

# Owner's Manual & Safety Instructions

**Save This Manual** Keep this manual for the safety warnings and precautions, assembly, operating, inspection, maintenance and cleaning procedures. Write the product's serial number in the back of the manual near the assembly diagram (or month and year of purchase if product has no number). Keep this manual and the receipt in a safe and dry place for future reference.

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# CENTRAL<sup>®</sup> MACHINERY

## 12 TON SHOP PRESS



70604

Visit our website at: <http://www.harborfreight.com>  
Email our technical support at: [productsupport@harborfreight.com](mailto:productsupport@harborfreight.com)

When unpacking, make sure that the product is intact and undamaged. If any parts are missing or broken, please call 1-888-866-5797 as soon as possible.

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No portion of this manual or any artwork contained herein may be reproduced in any shape or form without the express written consent of Harbor Freight Tools. Diagrams within this manual may not be drawn proportionally. Due to continuing improvements, actual product may differ slightly from the product described herein. Tools required for assembly and service may not be included.






### **⚠ WARNING**

**Read this material before using this product.  
Failure to do so can result in serious injury.  
SAVE THIS MANUAL.**

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## WARNING SYMBOLS AND DEFINITIONS

	This is the safety alert symbol. It is used to alert you to potential personal injury hazards. Obey all safety messages that follow this symbol to avoid possible injury or death.
	Indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury.
	Indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury.
	Indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in minor or moderate injury.
	Addresses practices not related to personal injury.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

**WARNING** Read all safety warnings and instructions. *Failure to heed these markings may result in personal injury and/or property damage.* Save all warnings and instructions for future reference.

The warnings, precautions, and instructions discussed in this manual cannot cover all possible conditions and situations that may occur. The operator must understand that common sense and caution are factors, which cannot be built into this product, but must be supplied by the operator.

### Work area

Keep the work area clean and well lit. Cluttered benches and dark areas increase the risks of electric shock, fire, and injury to persons.

### Personal safety

1. **Stay alert. Watch what you are doing and use common sense when operating the tool. Do not use the tool while tired or under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or medication.** A moment of inattention while operating the tool increases the risk of injury to persons.
3. **Do not overreach. Keep proper footing and balance at all times.** Proper footing and balance enables better control of the tool in unexpected situations.
2. **Dress properly. Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry. Contain long hair. Keep hair, clothing, and gloves away from moving parts.** Loose clothes, jewelry, or long hair increases the risk of injury to persons as a result of being caught in moving parts.
4. **Use safety equipment.** Wear heavy-duty work gloves during use. Non-skid safety shoes and a hard hat must be used for the applicable conditions.
5. **Always wear eye protection.** Wear ANSI-approved safety goggles, heavy-duty work gloves, and steel-toe work boots during set up and/or use.

## Tool use and care

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1. **Do not force the tool.** Use the correct tool for the application. The correct tool will do the job better and safer at the rate for which the tool is designed.
2. **Store the tool when it is idle out of reach of children and other untrained persons.** A tool is dangerous in the hands of untrained users.
3. **Check for misalignment or binding of moving parts, breakage of parts, and any other condition that affects the tool's operation.** If damaged, have the tool serviced before using. Many accidents are caused by poorly maintained tools. There is a risk of bursting if the tool is damaged.
4. **Use only accessories that are identified by the manufacturer for the specific tool model.** Use of an accessory not intended for use with the specific tool model, increases the risk of injury to persons.

## Service

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1. **Tool service must be performed only by qualified repair personnel.**
2. **When servicing a tool, use only identical replacement parts. Use only authorized parts.**
3. **Use only the lubricants supplied with the tool or specified by the manufacturer.**

