



## Owners Manual

The Original Hi Roller has been developed to offer a superior method of producing slabs from prepared clay. To assure safe and reliable operation, it is important to gain a complete understanding of the assembly, installation, use, and care of this equipment. This manual is intended to provide a comprehensive source of information for the Original Hi Roller. Carefully follow these instructions and procedures.

Enjoy your new equipment safely.

For additional information log on to  
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## **SAFETY WARNINGS**

- **WARNING - SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH CAN OCCUR WHILE TRANSPORTING, UNPACKING AND MOVING THIS EQUIPMENT INTO POSITION – USE ADAQUATE PRECAUTIONS AND MANPOWER TO AVOID PERSONAL INJURY WHILE MOVING THIS EQUIPMENT INTO POSITION**
- **WARNING - SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH CAN OCCUR WITH IMPROPER INSTALLATION – STRICT ADHERANCE TO PROPER INSTALLATION PROCEEDURES MUST BE FOLLOWED TO AVOID DANGEROUS INSTABILITY**
- **WARNING - SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH CAN OCCUR IF THIS EQUIPMENT IS OPERATED USING ANY DESIGN MODIFICATIONS - NEVER OPERATE THIS EQUIPMENT WITH ANY MODIFICATIONS TO THE ORIGINAL DESIGN.**
- **WARNING - SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH CAN OCCUR IF THIS EQUIPMENT IS USED BY UNQUALIFIED PERSONS. NEVER OPERATE OR ALLOW ANYONE TO OPERATE THIS EQUIPMENT WITHOUT FIRST BEING COMPLETELY FAMILIAR WITH THE PROCEDURES FOR SAFE OPERATION**
- **WARNING - SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH CAN OCCUR AS A RESULT OF IMPROPER USE OF THIS EQUIPMENT – THIS EQUIPMENT IS DESIGNED FOR USE BY ONE OPERATOR ONLY – STRICT ADHERANCE TO PROPER OPERATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS AS DESCRIBED IN THIS MANUAL MUST BE FOLLOWED TO AVOID PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH**
- **WARNING - SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH CAN OCCUR FROM MISUSE OF THIS EQUIPMENT – THIS EQUIPMENT IS INTENDED TO BE USED TO FORM CLAY SLABS FROM PROPERLY PREPARED MOIST CLAY. ANY OTHER USE OF THIS EQUIPMENT OTHER THAN FOR WHICH IT WAS INTENDED WILL VOID THE WARRANTY AND MAY RESULT IN PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH**

# FEATURES

The Original Hi Roller is a true innovation in slab making equipment for the studio potter, pottery classrooms, and the ceramics industry. The vertical orientation is an obvious space-saving breakthrough but it is the less apparent elements of this design which truly makes the Original Hi Roller a pleasure to use.

- **INNOVATION IN SLAB FORMATION**

The Original Hi Roller forms a slab of clay by **pulling** a canvas/clay/canvas arrangement through a pair of strong idler rollers resulting in a more even distribution of pressure throughout the forming process.

- **FAST**

**vertical** – not a “catch-all” surface, always ready for use

**convenient** – stands close by but completely out of the way

**integrated canvas** – attached, always ready, and perfectly aligned

**easy** – user-friendly design makes forming slabs fast, with noticeably less user effort

- **STRENGTH IN ENGINEERING**

**built to last** – welded steel frame components, all ball bearing construction for unmatched durability

**single pass** – once through is all it takes

**synchronized thickness adjusters** – dual adjuster handles are linked together assuring perfectly even slabs across the entire width

- **VERSATILE**

**reversible** – The original Hi Roller can be operated with the same efficiency regardless of which side the drive handle is positioned. The reversible nature of the drive handle is provided to enhance the overall versatility of the machine in terms of placement possibilities as well as user comfort.

**wall-mounted** – Just fasten it to the wall for maximum space-savings

**free-standing** – Bolt on the stabilizers and simply position it on any firm and level surface. Add locking casters for even more placement and storage possibilities .

