step. **Fig. 15.**

5. Move the crank handle to the Fine-Adjustment dial to make more precise bit height adjustments. One revolution raises or lowers the lift exactly 1/8". **Fig. 16.**

Using the Column-Locking Knob

The Pro Lift has been designed to hold the bit cutting height steady during typical use without need for any further locking mechanism. However, to protect a setting against accidental movement or to preserve it for extended use, the column-locking knob can be tightened to lock it in. **Fig. 17.**

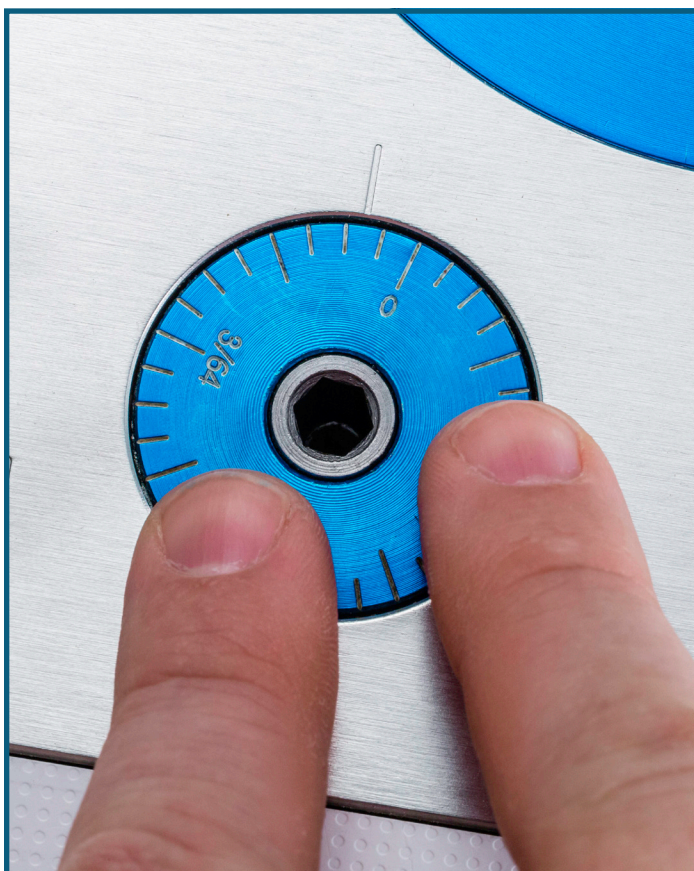


Fig. 15



Fig. 16

Using the Starter Pin

DANGER



- > To avoid serious injury, keep hands and fingers away from spinning router bit. Maintain awareness of the bit at all times.

WARNING

- > If attempting to rout a workpiece without using the router table fence, always use the included Starter Pin to begin the cut. Failure to do so could result in dangerous workpiece kickback and serious injury.
- > Use the Starter Pin **ONLY** with bearing-guided router bits. Use with other bits could result in serious injury.

Use of a Starter Pin is required when you're not using the fence on your router table to feed your workpiece into the bit. Stock is most vulnerable to catching and being thrown at the beginning of the cut, before it engages the router bit's guide bearing. Install the Starter Pin, which consists of a round-head bolt through a non-marring plastic sheath, into the mounting hole in the Pro Lift Plate. Then use the Starter Pin as a fulcrum to feed your workpiece into the bit. Be sure the pin is screwed in tightly before use. **Fig. 18.**