## Specific Safety Rules

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1. Keep hands away from arbor plates and press pin during use.
2. Do not move workpiece while compressed.
3. Release load before service or maintenance.
4. Bolt to floor before use.
5. Keep area under arbor plates clear. If arbor plates rest on obstruction (i.e. bolt, debris, etc.), it creates an uneven press, causing excess stress and possible breakage.
6. Avoid off-center loads. Do not operate if workpiece tilts or binds during compression.
7. STOP and release compression if you suspect imminent structural failure. If safe, inspect thoroughly and reposition before proceeding.
8. Do not compress springs or other elastic objects. They could disengage hazardously.
9. Wear ANSI-approved safety goggles, heavy-duty work gloves, and steel-toe work boots during set up and/or use.
10. Keep bystanders out of work area.
11. Do not stand directly in front of the press when loaded. Do not leave the press unattended when loaded.
12. 20 Ton Limit. Do not operate the hydraulic jack beyond rated capacity.
13. Inspect before every use; do not use if parts are loose or damaged.
14. Jack service must be performed only by qualified repair personnel. Service or maintenance performed by unqualified personnel could result in a risk of injury.
15. When servicing a jack, use only identical replacement parts – refer to attached, product-specific parts list and diagram. Follow instructions in the “User - Maintenance Instructions” section of this manual. Use of unauthorized parts or failure to follow maintenance instructions may create a risk of injury.
16. Only use with accessories rated to handle the forces exerted by this tool during operation. Other accessories not designed for the forces generated may break and forcefully launch pieces.
17. Use only with bottle jack included with this press.
18. Industrial applications must follow OSHA requirements.
19. This product is not a toy. Keep it out of reach of children.
20. Maintain labels and nameplates on the Shop Press. These carry important safety information. If unreadable or missing, contact Harbor Freight Tools for a replacement.
21. The warnings, precautions, and instructions discussed in this instruction manual cannot cover all possible conditions and situations that may occur. It must be understood by the operator that common sense and caution are factors which cannot be built into this product, but must be supplied by the operator.



**SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS.**

# Specifications

Maximum Capacity	12 Tons (24,000 pounds)
Oil Type	Hydraulic Oil

**Note:** For additional information regarding the parts listed in the following pages, refer to the *Parts List and Assembly Diagram* near the end of this manual.