- **ACCESSORIES**

Works well with an auxiliary canvas or other backing materials offering effective solutions for...

- slab harvest and transport
- forming particularly large or thin slabs
- keeping formed slabs perfectly flat
- isolating differing clay bodies

## Installation

Your Original Hi Roller ships in one carton. Some assembly is required. Following these steps will assure your safety as well as ease of installation and use.

## Placement

Your new vertical slab roller has been designed to offer two installation options.

1. **Wall-mounted** – bolted directly to a wall for maximum stability and space savings.
2. **Free-standing** – using a pair of bolt-on stabilizers. Replacing the levelers with optional locking casters offers even more placement and storage possibilities.

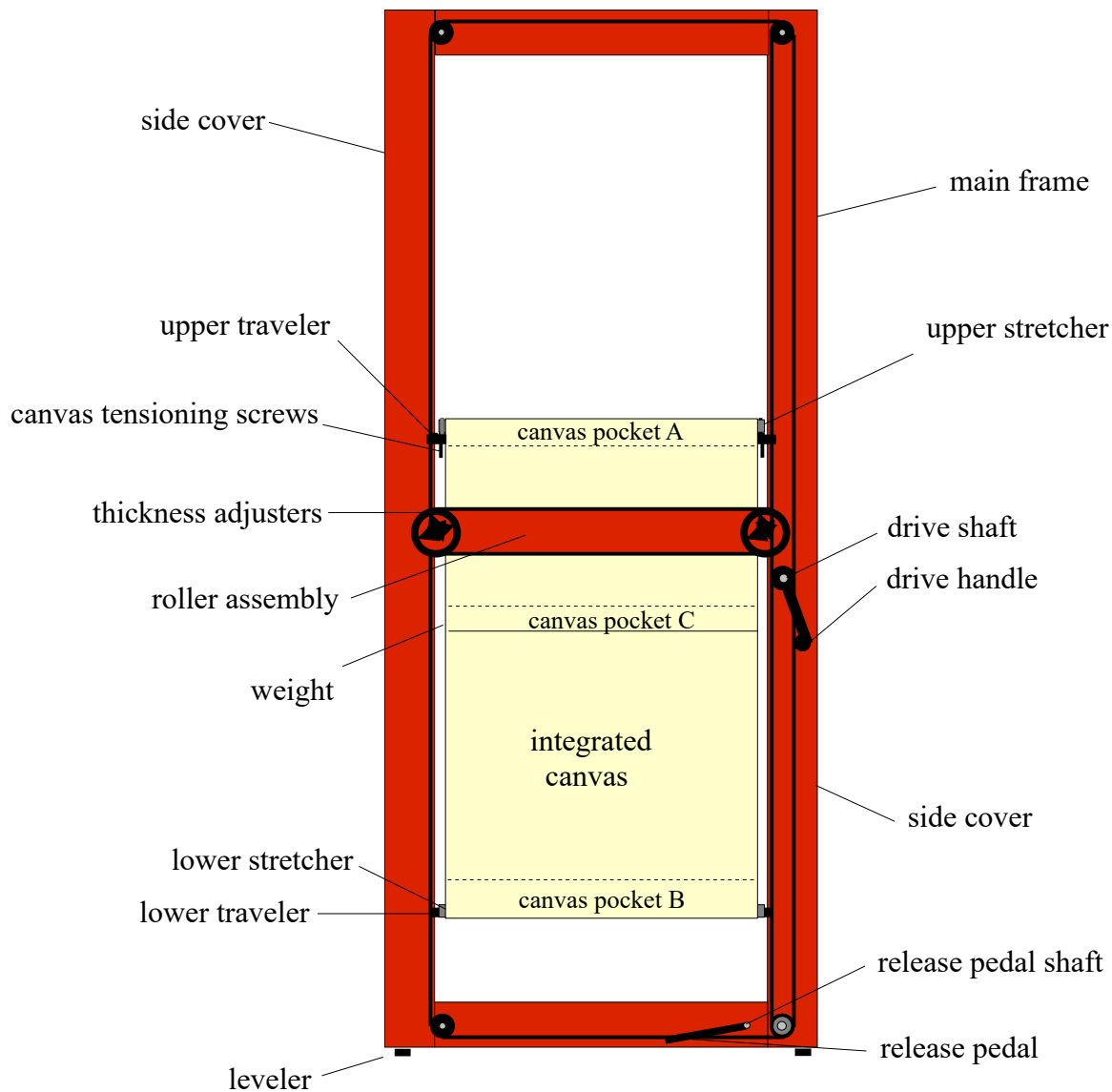
With the space-saving vertical design you may find that you now have a choice of placement options. Before choosing exactly where you will install your new machine keep these few things in mind.

