

**HYDRO MAX II ASSEMBLY MANUAL**  
**ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS**  
**HYDRO-MAX II SERIES, 2000# THROUGH 12,000# UNITS.**



**CAUTION - PUT SAFETY FIRST**

1. Before attempting to install or operate this hoist, study and fully understand the proper operating procedures and safety precautions outlined in this owner's manual.
2. Never exceed the recommended weight capacity of your lift. The lifted weight will include hull, engine, fuel, battery, and added accessories or gear. Weigh your fully loaded boat at a certified scale to be absolutely sure of the total weight.
3. Do not allow anyone on, in or under the lift while operating.
4. **NOT COMPLYING WITH THE PROCEDURES AND PRECAUTIONS OUTLINED IN THIS MANUAL WILL INVALIDATE THE WARRANTY AND MAY RESULT IN PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.**
5. If you have any questions about assembly, installation, operation or suitability of this product, contact an authorized dealer or The Feighner Co. Inc. at 1-800-BOAT-LIFT.

# **T F C** The Feighner Company, Inc.

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2264 LANSING RD, CHARLOTTE, MI 48813  
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PHONE: (517) 541-0900  
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**Assembly Instructions – Hydro-Max II series, 2000# through 12,000# units.**

**Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with these instructions and you'll soon be on your way to many years of trouble free mooring.**

## **Contents:**

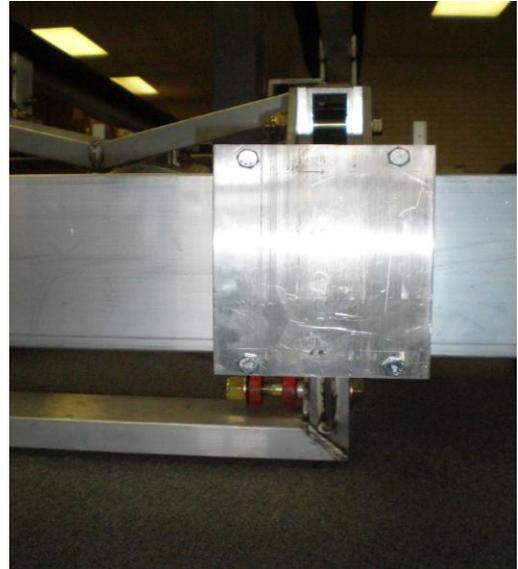
1. 1 Main Lift Assembly.
2. 1 Front Beam, 1 Rear Beam, (interchangeable).
3. 4 Leg pockets, with 3' legs attached. (short- standard / long - canopy)
4. 1 Black Box, (or upgraded White Fiberglass box)
5. 1 Hydraulic Pump, manual control, with Keyless Remote.
6. 4 Aluminum boat lift mud pads.
7. 2 Front Plates
8. 2 Rear Plates
9. Hardware Bag