## Components and Controls

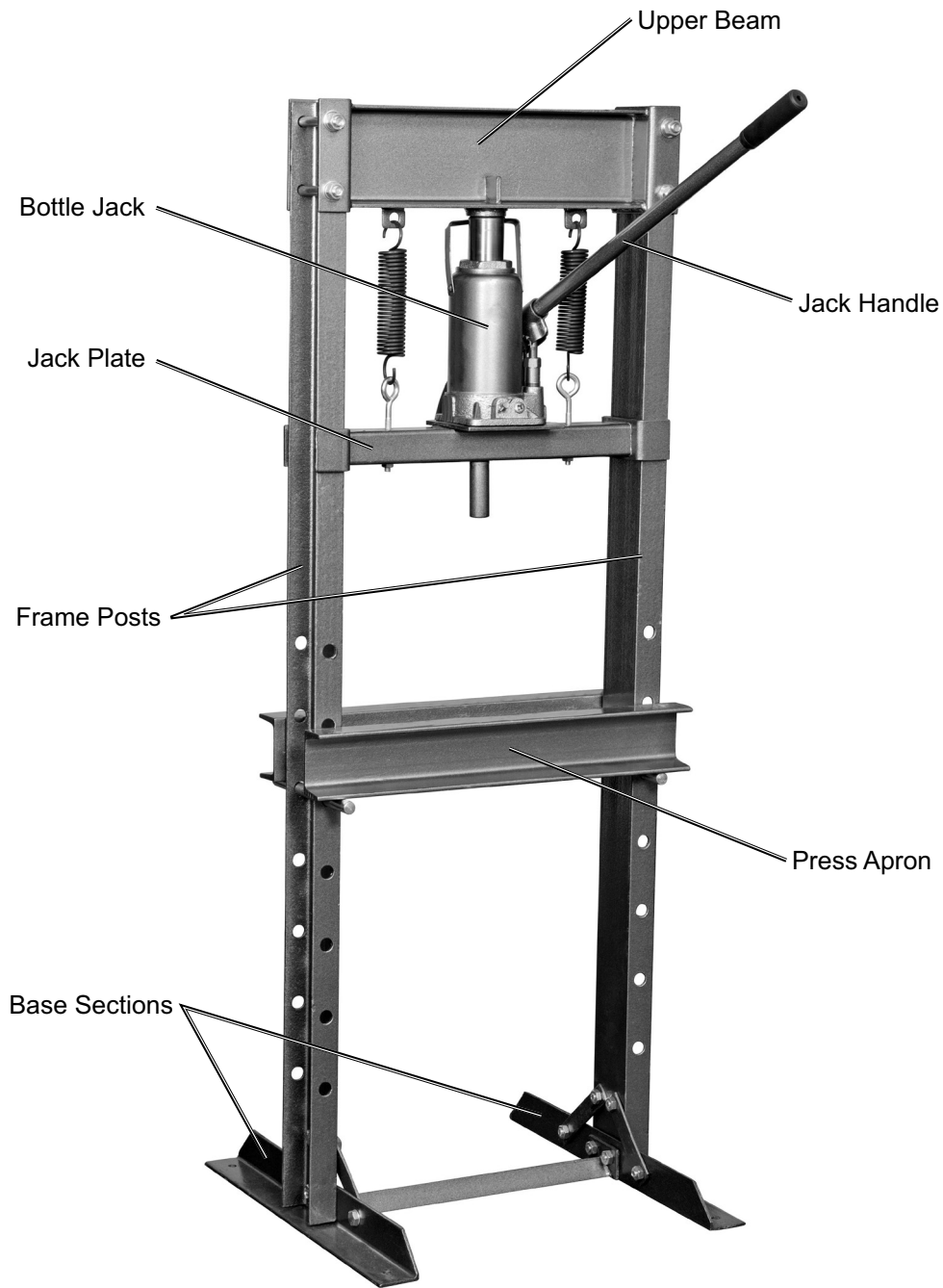


Figure 1

## Assembly Instructions



Read the **ENTIRE IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION** section at the beginning of this manual including all text under subheadings therein before set up or use of this product.

Inspect tool before use, looking for damaged, loose, and missing parts. If any problems are found, do not use tool until repaired.

**Components of this Shop Press are heavy. You will need a helper to safely assemble this product.**

Using the Components photo (Figure 1) and the Parts List and Assembly Diagram near the end of the manual, lay out and identify all pieces before assembly.

- Slide each Base Section (21) under the Frame Posts (16), and place the Bottom Frame Support (22) between them. Line up the bolt holes and insert the Bolts (14) through the Frame Posts, Base Sections, and Bottom Frame Support, then secure in place with the Washers (12) and Nuts (13).

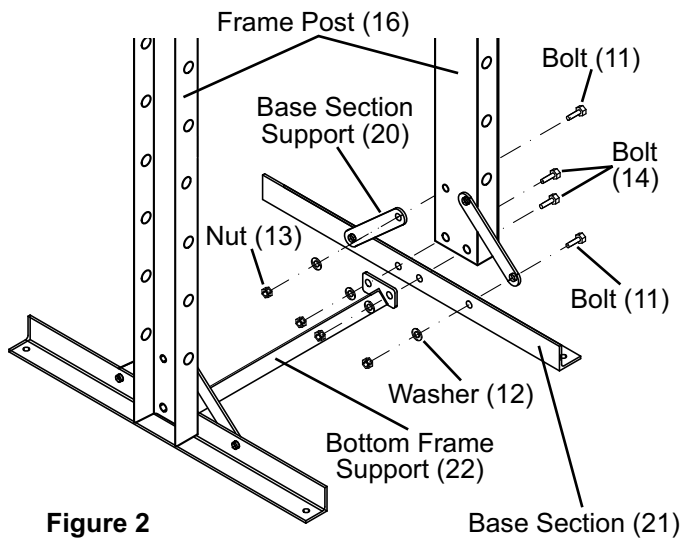


Figure 2

- Attach the Base Section Supports (20) to the Frame Posts and Base Sections using the Bolts (11), Washers (12), and Nuts (13). See Figure 2.
- Determine where the Shop Press will be located and bolt Base Sections (21) to the floor:
  - With assistance, move the Press to the location where it is to be mounted. Use mounting holes in the Base Sections as a template to mark the spots where four 1/2" diameter holes will be drilled in the concrete or wood floor. Check for any hidden wiring or cables and adjust the location for the holes as needed. Then, temporarily set the Shop Press aside.

