The Rodzilla 5-Axis Top (2-1-22)

Instructions for Set up and Use:

Thank you for purchasing my 5Axis top conversion for your SEB OR FARLEY rest. Please completely read the instructions below and call me if you have any questions. My number is 405-742-8080

What's in the box

The kit includes everything needed to convert your SEB NEO/MAX, MINI, or FARLEY rest to use my new 5-Axis top.

What the Rodzilla 5-Axis conversion is all about

First of all, let me say, in my opinion, SEB products are without equal. Also, Sebastian is a good guy and we all owe him a debt of gratitude for building great products. I own a MAX, NEO, Mini, and JOY POD. I have enjoyed shooting off of each model and each one has distinct advantages. With this top I have addressed the disadvantages effecting the SEBs and every other rest available to bench and F-Class shooters.

The issues with long range accuracy always get down to consistency. Setting a non-rotating rest square to the target and getting the front and rear bags to support the forearm in a level and consistent manner from shot to shot, and match to match, is very difficult. This issue is even worse when we F-Class folks have to set up several times during a match and often on uneven surfaces.

Since the Rodzilla top pivots freely as we move our rear bag to line up our target, the forearm cannot bind and will have the same fit in the front rest regardless of how squarely the base of your rest is set relative to your target.

Another issue affecting consistency is due to the effect of your rifles torque under recoil. Let's say, with your current rest, you get your rest set squarely to the target and leveled perfectly. As you shoot a string of fire the torque of the rifle under recoil will cause the sand to settle differently from side to side under your forearm rails. This, in turn, causes, not only, an out of level condition of the rifle but also changes the fit in the front bags and therefore the friction of the rifle from shot to shot during a string. Regarding friction, I believe a consistent breakaway (force required to move the rifle in the bags) under recoil is essential to shooting small groups at long rang. The Rodzilla rest utilizes two mini sand bags #16 (I call these sand rails), on either side of the rifle. My sand rails are filled with an exact amount (by volume) of heavy sand and cannot settle. Also, my sand rails pivot freely front-to-back so the height of the rear bag relative to the front rest no longer causes a variable fit in the front rest as the contact points are the same regardless of the angle of the rifle do to uneven ground.

By utilizing four rollers # 15 that fit snugly against the sides of the forearm, rotational movement of the rifle caused by torqueing under recoil is controlled. By managing all these variables, the rifle will move (track) much more predictably, and consistently for each shot during a match. The breakaway force of your rifle is now the same for the first through the last shot and for every shot.

Improving the shooting platform by eliminating or managing the issues listed above is why I developed the 5-axis design. Being an old German I stress over the small stuff… in my opinion I have left nothing undone with this rest however like most designs it will improve with input from the folks who use it. I welcome yours.

Nuts and bolts of the Rodzilla 5-Axis conversion

The first order of business is to remove the original parts on the top of your SEB rest. Each of the SEB models are slightly different but the Rodzilla conversion fits all three. Note: see the drawing #2 regarding the hole patterns for the three SEB models.

Remove the sliding ears and all hardware on your SEB rest that supports the top bag and then remove the bag.

On the flat base plate under your original bag you will see two 8mm set screws and two 5mm flat head mounting screws just outboard of the 8mm set screws. Note: there is an additional 5mm flat head screw in the center of the base plate on the MAX (three total). These 5mm mounting screws and the 8mm set screws will be reused. The mounting screws are usually very tight so make sure to use a new tight fitting 3mm Allen wrench for removal. Study page #2 for the various mounting hole patterns.

The two 8mm set screws just inboard of the flat head screws on your original base plate are preload adjusters and have springs captured beneath them. Take note of the depth of these set screws as this is generally a good place to go back to when mounting the new base plate. Note: Push the joy stick shaft all the way up on the shooters side of your SEB rest which will relieve tension on the pre-load springs and then remove the two 8mm set screws first. The springs will stand slightly above your base plate, just leave them in place. The two flat head screws (three on the MAX) that mount the original top plate to your X-Y block are removed next. Once you Lift off the original base plate you will have the top of the X-Y block exposed with the pre load springs standing above the surface and you are ready to install the Rodzilla top. Note: clean the top of the X-Y block with alcohol to remove any grit.

Also, during assembly of the various components make sure to keep everything as clean as possible. This is especially true if you disassemble the Rodzilla 5-Axis for occasional cleaning. If foreign particles of grit are compressed between the Teflon bearings and the aluminum plates scoring of the aluminum can occur and smooth rotation will be compromised. Do not use any oil or grease on the assembly as this will only attract dust.

