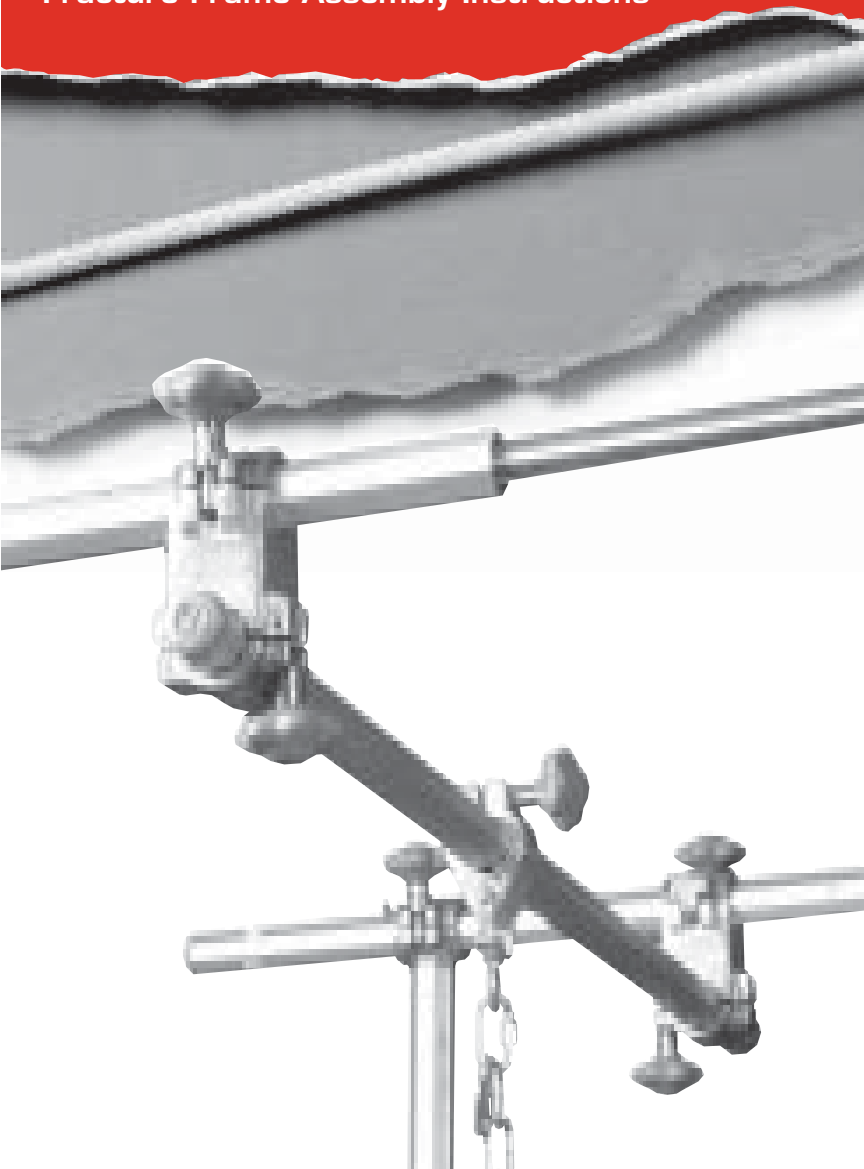


ZIMMER

TRACTION ASSEMBLY GUIDE

Fracture Frame Assembly Instructions



Fracture Frame Assembly Instructions:

Assembling a Balkan Frame

Even if you've never put up an overhead traction frame in your life, you will understand and be able to accomplish this task after reviewing this guide.

Always remember that another tool available for traction help is the *Zimmer Traction Handbook*. Everything you need to know about traction is in the Traction Handbook. (97-2000-777.)



A Balkan Frame, or 4-Poster Frame, is required when a patient has a weight of over 250 pounds. A Balkan Frame may also be needed when using any type of overhead suspension following surgery.

STEP 1

Determine the manufacturer and model number of the bed that requires the traction frame. This is important since the components used for the traction frame must accommodate the dimensions of the bed. You can find information regarding hospital bed models in the back of the *Traction Handbook*.

STEP 2—IV POST SET UP

IV posts are the foundation of a traction frame set-up. IV posts are placed in the IV post-hole located at each corner of the bed. These posts have particular lengths and diameters. The diameter of the chosen IV post should fit snugly inside the IV post-hole.

NOTE: Be sure there is no material inside the IV post hole that might cause the IV post to wobble and not fit snugly inside the post hole.



Angled IV posts vs. Straight IV posts—

Angled IV posts are typically used at the foot end of the bed. They are designed to position the frame above the electronic panel located in the footboard. This configuration is typical on the Hill-Rom®* Advance series beds.



