



POSTDRIVER USERS MANUAL

FARMER 500
FARMER 700
SUPERSTRIKER
CONTRACTOR

ADDRESS AND CONTACT DETAILS

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NOTES

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INTRODUCTION

Taege post drivers are the result of many years of development by both the manufacturer and feedback from satisfied users working in some of New Zealand's toughest environments. Our no-frills approach in design ensures a robust machine that will give many years of reliable service with the help of routine maintenance by the operator.

We urge all users and owners of our post drivers to read this manual to ensure a full understanding of how to operate your new machine. Special attention needs to be taken in regards to the SAFETY segment in this manual.

Please Contact your local Dealer for any other information not covered in this manual.

Please note that any unauthorized modifications made to the post driver may hinder its operation and safety aspects outlined in this manual. Taege Engineering Ltd will not be held responsible for any Warranty claims or injuries as a result of these modifications.

Our post drivers are provided with a sealed capsule that contains this manual, which must stay with the post driver at all times. Additional copies can be obtained from Taege Engineering Ltd or www.taege.com

DISCLAIMER

This publication has been put together as a general guide for the safe operation of Taege Post drivers. While every attempt has been made to include all the relevant information needed to operate Taege Post drivers in a safe user-friendly manner, this is not a comprehensive mandatory document and further specialised advice might be needed in regards to Regulations and Health and Safety obligations for dealers, owners and operators.

Taege Engineering Ltd.

FARMER 500/700



SUPERSTRIKER



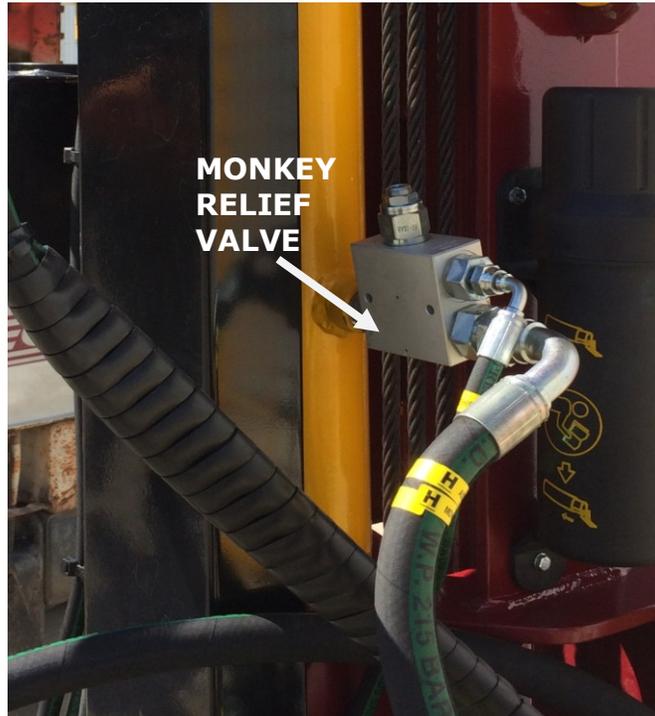
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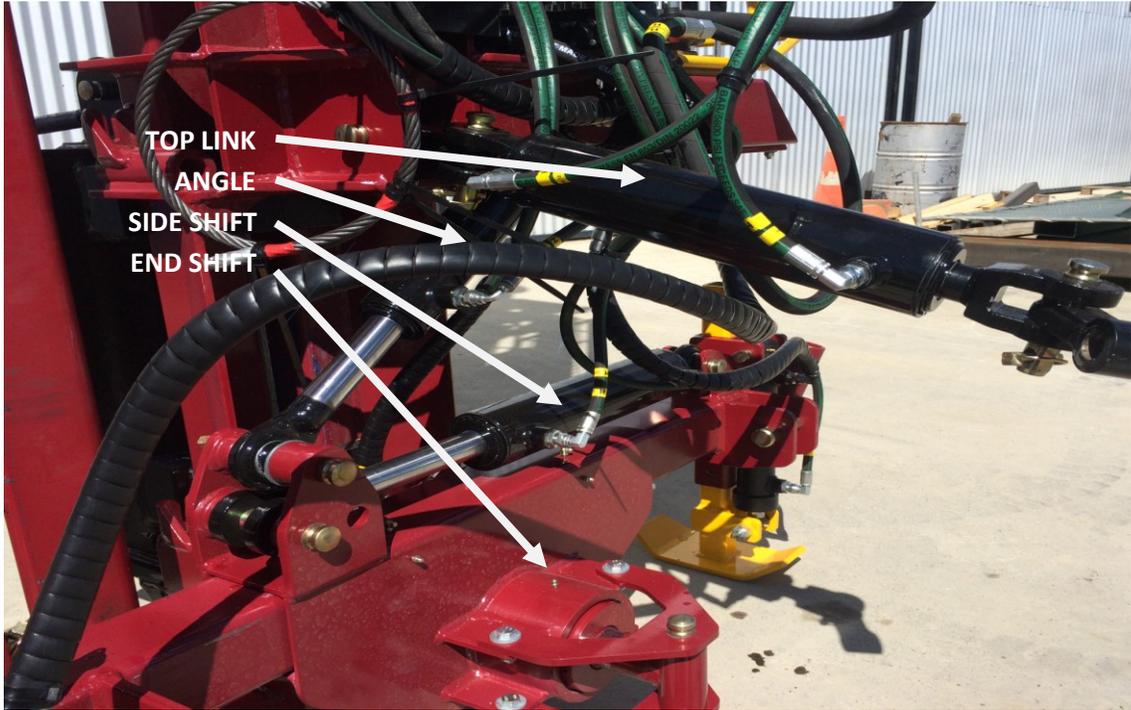
SIDEMOUNT



