

Tips on How to Replace Guide Blocks...

Q. What is a guide block?

A. A guide block is the part that keeps the aluminum telescope sections from riding on a “metal-to-metal” surface. They are made of UHMW (ultra-high molecular weight) plastic.

Q. Where are they?

A. Male guide blocks are bolted to the inner end of the top extrusion of the telescope sections, if they ride inside another extrusion.

Female guide blocks are retained inside the outer end of the top extrusions, if there is another extrusion inside. You’ll understand all this when you see the photos in this bulletin.

Q. How many guide blocks are there?

A. The TB-80 and TB-105 each have two pairs of male and two pairs of female guide blocks. The TB-130 has three pairs of male and female guide blocks. The TB-105 and TB-130 truss “A Arm” sections also have rocker arm guide blocks and other slide and guide pads.

Q. How often do you have to replace guide blocks?

A. It really depends on how clean the rails are kept and how well they are lubricated. Normally, two years is a good rule of thumb. Owners replace them more often if wear is causing a

lot of side play when swinging the boom.

Q. What do I have to be careful about when replacing guide blocks?

A. There are literally hundreds of pinch points in the telescopic boom sections. DO NOT stick body parts or tools into the boom sections without disabling the hydraulic system first.

Q. How long does it take to do the replacement?

A. About ten minutes per block. Just follow the step by step process in this bulletin to discover tips on how to do this more efficiently.

1 Female



First, find something strong to rest the end of the boom on or you could damage it. A strong saw horse or a 55 gallon drum and some wooden blocks usually are sufficient. Position the “rest” so the scraper and bottom rollers are not on it. Throughout this replacement process, lubricate the female channels wherever the guide blocks contact the aluminum.

2 Female



The **female** guide blocks are located on the outer end of
... the A and B arms of the TB-80.
... the B and C arms of the TB-105.
... the B, C, and D arms of the TB-130.

The block is retained by a U-shaped, steel retainer held in place by four bolts.



Telebelt® Tricks of the Trade Continued...

Guide Block Replacement

3 Female



Only replace one guide block at a time. Remove the four bolts from the retainer. Apply enough down pressure on the saw horse to slightly lift the boom section in the guide block. When the guide block is loose, you can reach behind the retainer and knock the retainer and guide block out with a punch.

4 Female



Sometimes, this little trick will work ... when the retainer and guide block have been pushed out a little ways, clamp them with a C-clamp. You can then proceed to step five.

5 Female



Telescope the boom out and let the clamp pull the guide block and retainer out.

6 Female



Remove the retainer and guide block.

7 Female



To reinsert a new female block and retainer back into their pocket, it will be necessary to adjust the down pressure on the boom tip to slide them in.

Tap the slide and retainer into position or wedge a block to the next section. Then, push the block and retainer back into place with the telescope function.

8 Female



If you need to move a section to the side in order to insert a block, a C-clamp works well for moving and holding the section in the desired position.

9 Male



Now on to **male** guide blocks. These are bolted to

- ... the heel of the B and C arms of the TB-80.
- ... the heel of the C and D arms of the TB-105.
- ... the heel of the C, D and E arms of the TB-130.

The bolts go through the blocks and the rail, and then thread into a steel block that is slid into the rail extrusion. The bolts are removed by telescoping the boom until the bolt heads line up with the access holes on the section they are nested in.

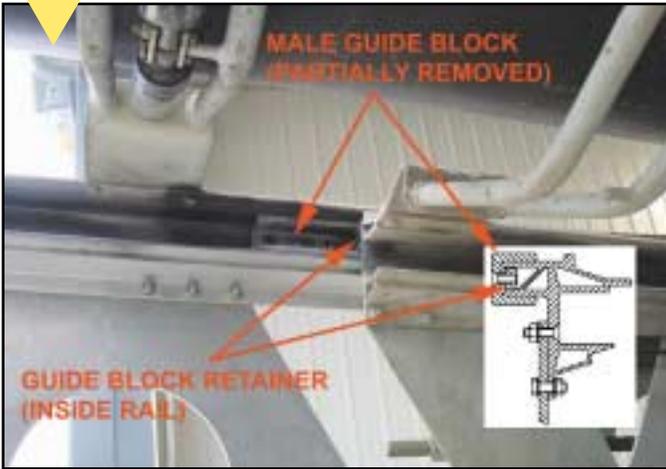
10 Male



TB-105 male guide blocks have four mounting holes while the TB-80 and TB-130 have five. There are only three access holes on the TB-80 B arm, so you have to remove three bolts, then telescope the boom to get to the other two. All other access points have the equal corresponding number of holes.



11 Male



During the process of replacing guide blocks, it is a good time to make sure all rail surfaces are CLEAN and LUBRICATED. Lubricate the male channels wherever the guide blocks contact the aluminum.

12 Male



To remove the male guide blocks, remove the retainer bolts. Apply down pressure on the tip of the boom until the guide block is loose. Tap the guide block out with a punch. The retainer can remain in the rail, just don't let it slide out of reach. If you want to make sure it doesn't get away from you, use a piece of wire with a hook bent at the end to hold the retainer in place.

13 Male



A flat wall tie makes a suitable punch for working with the male guide blocks. Use down pressure to center the rail when inserting the new slides. Use a C-clamp to pull the rails sideways, if needed. DO NOT overtighten the retainer bolts. They will firm up when the head is recessed about 1/8" into the plastic. This is sufficient.

14 Rocker Arm



Replacement of TB-105 and TB-130 **rocker arm guide blocks** is fairly straightforward. Fully retract the boom so the aluminum sections are resting on the bottom slides. Remove the cotter key and pin (arrow) and slide the assembly out of position. Replace the guide block and reinstall the assembly.



Questions? Call the Putzmeister Service and Support Department for assistance.

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