- For concrete floors use a masonry drill bit to drill the four 1/2" diameter holes (about 3–4" deep) into the concrete. Make sure to blow out the concrete dust from the drilled holes. Insert lag screw anchors (not included) into the holes.
- Move the Shop Press back to the location where it will be mounted, and align the four 1/2" diameter mounting holes in the Base Sections with the four pre-drilled 1/2" holes in the concrete or wood. Then use four minimum 3" long, 1/2" diameter concrete anchor bolts or lag bolts (not included) to secure the Shop Press to the concrete or wood floor.

- Align the holes on the Upper Beam (15) with the holes in the top of the Frame Posts (16) and secure in place with the Bolts (1), Washers (2), Spring Washers (3), and Nuts (4). Align the Upper Beam with the bottle jack bracket and spring hangers on the bottom. Check that the assembly is square, then finish tightening bolts. See Figure 3.

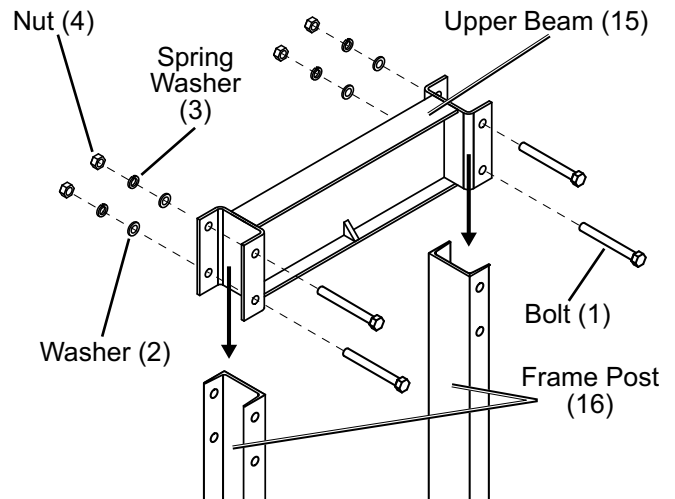
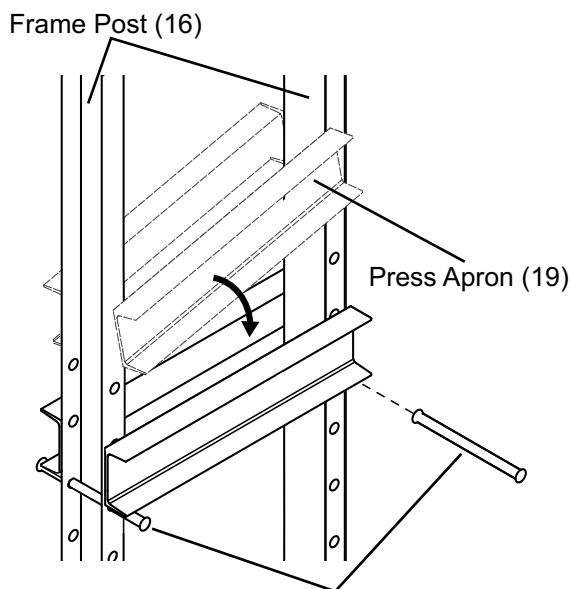


Figure 3

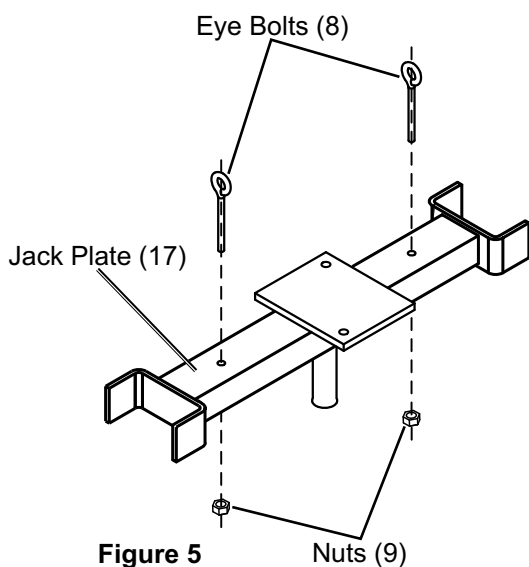
- Slide the Support Pins (10) into the holes in the Frame Posts (16). Angle the Press Apron (19) so the rails of the Press Apron straddle the Frame Posts, then lower into place down the Frame Posts so the Press Apron rests on the Support Pins. See Figure 4.