TAEGE POST DRIVER DEFINITIONS OF PARTS PHOTOS



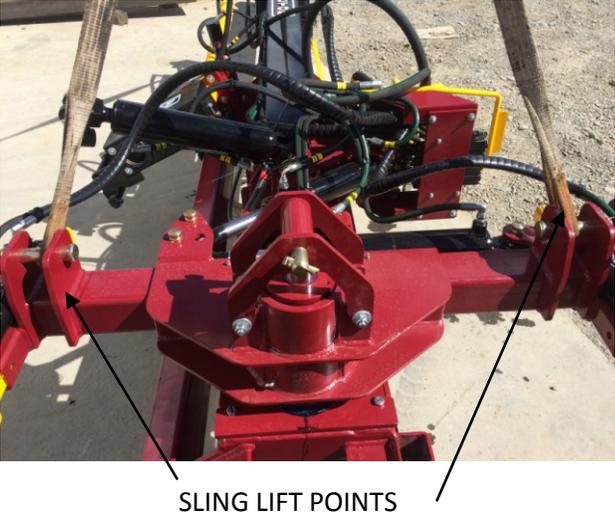
TAEGE POST DRIVER DEFINITIONS OF PARTS PHOTOS



TAEGE POST DRIVER DEFINITIONS OF PARTS PHOTOS



LIFTING POINTS ON TAEGE POST DRIVERS



IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Before operating this post driver, read and understand the safety procedures for this machine. Any post driver by its very nature with a falling weight hitting a wooden object can be a dangerous machine in the hands of an inexperienced person. Failure to follow safe practice can result in serious injury or even death (yours).

The operator may be familiar with operating a post driver, however, the controls may be different to what you are used to. When operating the driver, the operator should always think about what the lever they are about to engage is going to do to the driver.

COMPETENCE

The post driver should only be operated by a capable person used to hydraulic controls. Every effort will be made by your local dealer to ensure that the new owner has a good understanding of the functions of the post driver.

USER SAFETY

Taege post drivers are built with the operator in mind. However, any influence from drug and alcohol or medical issues could result in injury or even death. Please ensure all steps are taken to avoid this.

The operator needs to protect themselves against the noise generated by the driver when operating, the possibility of eye injury, and foot protection in case of a falling or rolling post. PPE should include steel toe cap boots, safety glasses or visor and good quality earmuffs. A chainsaw helmet with visor and grade 5 earmuffs are ideal. Chainsaw chaps give operators wearing shorts some leg protection if the post breaks during driving.

If a prolonged period of spiking in hard ground is being undertaken, it is advisable to wear earplugs as well as grade 5 earmuffs.

ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

If there are posts to be driven near power lines, extreme care needs to be taken so that the mast of the driver does not come into contact with overhead wires, as death (yours) may be the end result. If in doubt contact your local lines company for advice and a "close approach permit".

If posts are being driven where the power is underground, it is advisable to contact your local lines companies cable location service and get them to correctly identify EXACTLY where underground cables are. Remember that most cables are 600mm deep and that the post driver spike goes into the ground further than that. A vague instruction from the landowner as to where the cable is, is not good enough, as failure to correctly locate the cable may result in death of the operators.

POST DRIVER GUARDING

All Taege post drivers leave our factory with guarding supplied; this is to protect the operator. All other people are required to be a minimum of 6m away from the driver when in operation. This excludes tractor driver.