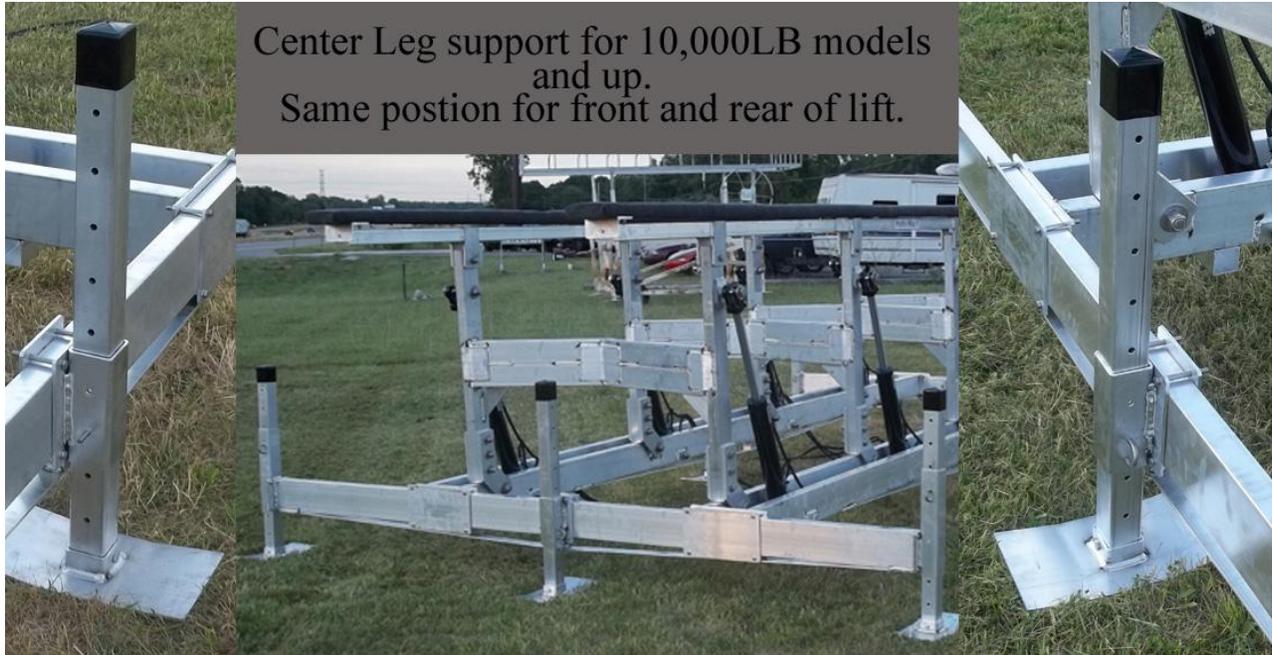
## **Tools Required:**

1. 9/16" socket wrench.
2. 9/16" box wrench.
3. (2) Large 12" adjustable wrenches.