**Figure 4** Support Pins (10)

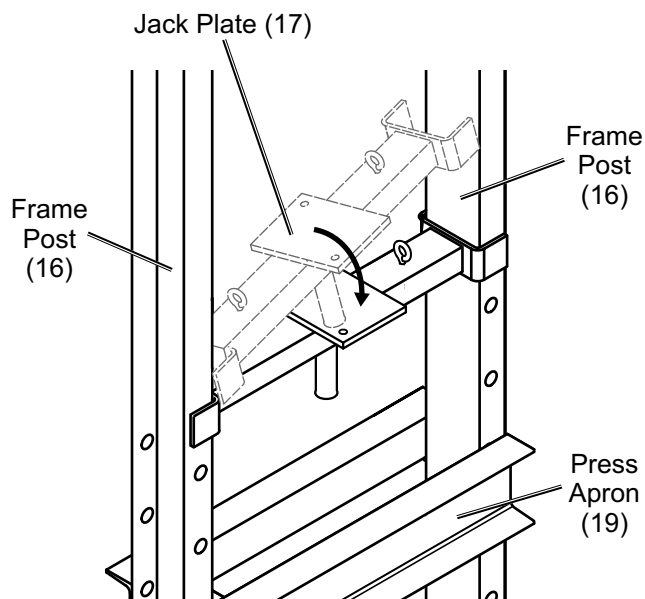
**Note:** For set-up, position the Support Pins at least several holes down from the top holes in the Frame Posts so you have room to place the Jack Plate (17). You can re-adjust the placement of the Press Apron after assembly.

- Insert two Eye Bolts (8) into the holes in the Jack Plate (17) and secure in place with the Nuts (9).



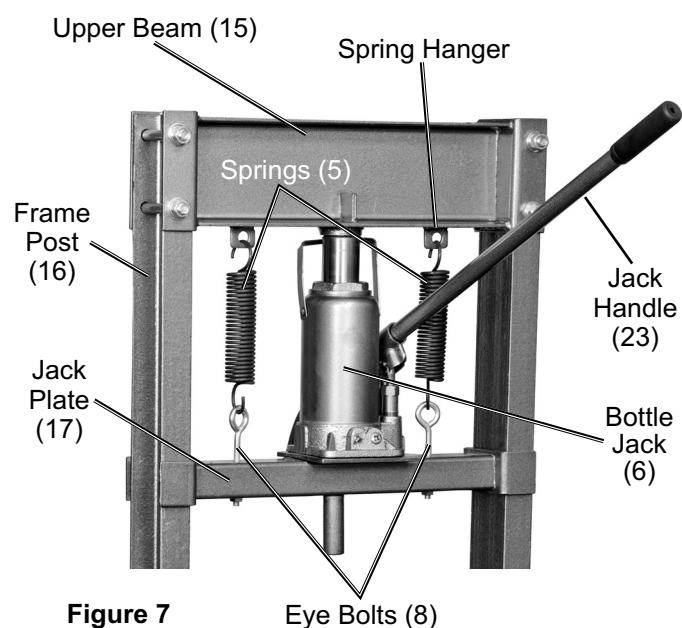
**Figure 5**

- Angle the Jack Plate (17) so the rails of the Jack Plate straddle the Frame Posts (16), then lower into place by sliding it down the Frame Posts so it rests temporarily on the Press Apron. See Figure 6.



**Figure 6**

- Hang the Springs (5) on the spring hangers located on the bottom of the Upper Beam (15). See Figure 7.
- Bleed the Bottle Jack (6) (see Bleeding the Bottle Jack section) and make sure it is fully collapsed. Place the Bottle Jack on the center of the Jack Plate (17), align it with two mounting holes in the Jack Plate and secure with two Bolts (7). Slide the Jack Plate up the Frame Posts (16) so the Bottle Jack Saddle fits in the bracket on the center underside of the Upper Beam. Hook the Springs into the Eye Bolts (8) on the Jack Plate to secure the Bottle Jack/Jack Plate in place. See Figure 7.