The mesh guard attached to the mast serves as a physical line in which the operator is to stand behind. No part of the operator's body should extend past this point when operating the post driver. The guard will also create a certain amount of protection from flying debris hitting the upper body. Please ensure all other PPE is worn as required in User Safety Guide.

All Taege post drivers are fitted with a monkey stop latch. This is to be used when the operator is within the drop zone of the monkey.

All Taege post drivers have a wire rope guard. This will help contain the wire rope in the event of breakage; this also assists the pulley assembly to stay inline when in use.

The Contractor and Super striker model are fitted with a control bank lever guard. this helps reduce operator fatigue when in prolonged use and accidental bumping of the levers.

HYDRAULIC SYSTEMS

Your new post driver requires hydraulic pressure and flow to operate to an acceptable level of efficiency.

Low pressure will limit the ability to lift the monkey, extract spike, and hamper all other functions.

Low flow will allow the post driver to function, but your productivity will be low.

Excessive flow will also create function issues with your post driver including excessive heat buildup in your hydraulic system. However, most modern tractors have an ability to reduce this. Please consult your tractor manual for this adjustment.

Taege Farmer 500/700 and Superstriker require an optimum of 40 litres per min @2500psi.

Taege Contractor post drivers require 65 litres per min @ 2500psi. However, monkey weights above 850 lb require 3100psi.

The driver requires 1 remote for the driver itself and a $\frac{3}{4}$ return direct into the tractor. If the return is through the remotes, back pressure will be created restricting the speed that the monkey will fall. The folding mast, if fitted, requires 1 double acting remote if not plumbed into the main control bank.

SAFETY AROUND HYDRAULIC SYSTEMS

The hydraulic systems on a post driver are under extreme pressure. Avoid contact with leaking hoses; oil injection into your body can be fatal. Heat is also generated after prolonged use; this can burn the operator when in contact with hydraulic systems or oil. Please do not ignore hydraulic leaks or damaged hoses. This can cause sudden movement of the post driver not expected by the operator.

SET UP

Attaching the driver to the tractor is the same as any other linkage mounted machine however there are some points the operator should be aware of.

Keep the back window of the cab closed at all times when the driver is on the tractor, as both a rear and a side mount will hit and smash the window.

The driver requires 1 remote for the driver itself and a $\frac{3}{4}$ return direct into the tractor. If the return is through the remotes, back pressure will be created, restricting the speed that the monkey will fall. The folding mast, if fitted, requires 1 double acting remote. Please refer to hydraulic system for post driver requirements.

When putting the driver onto the tractor, reverse up to it and attach the lift arms first, plug in the folding mast hoses, pressure and return hoses for the driver, and engage the remote so oil is flowing to the driver control bank. This allows the operator to extend the top link so it can be attached to the tractor and to lift the spike out of the ground.

The remote that is used for the driver must be able to be locked in position, as the detent will not be strong enough to hold while the driver is being used.

If your tractor has no factory-fitted means of keeping the remote locked, you will have to work out some way of holding the lever in the engaged position.

Many tractors will not lift the driver when a remote is engaged so, as the driver needs to be on the ground when driving a post and lifted to move, you need to be able to disengage the remote easily.

If your driver has hydraulic legs, you can set the driver at the right height on the linkage and then lift the legs fully when moving.

Side mount drivers: we recommend side mount units should not be mounted to tractors under **120hp** or of equal size with the addition of counterweights on front of tractor to balance load.

A minimum of a **90hp** tractor is recommended for a rear-mounted Contractor driver. A minimum of a **70hp** tractor is recommended for a rear-mounted Farmer series driver.

Please consult your tractor user manual for weight carrying limits on the 3point linkage.

It is worth noting that, when using a side mount driver on a tractor with hook type lift arms, the weight will sometimes be off the near side lift arm (ball pushed up against the latch). In this situation it is recommended that a clevis, which fits under the hook and is held by the linkage pin, is fitted in case the latch should fail.

WEIGHTS OF TAEGE POST DRIVERS

Farmer 700	950 kg
Superstriker	1050 kg
Contractor	1050 – 1200 kg
Side Mount	450 – 650 kg

All weights provided are approximate. All weights vary because of specifications, i.e. spike assembly, monkey weight, bottom end configuration.

OPERATION

The driver is reasonably simple to operate, however there are some do's and don'ts. When operating the driver, always stand at the control bank and behind the base of the driver. This way you will be protected if a post breaks while being driven. A good rule of thumb is to have your right foot on the back side of the driver leg.

Using the monkey: when operating the monkey to drive either the spike or a post, the operator needs to lift the monkey only about 1-1.2 metres to achieve the maximum driving force.

