

# North Star™ PortaRoller

## Assembly & Operating Instructions

### Contents:

Carton 1: Pre-assembled Porta Roller, 18" x 24" Canvas Sheet (2), Spare Parts Package (1), Warranty Card (1)  
Carton 2: Table Topper (2), Crank Handle (1)

### Assembly:

1. Remove the PortaRoller from the carton and set it, with the bottom facing down, on a clean, dry, smooth surface. The gear cover (showing the North Star logo) should be facing away from you and the crank shaft should be facing toward you.
2. Find the canvas sheets and remove them from the carton. Save the carton and packing materials.
3. Open the other carton and remove the Table Toppers. Save this carton and packing materials.
4. Find the crank handle under one of the Table Toppers. Pull it from the storage clips.
5. Turn the star knob, counter-clockwise, several turns then slide the crank handle onto the crank shaft. **BE SURE THE TWO NOTCHES IN THE END OF THE CRANK HANDLE SLIDE OVER THE PINS THAT PROTRUDE FROM THE SIDE OF THE CRANK SHAFT.**
6. Hold the crank handle in place with one hand and turn the star knob, clockwise, with the other hand. **DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN THE STAR KNOB.**
7. Turn the crank handle one full turn to be sure that it turns freely without interference from the table edge. Remove the spacer sheet that was between the rollers and discard it.
8. Pick up one of the Table Toppers and notice that a notch has been cut in each of the support rails. Install the Table Topper on the PortaRoller by aligning the notches over one of the crossbars that runs the width of the roller. The Table Toppers are interchangeable and can be located on either side. After the notches are properly aligned over the bar, press down firmly to seat the Table Topper on the crossbar.
9. Repeat Step 8 for the other Table Topper.

**Your PortaRoller is now ready for use. Thoroughly read the Operating Instructions before using the PortaRoller for the first time.**

**Be sure to fill out the online warranty form at [www.NorthStarEquipment.com](http://www.NorthStarEquipment.com)**

Your warranty is not in effect until the form has been received by North Star.

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## **Disassembly:**

1. The Table Toppers were designed to fit very snugly over the roller's crossbars. To remove one Table Topper, hold the roller down with one hand and pry up a corner of the Table Topper, just above the crossbar, with the other hand. Reach across and lift the other corner. Repeat until the Table Topper is free from the crossbar.
2. Repeat Step 1 for the other Table Topper.
3. Put the two Table Toppers together with the top surfaces facing inward. Wrap the Velcro® strap around the handle openings to hold the Table Toppers in place.
4. Loosen the star knob on the crank handle and remove the crank handle from the crank shaft.
5. Press the crank handle into the storage clips under the Table Topper.

**Your PortaRoller is now ready to be carried or stored. Grasp the roller by the foam grip on the crossbar and carry the Table Toppers by the handle holes.**

**Helpful Hint: You may also find it convenient to carry your canvas sheets between the rollers. Roll up the sheets or fold them several times then turn the star knobs to widen the gap between the rollers. Place the canvas between the rollers then lower the top roller until it holds the canvas sheets snugly.**

## **Operating The PortaRoller:**

1. FOR BEST PERFORMANCE, USE SOFT CLAY!
2. Shape the clay with your hands into a loaf approximately four times the thickness of the slab you plan to make.
3. Use the large star knobs and needle guides to set the initial gap between the rollers about ¼" narrower than the thickness of your loaf of clay.
4. Match up both sheets of canvas and feed approximately five inches through the rollers.
5. Lift the upper sheet of canvas from the back edge and lay it over the roller. Lay the clay loaf on the lower sheet snugly against the top canvas sheet. Drape the top sheet back over the clay.
6. Begin turning the crank handle toward you while pressing lightly on the clay. The clay and canvas should start moving through the rollers. If not, continue cranking while exerting more pressure on the clay. **DO NOT PULL ON THE CANVAS SHEET FROM THE OTHER SIDE.**
7. Once the clay and canvas start moving through the rollers, continue cranking until the canvas stops.
8. Use the knobs and needles to narrow the gap between the rollers another ½" then roll the clay back through the rollers in the opposite direction.
9. Lift the canvas, inspect the clay and, if you need a rounder shape, turn the clay 90° on the canvas before narrowing the gap again and sending the clay back through. Repeat steps 8 and 9 until you achieve the desired shape and thickness.