**Figure 7**

## Operating Instructions



Read the **ENTIRE IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION** section at the beginning of this manual including all text under subheadings therein before set up or use of this product.

### Bleeding the Bottle Jack

**IMPORTANT!** Before first use, check for proper hydraulic oil level in the Jack. Then thoroughly test the Jack for proper operation prior to its actual use. If the Jack appears *not* to be working properly, it may be necessary to *bleed* its hydraulic system of excess air. To bleed the Bottle Jack:

1. Remove the Oil Filler Plug. Insert the slot on the lower portion of the Jack Handle over the Valve Release Screw. Turn the Handle counterclockwise to close the Valve Release Screw.
2. Insert the Handle into the Plunger/Fulcrum Assembly. Apply pressure to the Saddle, and pump the Handle quickly several times.
3. Check the Oil Fill Hole and, if necessary, top off the Oil Fill Hole with hydraulic oil.
4. Replace the Oil Filler Plug.
5. Test the Jack several times before putting into use. If, after purging, the Jack still does not appear to be working properly, do not use the Jack until it has been repaired by a qualified service technician.

### General Operating Instructions

1. Use the Support Pins (10) to adjust the height of the Press Apron (19).

**Note:** The Press Apron should be in the highest position possible with the workpiece as close as possible to the ram of the Jack Plate (17).

2. Place the item to press on the Arbor Plates (18). Turn the Arbor Plates to support the stationary part of the workpiece.

**WARNING!** Make sure there is no obstruction (such as a stray bolt or debris) under the Arbor Plates. Such items create an uneven surface which can cause the Arbor Plates to break under pressure.

**WARNING! TO PREVENT SERIOUS INJURY:** When pressing two items together, the items must be lined up vertically. If not, one item may forcefully eject itself sideways from the unit.

3. Using the Jack Handle (23), jack down the Jack Plate until the ram of the Jack Plate contacts the workpiece. When pressing two items together, make sure that they are in vertical alignment. Continue to operate the Jack Handle to press the work piece.
4. After the task is completed, be careful when releasing Jack pressure. For safety, remove the Jack Handle, then use the Handle to slowly turn the Valve Release Screw on the Jack, allowing the Jack Plate to rise.

**CAUTION!** During the release process the Jack may rise quickly. Stay clear.

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## Maintenance Instructions



Procedures not specifically explained in this manual must be performed only by a qualified technician.

### **WARNING**

#### **TO PREVENT SERIOUS INJURY FROM TOOL FAILURE:**

**Do not use damaged equipment. If abnormal noise or vibration occurs, have the problem corrected before further use.**

1. **Before each use**, inspect the general condition of the Shop Press and Bottle Jack. Check for broken, cracked, or bent parts, loose or missing parts, and any condition that may affect the proper operation of the product. If a problem occurs, have the problem corrected before further use.  
**Do not use damaged equipment.**
2. **Before each use, thoroughly test the Bottle Jack (6) for proper operation prior to its actual use. If the Bottle Jack appears *not* to be working properly, follow *Bleeding the Bottle Jack* instructions.**
3. **Change the hydraulic oil at least once every three years. To change the hydraulic oil:**
  - a. With the Jack fully lowered, unhook the Springs (5) from the Eye Bolts (8), remove two bolts (7), and remove the Jack from the Jack Plate (17).
  - b. Remove the Oil Filler Plug.
  - c. Tip the Bottle Jack to allow the old hydraulic oil to drain out of the unit completely, and dispose of the old hydraulic oil in accordance with local regulations.
  - d. Completely fill the unit with a high quality hydraulic oil (not included) until the oil just begins to run out of the Oil Fill Hole.
  - e. Reinstall the Oil Filler Plug.
  - f. Clean with a clean cloth using a detergent or mild solvent.
  - g. Replace the Bottle Jack onto the Jack Plate (See step 9 under Assembly Instructions).



# Troubleshooting

## **⚠WARNING**

**TO PREVENT SERIOUS INJURY:**

**Use caution when troubleshooting a malfunctioning jack.**

**Completely resolve all problems before use.** If the solutions presented in the Troubleshooting guide do not solve the problem, have a

qualified technician inspect and repair the jack before use.