When the monkey hits, do not continue to hold the hydraulic control lever in the down position and allow the rope to fully slacken, as this will reduce the life of the rope.

Using the spike, to operate the spike, lift the monkey clear of the top of the spike and move into the working position. Lower the monkey gently onto the top and then, with the monkey control in the down position, lower the spike to the ground and run the spike carrier to the base of the mast.

Unlatch the post cap chain, check the spike is vertical and drive to the required depth, full depth for strainers, and part way for line posts.

To lift the spike, pull the control lever with your left hand, reach down and hook the post cap chain to the monkey and, using your right hand, pull the monkey control lever enough to keep the rope tight.

When the spike reaches the top of its travel, release the control and continue to lift the monkey until there is clearance for the post.

Place the post into position and lower the monkey gently onto it, release the post cap chain and drive to the required height using the driver end and side shift to maintain vertical. NEVER place your hand over the top of the post when lifting up to the driver if you value your fingers!.

GUIDING THE POST

It is best to have the post placed as close to the mast as is possible to avoid unnecessary loading on the post cap and lower mast. If a post doesn't have a square top, place the highest side against the back of the post cap, as the post will tend to lean toward the high side as it is driven. It is preferred that you avoid driving these posts; a quick trim with a saw will solve this. The operator can then use the endshift (sideshift if driver sidemounted) to keep the post vertical.

DEACTIVATING THE POST DRIVER

At the end of the workday, it is advisable to lower the driver, monkey and the spike to the ground in case the hydraulics should creep overnight.

When removing the driver from the tractor, the spike should always be driven fully into the ground to prevent the driver from being knocked over by strong winds or stock rubbing against it.

To remove the driver, drive the spike into the ground and lower the monkey onto it, place a spacer or Taege drill delimiter blocks over the tilt ram to prevent the driver leaning during storage. Next, disconnect the tractor lift arms then, using the hydraulic top link control, take any weight off the top link pin and remove. Retract the top link ram then place the tractor remote used for the driver into float and remove the folding mast hoses (if fitted), pressure and return hoses making sure they cannot be knocked to the ground by stock.

TRANSPORT

When transporting the driver on the road the operator needs to be aware of overhead hazards such as power lines and trees.

If your driver is fitted with a folding mast, for road transport firstly lift the monkey and cap approximately 1 meter up the mast then place a piece of 100mm post about 200mm long (end of a stay is ideal) into the back side of the base of the mast.

Gently lower the cap and monkey onto it then, holding the monkey control lever forward, reach up and (wearing gloves) pull the rope out until the monkey ram is fully retracted. This will give enough slack in the rope to allow the mast to be folded into the transport position without disconnecting the rope from the monkey and prevents the end of the rope from working its way up toward the top pulley during transport.

Transporting the post driver on a truck or trailer is sometimes required. It is advised to use a hiab type truck or crane operated by a competent person, to assist with laying down the post driver for this task. Please refer to manual for lifting points.

Ensure that the tractor or trailer is up to the task. Refer to weights of drivers in the user manual.

MAINTENANCE

Your local dealer will have completed a pre delivery check prior to delivery. However, as with any new machine, it is advisable to visually check your new post driver on a regular basis, as vibration from use can cause bolts to work loose on some occasions.

Your new post driver mast will have an initial break in period. It is recommended you keep the mast well lubricated during this period. We recommend that a heavy type of oil be used like chain bar oil. Grease will tend to turn into grinding paste in dusty conditions. Avoid the mast becoming dry when in use.

Taege post drivers have a number of grease points. Refer to lube section in this manual.

It is advised to do a daily check of your post driver when in use. Observe these points:

- Mast lubrication
- Wire rope condition
- Hydraulic hose condition
- Attachment bolts of all components
- Nylon cap for wear
- Hydraulic cylinder end pins
- Ensure all guards are fitted
- Ensure monkey latch is in operation

Spike wear: ensure the end does not become pointed. This will contribute to getting it stuck when in use.

LUBRICATION

Grease Points



Lubricate all grease points daily as needed

PARTS AND ADVICE

Your local dealer will have access to consumable parts and an overnight courier.

Most Taege post driver parts are in stock at Taege Engineering Ltd and will ensure a prompt service to get your post driver operating efficiently again. parts@taege.com or postdrivers@taege.com

Taege Engineering Ltd offers a complete rebuild service to all those old post drivers in need of a refurbishment to get them back to their former glory.

Note – due to the nature of post driving and the extreme wear and tear of particular parts, Taege Engineering Ltd regards the following as consumables:

Wire rope, post cap, nylon

<http://taege.com/wp/taege-post-drivers/post-driver-spareparts>