

Changing the bearings on your top-loading kinetic sculpture



You will need a penny or small coin (1/32" thick) and open-end wrenches (two 9/16", 5/8", and 1/2"), as shown in the image to left.



Remove your sculpture from its pole and place it upside-down on a flat surface. To protect this sculpture's blades, we've laid it (Counter-Revolving Iris Medium) on a sheet of white foam.



Use one of the two 9/16" wrenches on the top middle nut to keep them in place while you use the 1/2" wrench to loosen the long connector nut at the base of the sculpture.



Once this connector nut has been removed, your thread rod will be exposed as shown in the picture at left, with the top of the bearing visible.



Slide the bearing up and off of the thread rod.



Carefully set aside this portion of the sculpture.



Now you will see the two nuts which are locked snug just over halfway up from the middle bearing, shown at the left.



Use two 9/16" wrenches to untwist the two nuts. To do this, you will apply pressure to each nut from opposing directions. Remove these two nuts and set them aside.



Now your second bearing is visible and will easily slide off the thread rod, allowing you to slip on a new bearing. After the new bearing is in place, replace the two nuts almost but not quite halfway down the length of your thread rod, leaving them loose until you're sure they're resting at the right spot on the pole.



Slip over the bottom half of your sculpture until it rests on the lip of the bearing and the two lower nuts below the bearing.



You want this part of the sculpture to fit over the two nuts completely; if they're still visible, as shown in the near left picture, you will need to go back and adjust the two nuts farther down on the thread rod; if the inverse is true, and your sculpture is covering the two nuts too much, you will need to adjust the two nuts farther up on the thread rod.



You can tell whether the distance is correct once you slip the bearing over the thread rod, down to the base of this layer of sculpture. If correct, a penny will fit between the lip of the bearing and the stainless opening of the sculpture.



Once you're sure the distance between the bearing and sculpture opening is correct, it's time to tighten the two nuts back into place with your two 9/16" wrenches. Slide the sculpture back onto the thread rod, over the two nuts; slide the new bearing over this.



Replace your long connector nut by twisting it onto the thread rod with your fingers at first, then with the 9/16" wrench, until the connector nut is all the way down the rod and touching the bearing. Now you can flip over your sculpture.



Now upright, it's time to change the bearing at the top of the sculpture, which you can access by removing the top rounded or "acorn" nut. As before, brace the sculpture and keep it steady with your 9/16" wrench on the top middle nut while you unscrew the top acorn nut.



The top of the thread rod will be exposed, along with the lip of the bearing, shown to left.



After you've switched out your old bearing for the new one, replace your acorn nut and twist it down with your fingers.

Complete the tightening process with one of your 9/16" wrenches until the acorn nut is snug on the thread rod, shown in inset photo to left. Now you can place the sculpture back onto the pole.