- This equipment is intended for indoor use only.
- Do not place in direct sunlight. Ultra-violet exposure will shorten the life of the canvas.
- Do not place where your access to and from the machine would be impeded. You will need adequate space to bring clay to and finished slabs from the machine free from obstructions. Locating the machine which is both near your clay preparation area and work area is also recommended.
- The machine can be set up for either right or left-handed operation. Generally, right-handed users find it more natural to rotate the drive handle with the right hand while feeding clay and harvesting slabs with the left hand. This is not to say that natural, fluid motion can not be achieved otherwise. This opens up even more location possibilities such as corner placement.
- The free-standing configuration offers even more possibilities. This very stable set-up is not only quick and simple but allows you to place the machine on most any level surface. Adding locking casters offers easy mobility for enhanced convenience or storage.

## Unpacking

Remove the contents of the carton confirming that all components and parts are accounted for and have not been damaged during shipping. Should you experience any loss or damage, contact your distributor immediately.

1. mainframe w/side covers
2. roller assembly
3. drive handle
4. release pedal
5. canvas
6. stretchers
7. weight
8. wall-mounted (2 - wall brackets, 2 levelers, hardware pack)  
or  
free-standing (2 - stabilizers, 2 levelers, hardware pack)



## Wall Mounting

Wall mounting your machine offers maximum stability in a minimum amount of space. Follow these procedures to assure a safe wall mount installation.

**Important: An improperly wall-mounted unit is can be dangerous. If you have any doubt as to your ability to perform this installation properly, have it done by a professional.**

1. Choose the front of the (reversible) mainframe, the drive shaft now on the preferred side. Install one leveler in the forward most threaded hole at the bottom of each vertical frame member. Remove the four hole plugs from the back of the mainframe. Bolt the two wall brackets through these holes with the 5/16" x 1" bolts, washers, and nuts provided. Maneuver the mainframe to the exact install location. Level as required.
2. **Working with a stud wall.** Locate two vertical studs within the area of the selected install location. (ideally 32" apart) Make marks where the attachment points in each wall bracket intersects with the vertical wall studs. Drill a 3/16" diameter pilot hole into the studs at each mark. Secure each wall bracket to the wall using 4 – 5/16"x 2" lag bolts and washers provided, two per bracket.
3. **Working with a masonry wall.** Make marks where the 4 – 5/16"x 2" lag bolts and washers will fasten the wall brackets to the wall. Ideally these holes will be 32" apart and located in the mortar joints between the blocks. With a 1/2" masonry bit, drill four holes 2" deep at the marks. Insert one lag shield (provided) in each hole until flush with the wall surface. Fasten the machine to the wall using the 4 – 5/16"x 2" lag bolts and washers provided, two per bracket.

## Free-Standing

This option allows for more placement possibilities as well as easy mobility if equipped with optional casters.

1. Install the two levelers into the rearward threaded holes located on the underside of each stabilizer.
2. Choose the front of the (reversible) mainframe, the drive shaft now on the preferred side.
3. Fasten the stabilizers to the bottom of the mainframe, leveler to the rear, with the 3/8"x 1" bolts and washers provided.
4. Level by turning the levelers up or down until the machine is plumb and steady.