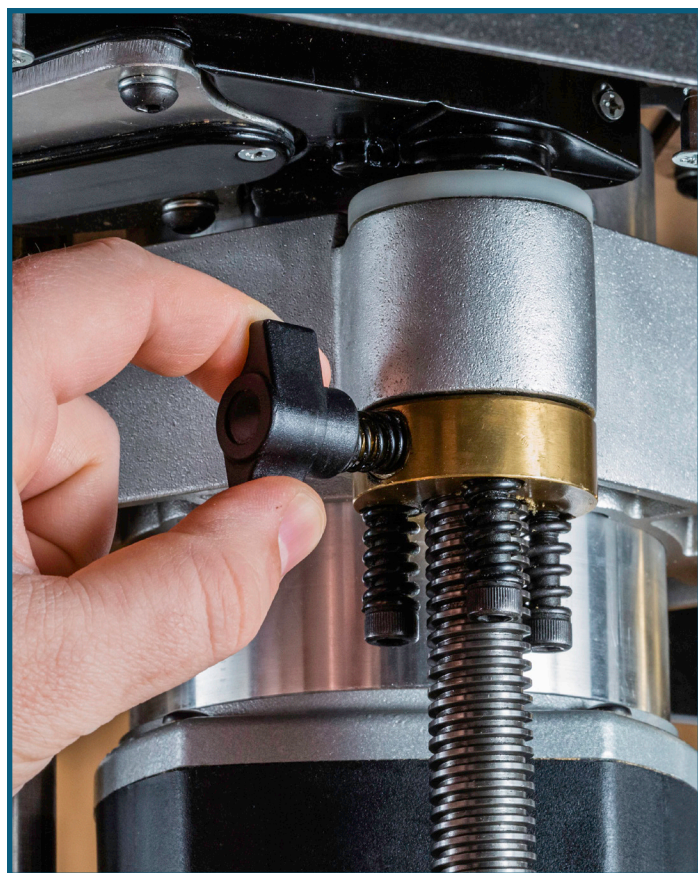


Fig. 17



Fig. 18

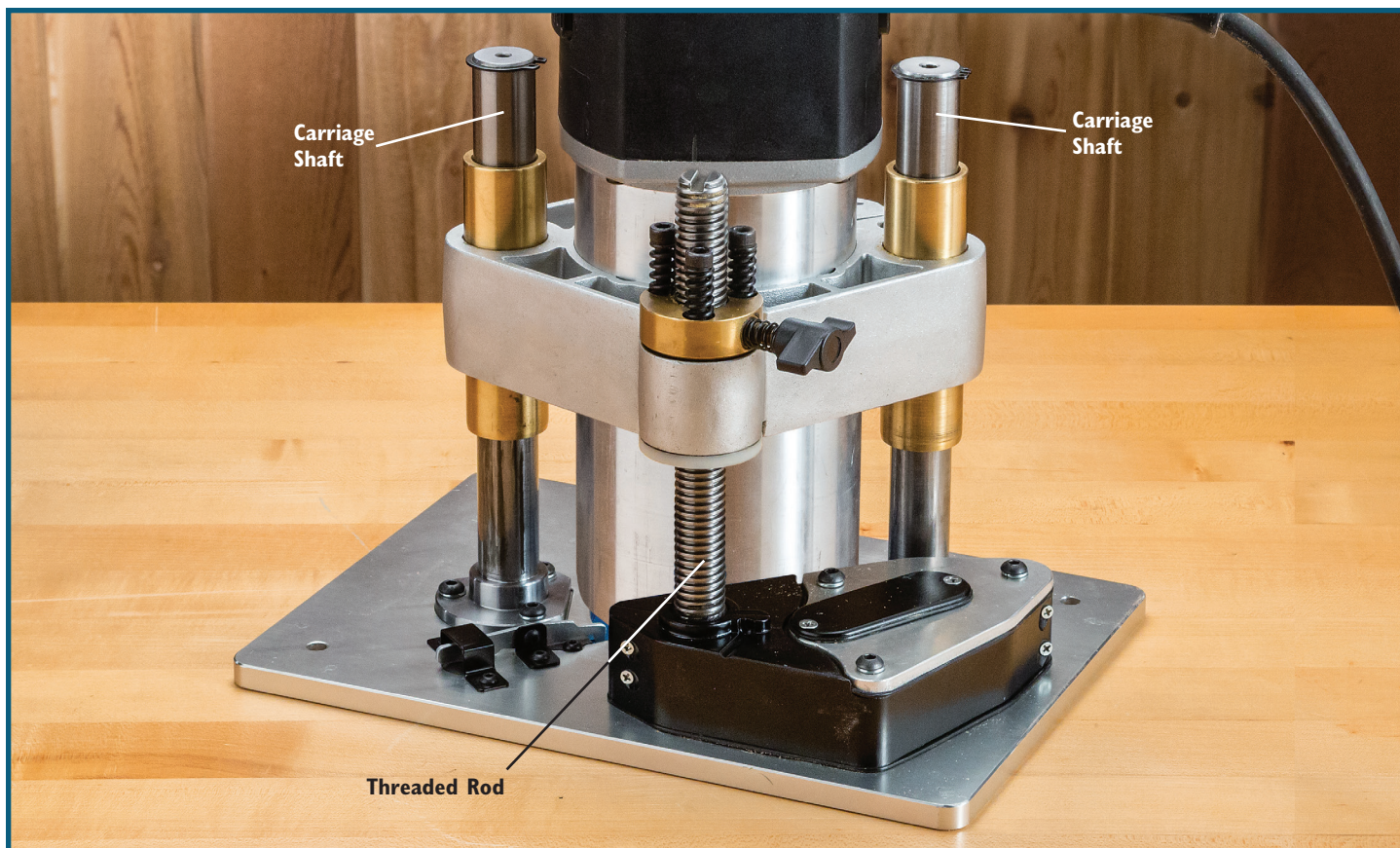


Fig. 19

Maintaining the Pro Lift

Managing Grease

At least once a year (more if needed), remove the grease from the columns and Acme threaded rod. WD-40 and a brush will make the job easier. Reapply a high-quality multi-purpose grease (such as white lithium) to the Acme rod and columns. Wipe off excess grease. Consistently following this step will greatly increase the life of your Pro Lift. **Fig. 19.**

Cleaning your Router

Use compressed air or a vacuum to keep your router motor as clean as possible. To reduce the chance of fire, never walk away from your router without confirming that it's clean and free from dust and debris.

Backlash Adjustment

After a fair amount of wear, the anti-backlash nut may need adjustment. If your router slips downward during use, it's time to adjust the preload nut. To do so, simply tighten the three preload screws a quarter-turn. **Fig. 20.**

Dust Collection

Dust collection in your router cabinet and at the fence will dramatically reduce the dust and debris buildup on your Pro Lift. It will also help your router run cooler and will make maintaining your Pro Lift easier.

Check Rockler.com for updates. If you have further questions, please contact our Technical Support Department at 1-800-260-9663 or support@rockler.com



Fig. 20