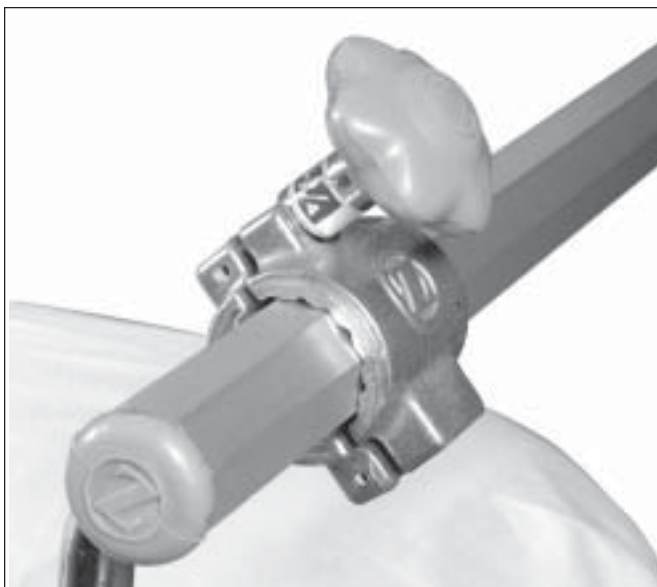
* Trademark of Hillenbrand Industries

STEP 3—HORIZONTAL PLAIN BAR

The horizontal plain bar is eight-sided, aluminum and is available in various lengths. This bar is used to bridge the two IV posts at the head and foot end of the bed. An octagonal bar allows the traction clamps to “grip” the bar and prevent the bar from turning due to the weight hanging from it.



NOTE: Octagonal horizontal bars should be positioned with the flat side facing up. On vertical bars, the flat side should face out. This prevents the edge or peak from being crushed in the clamp, thus reducing the grip strength of the bar.



Important! Loading the Frame: It is important to “load” the frame to the bed by securing the horizontal bar within the vertical IV posts. This is accomplished by closing the IV clamp on one of the IV posts without over-tightening it. Grasp the opposite vertical IV post and exert a longitudinal pull. Maintain this pull while tightening the opposite IV clamp.



STEP 4—POSITIONING THE OFFSET BAR

Offset bars are always positioned at the head end of the bed to accommodate the light fixtures and other equipment located on the wall. The offset bar allows the bed to be raised and lowered without damaging wall fixtures.

NOTE: The swivel clamp of this offset bar should be positioned at the top. The fixed clamp of the offset bar is positioned at the end of the horizontal plain bar connecting the IV posts, and to the outside of the clamp on the IV post.



STEP 5—ATTACH SWIVEL CLAMP BARS

Swivel clamp bars, which are straight bars with a swivel clamp on one end, are positioned at the foot end of the bed. They are attached to the horizontal plain bar by the use of a cross clamp.



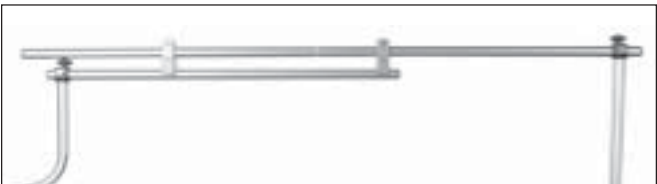
A cross clamp is attached to the horizontal plain bar located at the foot of the bed. The cross clamp is attached on the outside of the clamp on the IV posts.



STEP 6—ATTACH OVERHEAD BARS

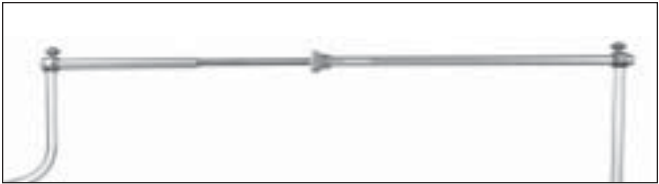
Overhead bars run the length of the bed from head to foot. These bars can be shortened or lengthened as the bed retracts. Overhead bars are available in three styles:

Smooth-Trac® Adjustable Overhead bar—Used in conjunction with retractable beds. This type of bar incorporates two single, aluminum bars that ride on rollers. These bars are available in 88" and 101" lengths.

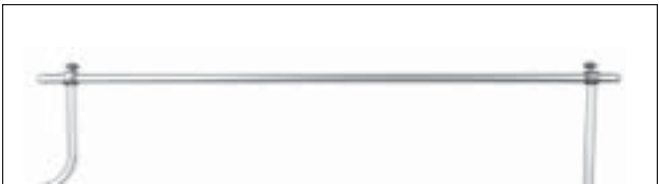


Telescoping overhead bar – Used in conjunction with retractable beds. This type of bar is a single bar that telescopes in on itself. The inner bar is a solid stainless steel bar that provides additional support for hanging traction. The shorter section of the telescoping bar is always positioned at the head of the bed.

NOTE: Never attach the trapeze to the round inner rod upon which the telescoping section travels.



Rigid Overhead Plain bars – These bars are used in conjunction with non-retractable beds. These bars are hollow aluminum with eight sides that do not lengthen or shorten upon movement of the bed.