**Units equipped with casters** – Install the casters with brakes (short threaded stem) toward the front. Install the casters without brakes (longer threaded stem) toward the rear. Level as necessary by rotating the longer threaded stem of the rear caster.





## Assembly

Installing the roller assembly, stretcher bars, canvas, drive handle, and release pedal will offer you an opportunity to become more familiar with the design of your new machine.

### Roller Assembly

1. With the thickness gauge on top and adjuster handles toward the front, rest the roller assembly on the support brackets on the inside surface of the mainframe and secure with four 3/4" x 1" machine screws and washers provided.

### Stretcher Bars/Integrated Canvas

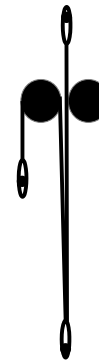
1. Thread the tension screws up from below the upper traveler until the ends are just visible above.
2. With the longer panel of the integrated canvas forward, drop "canvas pocket B" down between the rollers. Insert the lower stretcher bar (**two holes in each end**) in "canvas pocket B". Position the lower stretcher over the ends of the lower traveler and secure with the 1/4"x 1 1/4" machine screws and wing nuts provided.
3. Select the upper stretcher, (**one hole on each end**) and insert it through "canvas pocket A". Place the holes of the upper stretcher directly over the tension adjustment screws.
4. Drop "canvas pocket C" down between the front roller and roller frame. Insert the weight rod in "canvas pocket C".
5. Tension the canvas as necessary with the canvas tension screws at each end of the upper travelers.



"canvas pocket A"  
with upper stretcher

"canvas pocket C"  
with weight

"canvas pocket B"  
with lower stretcher



side view

### Drive Handle

Slide the drive handle fully over the protruding drive shaft and secure with the hex key provided.

### Release Pedal

Slide the release pedal arm fully over the release pedal shaft. Position the pedal no more than an 1/2" above the floor and secure tightly with the hex key provided.

## Basic Operation

**Set slab thickness** - There is a thickness gauge on top of each side of the roller assembly. Rotate either of the synchronized thickness adjusters so that the thickness gauge indicates the desired slab thickness.

**Prepare the feed clay** – The original Hi Roller is designed to form clay slabs from properly prepared moist clay. The clay should be similar in consistency to that used in throwing and thoroughly wedged. Clay that is too wet or too dry may not produce the best slabs. The feed clay should be dimensioned in such a way that when rolled, produces the desired size slab in a single pass. The width of the block of clay fed will approximately equal the width of finished slab. The thickness and/or length of the clay fed will determine the length of the finished slab. Although the machine can handle most any amount of properly prepared feed clay, for best results the feed clay should be no more than 4 times the thickness of the finished slab.

**Form the slab** – Grasp the drive handle, depress the release pedal and begin to roll, pulling the canvas downward through the rollers as you lay the forward edge of the prepared clay on the canvas-covered front roller.

**IMPORTANT! - SERIOUS INJURY MAY RESULT FROM ALLOWING YOUR HAND OR ANY OTHER PART OF YOUR BODY TO BE DRAWN INTO THE ROLLERS. NEVER ALLOW ANYTHING OTHER THAN PREPARED CLAY TO BE DRAWN INTO THE ROLLERS.**

The clay will be drawn down through the rollers as you continue to rotate the drive handle. When the desired length of slab has been formed, reverse direction of the drive handle returning the canvas to the start position. The finished slab will be gently adhered to the upper canvas panel.

**Harvest the slab** – Removing your foot from the release pedal locks the machine in position for safe removal of the slab.

**Using an auxiliary canvas** – To form particularly large or thin slabs, to keep a slab perfectly flat throughout the process, or to guard the integrated canvas from cross-contamination of differing clay bodies, use an auxiliary canvas. Lay a few inches of the auxiliary canvas over the upper stretcher. Place the feed clay in position on the forward roller, depress the release pedal, and roll as usual. Grasp both ends of the auxiliary canvas and transport the formed slab within to your work table. Peel the canvas away to reveal the slab.