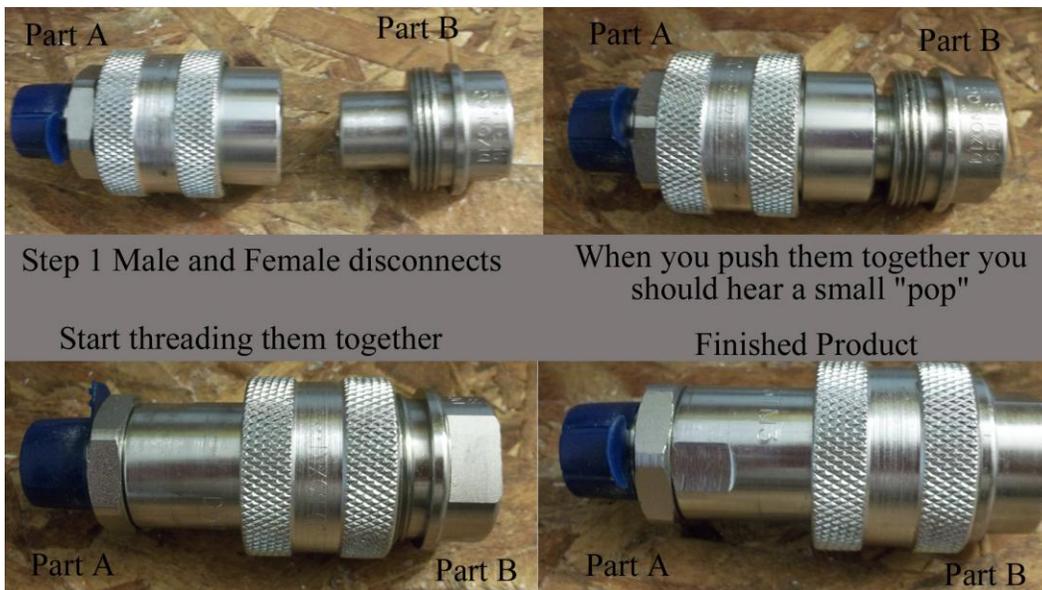
**Assembly:**

1. Assemble lift on smooth level surface, free from obstructions. Unpack all components at this time, except for the hydraulic hoses. Leave this item wrapped for now to avoid contaminants from entering the fluid system.
2. Assemble Rear Beam: 1 Rear Beam, 2 Rear Plates, (8) bolts 3/8 x 3" long and (8) nuts. Center Beam, left to right, with Main Lift Assembly. Loosely fasten bolts to aid in centering this beam. Tighten bolts.
3. Assemble Front Beam: 1 Front Beam, 2 Front Plates,
4. (8) bolts 3/8 x 3" long and (8) nuts. Center Beam, left to right, with Main Lift Assembly. Loosely fasten bolts to aid in centering this beam. Tighten bolts.
5. Assemble Feet to Leg Pockets: 1 Foot, 1 Leg, bolt 3/8 x 3.5" long and nut.
6. Assemble Foot/Leg Pocket assembly (from previous step) to Rear and Front Beams (step 2 and 3): (4) bolts, 3/8 x 1" long, and (4) nuts.





7. For Models 10,000 LB and up. Attach center leg with the same directions as the other 4 leveling legs. Installer **MUST CUT** off extra leg that extends above beam. So the boat doesn't hit the center leg.
8. Unpack hoses. Use caution not to cut into hose wall. Push hoses through Black or fiberglass box hole and screw to matching connectors on Pump. **IMPORTANT:** Look at Picture for full illustration. **NOTE:** You can hand tighten these, but It may require wrenches to fully tighten them to allow proper flow for lift.



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9. Connect 12v battery source. Red lead from pump to positive (+) and black lead to negative (-). Double-check the hose connectors for full engagement and press the UP control button. Lift should rise until button is released. Press the DOWN button and conversely the lift will lower.
10. If lift fails to rise AND lower – recheck connectors - step 8. This will now require wrenches to ‘break’ the backpressure loose.
11. If lift rises but will not lower – open Flow Control screw valve on pump adjacent to male screw connector. This valve should be open 1.5 turns for now. Factory preset is 1.5 turns. DO NOT ADJUST ANY OTHER VALVES OR SCREW SETTINGS ON PUMP.



This concludes the assembly instructions.

**Installation:**

**Tools required:**

1.  $\frac{3}{4}$ " box wrench.
2. Water shoes.

**Instructions:**

Survey the installation area for rocks, stumps or other obstructions, remove debris or relocate lift site.

1. Inspect boat hull for any protrusions, such as turn fins, speedometer pickups, live well inlets, cruise control pickups, etc. Compare location of obstruction with Bunk spacing. Remove or relocate if needed. In some cases, Centering Guides may be all that's required to position your boat for interference free lifting.
2. Lift or float unit into position. Rear of lift (stern) is the cylinder end of the lift. **DO NOT DRAG.** Dragging may cause unnecessary fatigue on Side Beams and Front/Rear Beams weldments.
3. Position lift in (ideally) 36" to 48" of water. If you're in deeper water, adjust legs until you have approximately 20" of water over the bunks in the low position. Longer leg option will require cross bracing.
4. Raise bunks until they are even with the water. Adjust legs until all 4 ends of the bunks are level. Retighten legs.
5. Inspect the lake bottom areas once again to ensure only the 4 Foot Pads contact the lake bottom. Clear any obstructions and sand away from under beams and rotating hinges.
6. Lower lift to the lowest position.
7. Float, (**DO NOT DRIVE**), your boat on at this time. **DO NOT RAISE THE LIFT YET.** Check for potential interference.
8. Raise the lift until the bunks just contact the hull bottom. **STOP.** Check for clearance one more time.

