

Pecan Cracker



Instruction Manual

(Please Read Before Operating The Machine)



Congratulations

Thank you for purchasing your new, hand built, pecan, peanut, almond & English walnut cracker. Many hours have been spent building your machine. Our hope is that you will be delighted with our product & that it will bring you many years of service.

Questions or comments on your order? Call us at 855-743-5537.

Need tech help with your cracker? Call us at (252) 230-0224.

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Safety Is No Accident

1. Safety glasses should be worn when operating this machine.
2. Do not allow foreign materials such as rocks & sticks to fall in the machine while running. This could cause damage to the rotor & cage assembly.
3. This machine is for cracking pecans, peanuts, almonds and English walnuts. It is **NOT** designed to crack any other kind of nuts, especially **Black Walnuts.**
4. This machine is electrically powered & should not be operated in wet conditions.
5. Keep small children away from the machine when in operation.



6. Do not operate the machine with guards missing.
7. Many states have made regulations requiring pecans to be boiled prior to cracking. Test the GFCI receptacle periodically to make sure you're protected against shock.



8. This sign is to warn the operator to keep hands clear of the cracking chamber while in operation. If cleaning & servicing is needed remember to unplug the cracker first before placing hands inside the chamber.



9. This switch, located on the cracker, not only turns the machine on & off but also detects a motor overload & shuts the power off in case of a major jam up. In case of a jam up this switch will trip & will need to be reset to clear the jam. Allow the unit to cool for a minute, and then firmly press the switch down to reset.



Setting Up The Feeder & Cracker

1. Set up the machine in an outside area on level ground in dry conditions.



2. Roll the cracker in place and align the hopper feeder chute with the funnel on the cracker.

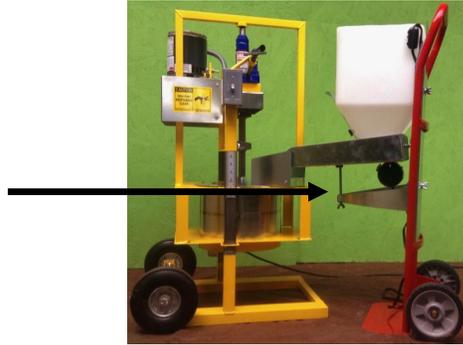


3. Plug the hopper into the GFCI receptacle on the cracker. Place a tote under the cracker to catch the pecans.



Feeder Controls

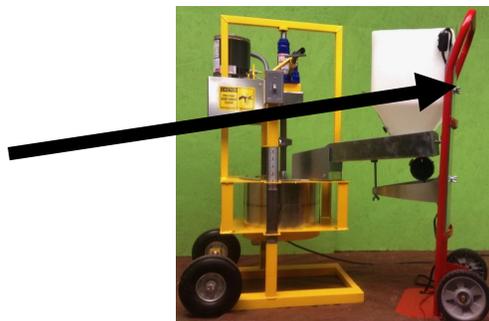
1. This adjusts the hopper feeder chute up & down.



2. The hopper feeder door can be adjusted to control flow.



3. This is to adjust the height of the hopper for easier loading.



Cracker Controls

1. **This handle** lifts the cracker cage to increase the gap for large pecans.



2. **This handle**, when turned counter clock wise, lowers the cracker cage for smaller pecans. It must be turned clockwise to stop lowering the cage. Be careful not to over tighten. This could damage the jack.

3. This sight gauge is used as a reference. If the cage is moved, use this gauge to bring the cage back to the original set point.



4. This switch, located on the cracker, not only turns the machine on & off but also detects a motor overload & shuts the power off in case of a major jam up. In case of a jam up this switch will trip & will need to be reset. First unplug the machine then jack up the cage to clear the jam. Allow the unit to cool for a minute, & then firmly press the switch down to reset



The Cracking Operation

1. Set up the machine according to the instructions in the setup section of this manual.
2. Make sure the hopper feeder door is all the way down.
3. Load the hopper with pecans.
4. Jack up the cracker cage to a setting that you think is a good start. (*As the cage is jacked up the gap inside the cracking chamber increases*).
5. Make sure the tote is under the cracker.
6. Turn on the cracker. (***The cracker should always be started with no pecans in the cracking chamber. At initial startup of the cracker the motor draws a high level of current. If pecans are in the chamber at start up, the branch circuit breaker or fuse could trip or blow.***)
7. With the cracker running, drop a few pecans in the funnel & allow the cracker a minute or so to crack.
8. When all material is free of cage and rotor, cut it off.
9. With the cracker off, remove the tote & inspect the pecans. The tote should not be removed at any time while the cracker is running.
10. If the pecans are not cracked, or are not cracked enough then lower the cage. If they are crushed then jack up the cage. You can use the sight gauge as a reference. This process may need to be repeated a few times to achieve the desired results.
11. Turn the hopper feeder on.

Maintaining Your Machine

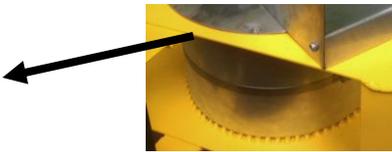


The cracking chamber was designed for easy cleaning. Cleaning of the cracking chamber as well as the hopper feeder & chute should be done at the end of each cracking session for sanitary purposes.

1. Unplug the cracker before cleaning.
2. Jack up the cage to the fullest extent & blow out all the debris that may be trapped inside the rotor & cage. *Note the holes in the bottom of the rotor for easy cleaning.*
3. The rotor & cage is made of mild steel that will rust if left out in moist or wet conditions. We recommend that food grade oil be sprayed on the rotor & cage.



4. The **bearings** will need a shot of grease from time to time depending upon use.



5. The **metal band** around the center of the cage should be removed for a more thorough cleaning.

Jam Ups

If the Cracker is running & a jam up occurs:

1. Stop the Hopper Feeder and look at the gauge on the cracker. Take note of the set point position.
2. Jack up the cage until the motor starts to turn the rotor & clears the jam.
3. Lower the cage to the original set point on the gauge.
4. Turn the hopper feeder back on & continue cracking.

Storage

1. Clean the cracking chamber & spray with food grade oil.
2. Lower the cage all the way down. This will keep the jackshaft from rusting & damaging the seals later.
3. Store the machine in a dry area.

Ways to add moisture to pecans

1. Soak pecans in containers overnight. Pour water off and allow pecans to dry. After outside hull is dry you can begin cracking.
2. Put pecans in burlap bags. Wet pecans and bag. Lay bags of wet pecans on the ground. Cover them with tarp to keep wind from drying them out. Remove tarp after 1-2 days and pecans should be ready to crack.
3. Freeze pecans in freezer. Allow pecans to thaw out between 4-6 hours. Then crack pecans.
4. Boiling-steaming pecans

Example: Take a turkey fryer and fill pot half full of water. Turn on burner and allow water to come to a boil. After water is boiling place colander/basket of pecans in pot and place lid on top. Allow pecans to boil 5-7 minutes, depending on moisture content. (DO NOT OVERCOOK) Pour pecans out and let outside hull dry. Then start cracking.

Note: When you add moisture to pecans, after they are cracked and shelled, allow them to air dry very well before placing them in plastic bags.