**Keep in mind** that any additional material rolled with the clay will affect the overall thickness of the finished slab with respect to the thickness gauge.

**With drier conditions** and/or stiffer clay, a light spray of water applied to the upper canvas panel prior to rolling the first slab will assure proper adhesion to the canvas. Subsequent slabs will likely not require additional dampening.

## Adjustments

After initial assembly and under normal use there should be no further need for adjustments. Should there appear to be a problem with normal operation, please refer to the initial set-up (assembly) procedures. Contact customer service if necessary.

## Maintenance

The original Hi Roller is engineered to offer years of trouble-free operation. There are very few maintenance requirements with normal use. Use in industrial, commercial or institutional environments may call for additional care. Contact customer service to discuss your particular needs.

- **Lubrication** - A few drops of oil applied annually to the thickness adjuster shafts, synchronizer chain, and drive chain will meet all the lubrication needs. Industrial, commercial or institutional users should oil these parts as needed. The ball bearing are sealed and do not require lubrication.
- **Driven chain adjustment** – Remove any looseness in the driven chain by adjusting the twin turnbuckles. Make sure to replace the safety wire to maintain adjustment.
- **Cleaning** - The painted steel parts of the machine can be cleaned of dirt, dust, and clay with a damp cloth and mild detergent if desired.
- **Canvas** - Gently wiping the canvas panels with a damp sponge will help to remove residual clay from the surface of the canvas.
- **Replacing the integrated canvas** – Having an integrated canvas for each clay body used in the studio will help to avoid cross-contamination. Follow this procedure to switch the integrated canvas.
  1. Relax the tension by backing off the canvas tensioning screws.
  2. Remove the weight from “canvas pocket C”.
  3. Remove the screws securing the lower stretcher and slide it out of “canvas pocket B”.
  4. Lift the upper stretcher off of the tensioning screws pulling the integrated canvas up and out from between the rollers. Slide the upper stretcher out of “canvas pocket A”
  5. Reverse the procedure to install the replacement canvas as originally described on the “Assembly” page.

## Accessories

integrated canvas 39.99  
**one for each clay body used**

large auxiliary canvas 72" x 30" 29.99  
**solutions for...  
protecting the integrated canvas  
transport and handling of large or thin slabs**

small auxiliary canvas 30" x 30" 24.99  
**solutions for...  
keeping slabs flat from machine to work surface**

caster set 24.99  
**allows quick and easy portability of the machine  
around the studio for additional placement options  
or storage**

wall-mount kit \$59.99  
**wall-mount brackets and associated hardware  
to convert a free-standing unit to a wall-mount.**

free-standing kit 59.99  
**stabilizers and associated hardware  
to convert a wall-mounted unit to free-standing**

prices are in USD, plus shipping and subject  
to change without notice.

## **Limited Lifetime Warranty**

The Original Hi Roller is warranted to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for the entire period of ownership by the original purchaser. The original purchaser must have completed the warranty registration form and return it to the manufacturer at the time of purchase.

Covered materials under this warranty includes the mainframe, roller assembly, stabilizers (if equipped), wall-mount bracket (if equipped), fasteners, drive system, bearings, shafts, stretchers, hardware, and entire release assembly as well as any shipping costs associated with any covered claim.

Excluded from this warranty includes any canvas fabric as well as any part of the Original Hi Roller shown to fail or be damaged by abuse, neglect, or any installation or use inconsistent with the procedures of installation or use as described in this owners manual. Additional exclusions may include machines used for the purpose of institutional teaching as well as commercial or industrial applications.

Pottery Carolina, LLC reserves the right to repair or replace any part or parts covered under this warranty and may require substantive evidence of any defect of material or workmanship claimed.

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