**After the jack is repaired: Test it carefully without a load by raising it and lowering it fully, checking for proper operation, BEFORE RETURNING THE JACK TO OPERATION.**

## **DO NOT USE A DAMAGED OR MALFUNCTIONING JACK!**

POSSIBLE SYMPTOMS							PROBABLE SOLUTION (Make certain that the jack is not supporting a load while attempting a solution.)
Jack will not function at its weight capacity	Saddle lowers under load	Pump stroke feels spongy	Saddle will not lift all the way	Handle moves up when jack is under load	Oil leaking from filler plug		
<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>						Check that Release Valve is closed fully.
<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>			Valves may be blocked and may not close fully. To flush the valves: 1. Lower the Saddle and securely close the Release Valve. 2. Manually lift the saddle several inches. 3. Open the release valve and force the saddle down as quickly as possible.
<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>				Jack may be low on oil. Check the oil level and refill if needed. Jack may require bleeding - see instructions on page 7.
					<b>X</b>		Unit may have too much hydraulic oil inside, check fluid level and adjust if needed.

# PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY

THE MANUFACTURER AND/OR DISTRIBUTOR HAS PROVIDED THE PARTS LIST AND ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM IN THIS DOCUMENT AS A REFERENCE TOOL ONLY. NEITHER THE MANUFACTURER OR DISTRIBUTOR MAKES ANY REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND TO THE BUYER THAT HE OR SHE IS QUALIFIED TO MAKE ANY REPAIRS TO THE PRODUCT, OR THAT HE OR SHE IS QUALIFIED TO REPLACE ANY PARTS OF THE PRODUCT. IN FACT, THE MANUFACTURER AND/OR DISTRIBUTOR EXPRESSLY STATES THAT ALL REPAIRS AND PARTS REPLACEMENTS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY CERTIFIED AND LICENSED TECHNICIANS, AND NOT BY THE BUYER. THE BUYER ASSUMES ALL RISK AND LIABILITY ARISING OUT OF HIS OR HER REPAIRS TO THE ORIGINAL PRODUCT OR REPLACEMENT PARTS THERETO, OR ARISING OUT OF HIS OR HER INSTALLATION OF REPLACEMENT PARTS THERETO.

## Parts List and Assembly Diagram

### Parts List

Part	Description	Qty
1	Bolt M12x110	4
2	Washer Ø12	4
3	Spring Washer Ø12	4
4	Nut M12	4
5	Spring	2
6	Bottle Jack	1
7	Bolt M8x20	2
8	Eye Bolt M8	2
9	Nut M8	2
10	Support Pin	2
11	Bolt M10x20	8
12	Washer Ø10	12