The Rodzilla 5Axis unit comes assembled and will need to be taken apart which will show you how all the parts fit together. <u>Note: do not remove the 5/16" studs as they are locked in place.</u> Using the 4mm wrench provided remove the two flat head screws #1 from the round central support hub #2 which separates the top plate #3 from the base plate #4 and set these parts aside on a clean paper towel for now. You will notice the new base plate #4 has three sets of mounting holes. One set is for the MINI, another for the NEO, and one more for the MAX. there is only one way the plate will fit onto your SEB rest, just orient the level mounting cutouts toward the shooter side of the rest and the forearm stop facing forward. Orient the new base plate over the pre load springs and the appropriate threaded mounting holes and use the original flat head screws to secure the plate. With the joy stick

shaft pushed up your springs will be nearly flush with the base plate and you can easily start your original M8 pre load set screws. Run these set screws down to about where they were on your original base plate. You can adjust these set screws down a bit more if more counter balance is required for a heavier rifle but just don't allow the set screws to stand above the surface of the base plate or they will interfere with the center Teflon bearing plate. #5

With the base plate installed you are now ready to install the top plate. Sandwich the center Teflon bearing plate #5 between the base plate #4 and the top plate #3 and slide the central support hub #2 down through the top Teflon bearing (the round one) #8, through the top plate #3 and through the hole in the center Teflon bearing plate #5 until it sets all the way down on the top of the base plate #4. Drop the two 6mm flat head screws #1 down through the central support hub #2 and run them down loosely into the mating holes in the base plate. While running the screws down rotate the top back and forth and stop if it becomes hard to rotate. Make sure that everything is aligned and you do not have the center Teflon bearing #5 twisted out of the recess on the bottom of the top plate #3. Now snug down the two 6mm flat head screws while rotating the top and bottom plate. Stop if you feel it locking up and make sure everything is in alignment. Rotation of the top plate should be free and very smooth when the screws are tightened down. Install the ears back onto the two 5/16" studs with the washers in the same orientation as they were when disassembling. (Black nylon washer #12 first, then the stainless-steel washer #13 and then the stainless-steel flange nut #14)

You can use the hash marks on the outer edges of the top plate to keep the ears centered. Note: for the NEO and Max you can us the optional Rodzilla dual pivoting forearm stop as a centering guide to set a centered 3" width. To use this method just rotate the forearm stop up till the 3" wide block is between the front set of rollers. Slide the ears in to contact the block and lock them down using a 1/2" wrench.

Adjusting the ears for proper fit.

It is easier to get a better feel of the roller fit to the forearm if the rifles weight is off the sand rails. Use a block of wood or plastic set on the top flat of the central hub just tall enough to hold your stock off the sand rails. With your gun resting on this temporary rest you can now freely slide the ears in and out against the forearm without the wight of the rifle tilting the ears inward at the top. The goal is to get a good, snug fit with the rollers #15 without the influence of the rifles weight. Once adjusted, remove the block and lower the rifle back down onto the sand rails. You can orient the sand rails to be forward of center or closer to you giving more room for the rifle to move under recoil. This is totally your choice and either way works equally well.

When your ears are adjusted properly you will have just a slight bit of resistance between the forearm and the rollers #15 when lifting the rifle up out of the rest. Note: if the sides of your rifle are parallel all four rollers will rotate and the gun will not get tighter or looser when sliding the rifle back and forth in the rest. Note: I leave the right ear fixed and only move the left ear as I change rifles since all my rifles are about the same width and I only need to move the left ear a slight amount to get the fit

as described above. If you shoot the same rifle you only need to adjust your ears one time and you are done. I prefer to use a double thickness of paper on one side of my forearm to gap the rollers a few thousandths of an inch. As things heat and cool this will ensure a low friction arrangement at all times and will not disturb tracking in any way.

And finally, the GOOD part

just set your rest down on the firing line in position for your assigned target, drive the spikes on your feet down into the soil, level your rest left-to-right as usual with the feet. Note: front to rear leveling is not necessary as the sand rails pivot and are self-leveling. Place your rifle into the front rest and rear bag. I like to beat the keel of the stock down onto my rear bag to settle the rear bag. This keeps it from happing under recoil in the middle of your string. Raise your front rest till your scope is looking at any target on the target berm. Now just move your rear sand bag left or right while looking through the scope till you are centered on your assigned target. Note: do all this with the joy stick in the center position, for the horizontal plane.

Tap your rifle down into the rear sand bag again to settle the sand one more time and now do a final height adjustment of your rest if necessary, using the vertical adjustment knobs to place the joy stick where it is comfortable in vertical plane and lock the vertical down with the two locking levers on your SEB base. This is how I run the top and it works for me but whatever method you use do it with consistency and be precise. I believe good scores are a reflection of how well we manage all the variables and our setup is the last thing we do in a very long chain of events.

You can now use the extra prep time to study the conditions and enjoy shooting from a consistent set up.

Again, thank you for choosing the Rodzilla 5-Axis top and feel free to call me with any questions or comments.

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