NOTE: The ends of the overhead bars are flush with the clamp on the upright bars at the head and foot end of the bed. Be sure that the pulleys on the overhead bars are in a vertical position.

The telescoping bar, or inner bar, is always positioned at the head end of the bed. The bar is reinforced at this end to provide more strength to hanging traction. It also shortens the lever arm between the two upright bars.



CAUTION: Do not rotate the bar so that the short end of the telescoping bar is at the foot end of the bed. The bar is not reinforced in the longer section of the bar and may become damaged.

Use caution when positioning overhead bars during assembly. The bars “telescope” easily and could cause injury if not assembled correctly.

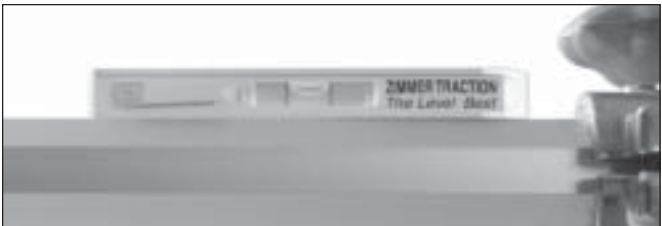
NOTE: When using an offset bar at the head end of the bed, it is recommended that a “short” telescoping bar is used overhead. A short bar extends to maximum length of 88 inches. A longer bar may not telescope correctly when used with an offset bar.

STEP 7—ATTACH CURVED DOUBLE CLAMP BAR

The curved double clamp bar is designed to add support to the frame at the foot end of the bed. The bar is positioned between the overhead bar and the swivel clamp bar at the foot of the bed.



LEVELING THE FRAME—Check the frame to determine if the components are level. By tightening a frame that is not level, you could create a situation that causes undue stress on the clamps and prevent the overhead bar from telescoping smoothly.



STEP 8—ATTACH OVERHEAD HORIZONTAL BAR

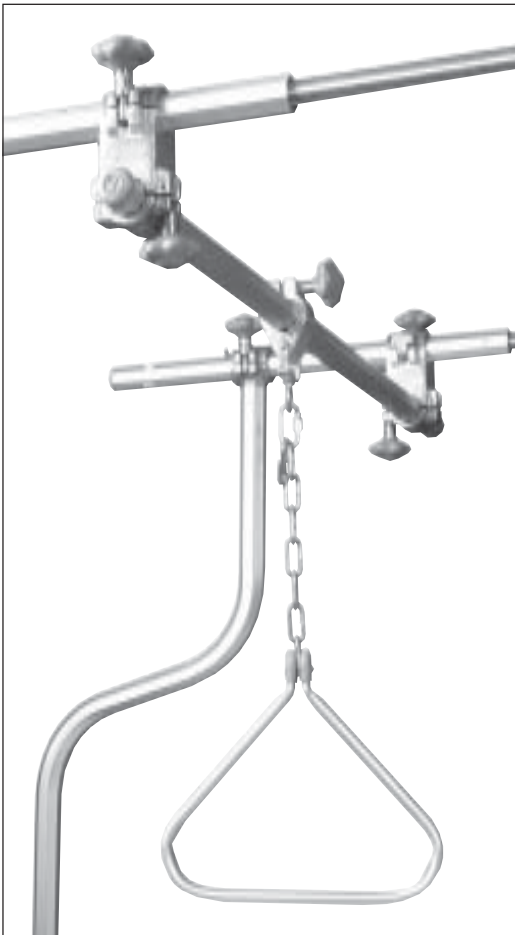
Complete the frame by attaching overhead horizontal plain bars between the two overhead bars. One bar is positioned above the head of the bed and a second above the patient's knee area. This is accomplished with the use cross clamps. The cross clamp is positioned on the overhead bar with the knob of the clamp towards the top and the clamp handing down. This allows the overhead bar to be the highest point on the frame and allows for easier transport of the bed.



NOTE: Position the horizontal bar between the two clamps leaving approximately one inch of the horizontal bar extending beyond the clamp. This helps accommodate side traction set-ups.



POSITIONING THE TRAPEZE—Traditional set-ups have shown the patient trapeze positioned at the head of the bed in the center of the overhead horizontal bar. In cases where the bed does not feature a button to raise or lower the head, this works fine. However, a more useful position for helping a patient in and out of bed, would be to position the trapeze on the far side of the overhead bar. This keeps the trapeze out of the patient’s way while lying in bed and helps the practitioner move the patient in and out of bed in an easier manner.



CLEANING THE FRAME—Bars should be wiped down with a mild disinfectant. Moving parts should be lubricated periodically to prevent striping of the clamps.

This traction assembly guide is only part of a total Zimmer commitment to provide a complete educational program. Zimmer also has a complete educational video series, which covers all of the basics of traction including nursing care. This video series is available through your Zimmer representative who has acquired a thorough knowledge of traction systems from years of experience in supplying hospitals with the latest and best equipment possible.