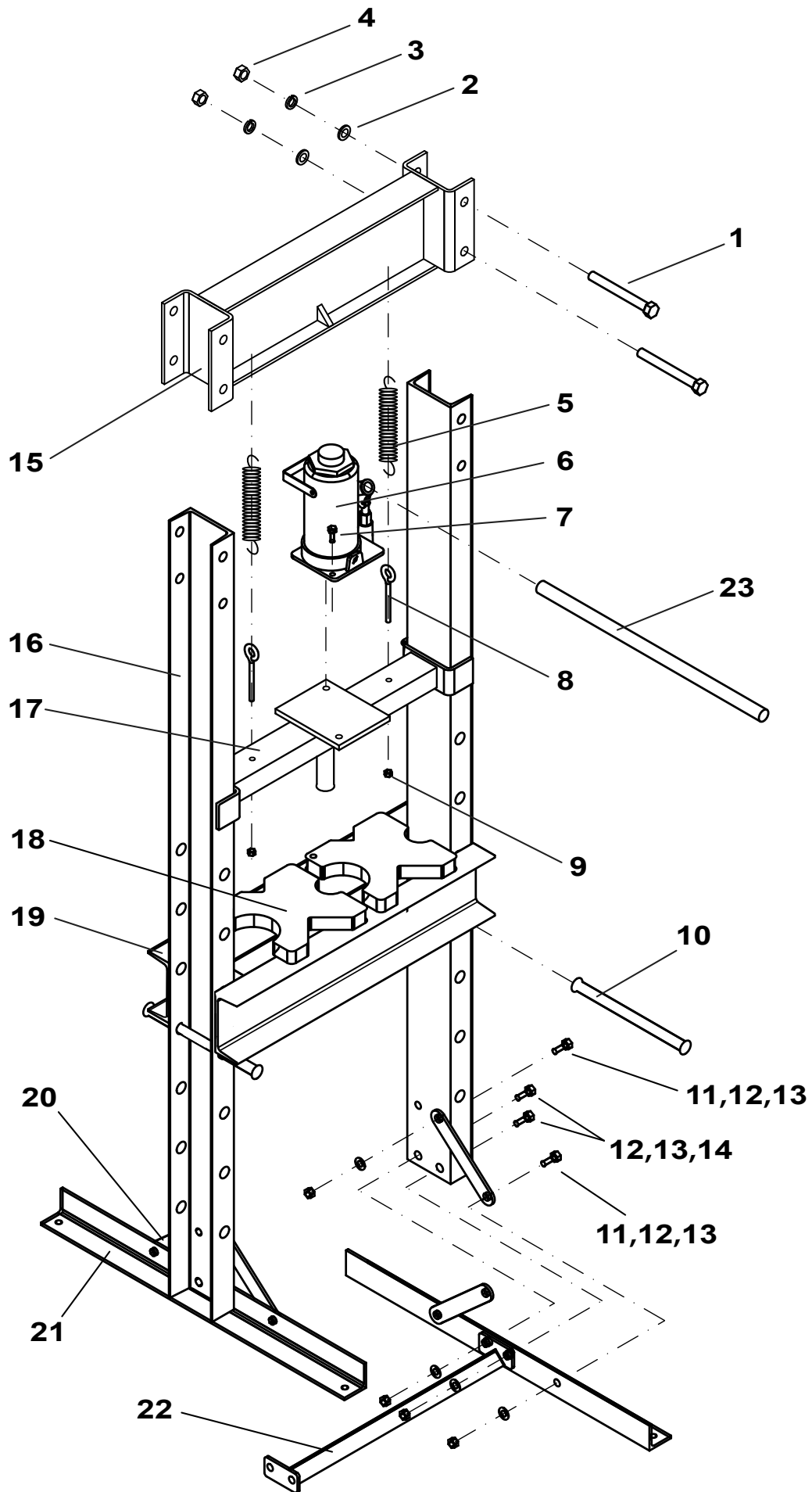
Part	Description	Qty
13	Nut M10	12
14	Bolt M10x25	4
15	Upper Beam	1
16	Frame Post	2
17	Jack Plate	1
18	Arbor Plate	2
19	Press Apron	1
20	Base Section Support	4
21	Base Section	2
22	Bottom Frame Support	1
23	Jack Handle	1

Record Product's Serial Number Here: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** If product has no serial number, record month and year of purchase instead.

**Note:** Some parts are listed and shown for illustration purposes only, and are not available individually as replacement parts. Specify UPC 193175501608 when ordering parts.

# Assembly Diagram



## Limited 90 Day Warranty

Harbor Freight Tools Co. makes every effort to assure that its products meet high quality and durability standards, and warrants to the original purchaser that this product is free from defects in materials and workmanship for the period of 90 days from the date of purchase. This warranty does not apply to damage due directly or indirectly, to misuse, abuse, negligence or accidents, repairs or alterations outside our facilities, criminal activity, improper installation, normal wear and tear, or to lack of maintenance. We shall in no event be liable for death, injuries to persons or property, or for incidental, contingent, special or consequential damages arising from the use of our product. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation of exclusion may not apply to you. THIS WARRANTY IS EXPRESSLY IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING THE WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS.

To take advantage of this warranty, the product or part must be returned to us with transportation charges prepaid. Proof of purchase date and an explanation of the complaint must accompany the merchandise. If our inspection verifies the defect, we will either repair or replace the product at our election or we may elect to refund the purchase price if we cannot readily and quickly provide you with a replacement. We will return repaired products at our expense, but if we determine there is no defect, or that the defect resulted from causes not within the scope of our warranty, then you must bear the cost of returning the product.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

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