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9. If all is clear between the hull and lift bunks, raise lift 6” more. **WAIT**. In softer areas lift feet may settle into lake bottom, causing tilt situation. Lower lift, remove boat and repeat step 5 thru 9 until lift is on solid footing. Relocate lift unit or shore up soft areas with sand, gravel or plywood sheets.
10. When satisfied with footings, raise lift in 6” increments. **STOP**, check level and continue. **BE PREPARED** to lower lift immediately should footings become unstable.
11. Adjust Flow Control Valve (located on the pump next to the top screw connector). On the 3800# model two flow control valves are used to regulate the ascent and decent of the lift. On all other models only one flow control is used and it regulates the decent. Too open and the boat lowers to fast causing stress on the frame during abrupt stops. Too shut, and undue stress on the battery is encountered. Ideally, your boat will lower at the same ‘rate’ as it rises. This should be about 1.5 turns open (turn clockwise until totally shut – then counter clockwise 1.5 turns). Heavier boats will require this valve closed more, and lighter boats will work better with this valve more open. If boat lift is hopping or chattering tighten flow control (s) and repeat above process. This will generally happen when the fluid becomes very warm due to sunlight or rapid use.



12. Use caution operating your lift during low battery voltage conditions. Although the safe 12 DC motor can survive lower voltage conditions the starter solenoid for this motor requires the full 12 volts to energize the magnetic switch to ‘clamp’ the contacts without arcing.

## Troubleshooting:

- 1) Lift won't elevate:
  - a) Check battery condition – Even new batteries could be low.
  - b) Check hose connection, page 6. Partial connection of one hose will cause the hoses to 'jump' when activated.
  
- 2) Lift will elevate but won't lower:
  - a) Flow Control Valve may be shut. Open 1.5 turns initially, then open or close to control 'rate' of decent. Refer to page 5 and step 11.
  
- 3) Battery life seems to be short:
  - a) Several factors enter this equation:
    - i) Boat weight, including fuel, and gear: heavier load = fewer cycles.
    - ii) Flow Control too closed: Refer to page 6 step 11
    - iii) Cooler ambient temperatures: fluid is thicker, requiring more amperage.
    - iv) Battery may not be charging fully due to faulty charger or bad cell in the battery itself. Even new batteries have been found with bad cells.
  - b) After exploring the above avenues without satisfaction, contact your dealer for an optional Solar Panel to keep battery at its peak condition.
  - c) Use caution operating your lift during low battery voltage conditions. Although the safe 12 DC motor can survive lower voltage conditions the starter solenoid for this motor requires the full 12 volts to energize the magnetic switch to 'clamp' the contacts without arcing.
  
- 4) Fluid appears to be low:
  - a) Units are shipped with more of the fluid in the cylinders than the tank. Your lift should arrive with about ½ of the reservoir filled with fluid. As the lift elevates, more fluid is pumped into the tank than the cylinder. Conversely, as lift lowers, more fluid is pumped into the cylinders than the tank. With the lift in the lowest position the reservoir should be half full.
  - b) Should you have a spill, don't worry, Hydro Max 2 series lifts are filled with biodegradable hydraulic oil. Wipe up as required and contact your dealer for replacement oil.
  
- 5) Lift rises a few feet, then stops, motor runs at a higher pitch:
  - a) Check fluid level in the reservoir, the pump requires some amount of fluid to pump into the cylinders to raise the boat. No damage to the system will occur due to this event. HL series lifts are filled with biodegradable hydraulic oil. Contact your dealer for replacement oil.

### **Annual Maintenance and Winterization Instructions:**

Should you have the good fortune to be in the position to require your lift to be removed from the lake annually, below are a few guidelines to ensure many years of safe, trouble free operation.

1. When removing lift from the lake, **DO NOT DRAG PADS ON LAKE BOTTOM.** Hidden debris can obstruct feet and bend legs. Soft sand and morrow bottoms will restrict forward movement causing stress on frame. Float lift using inner tubes, float drums, or paddle boats using the power of the double acting cylinders to lift feet off the lake bottom. **USE CAUTION NOT TO CRUSH FLOATION DEVICES WITH THE POWER OF THE CYLINDERS / OR CAUSE FRAME DAMAGE.**
2. After the lift is on shore, inspect all hoses for any signs of wear.
3. Inspect all bolts and nuts. Tighten if necessary.
4. Inspect frame components for excessive wear. Disconnect battery, check fluid level, and charge before storing. Store pump indoors if possible.