

HOW TO BOLT GUARD RAIL CLAMPS

As many of you have probably discovered, attaching guardrails to a diving stand is a somewhat difficult (sometimes frustrating) process. We hope the following information helps you to do this job with a little less difficulty.

The design of the rail clamps requires a short bolt so as to be able to tighten the bolt enough so that it does not loosen later. The bolts must NOT bottom out on the guardrail tubing before it is completely tight. If the bolt bottoms out on the guardrail tubing, you may think it is tight but it is not tight and during the use of the diving board the bolt will work itself loose and eventually fall out.

It is difficult to get the correct length bolt started because the round rail clamp must first be pulled into the support arm socket by a longer bolt so as to reach the first threads of the clamp (pulling the clamp into an eccentric oval). Once the rail clamp has been pulled into the oval shape, the long bolt can be replaced with the shorter (correct size) bolt and tightened without bottoming out the guardrail tubing.

Different length bolts are provided for areas of the castings that vary in thickness. In general, the 5/16 x 3/4 bolts are the correct length for final tightening. Exceptions are: the top 8 clamps for DOUBLE GUARD RAILS supports (correct length is 5/16 and 3/4"). The 5/16 and 1/2 are the correct length where casting parts are thin.

TIPS: Use a taper punch to line up the holes of the clamp and the rail support casting. The final tightening of all rail clamp bolts may be compared to tightening the lug nuts on a car's wheel: do so in a sequence that EQUALIZES the stresses over the whole side (not simply front to back).