

Lewis:

I purchased a digital readout device for my DeWalt 735 planer in December of 2020. I had problems with the installation instructions and called you for some replacement adhesive pads. Thanks for the new adhesive pads, and I promised to send you some ideas to improve the assembly instructions.

Before I state my ideas to improve the instructions, I would like to say that the DRO is an impressive addition to the 735 and simplifies the planer's operation.

Below is the first page of the instructions, and this page needs some modifications:

Step 1: Remove the red cursor and install the mounting bracket in the same taps using the bracket, double washer and 4mm screws. Leave the bracket screws loose for now.



Step 2: Install side lever on DRO then attach the assembled unit on the DeWalt yellow rule, as shown below using VHB tape and spacers. The sheet metal back should align with left edge of the yellow rule. The bottom cap screw should be about 1/4 inch below the 0 mark on the rule.



Before I provide some suggestions to improve the instructions, I must state some needed assembly steps:

1. Since the DRO is mechanically attached to the DeWalt six-inch vertical scale, these two parts must be vertically parallel when installed on the planer.
2. The two adhesive pads' specific location is essential for the DRO to function correctly and provide the needed six inches of planning height.
3. The attachment points to connect the DRO (and adhesive pads) on the DeWalt yellow scale are critical to achieving the needed six inches of planning height.

These three items are relatively easy to resolve with some modifications to the assembly instructions, and here are my suggestions.

Step 1 of the current instruction is good as written. But the next step should be to remove the machine's DeWalt six-inch scale. To do this:

- Remove the Allen cap screw that attaches the scale to the top of the threaded post using a 4 mm wrench and note the indented area on the plastic post cover (for reassembly).
- Remove the two screws located at the bottom of the DeWalt scale with a Phillips screwdriver.

My next step was to place the DeWalt scale on a flat smooth surface (the planer's infeed table is ideal for this activity). Here is a photo that illustrates this concept. Note that the image also shows the hardware I removed.



The next step is to place the adhesive pads on the DeWalt scale properly. A word of caution: clean the six-inch scale's surface with alcohol and a soft cloth to remove any oil or contamination before the adhesive pads are attached to the scale! Remove the backing from an adhesive pad, press the pad onto the scale with the pad's upper edge aligned with the yellow scale's top, as shown in the photo below. Next, remove the backing from the other adhesive pad and press this onto the six-inch scale with the bottom aligned with the "0" on the six-inch scale. Your assembly should look like this photo.



Before the next step, separate the DRO from its sheet metal backplate by removing the two screws with an Allen and 8mm combination wrench.

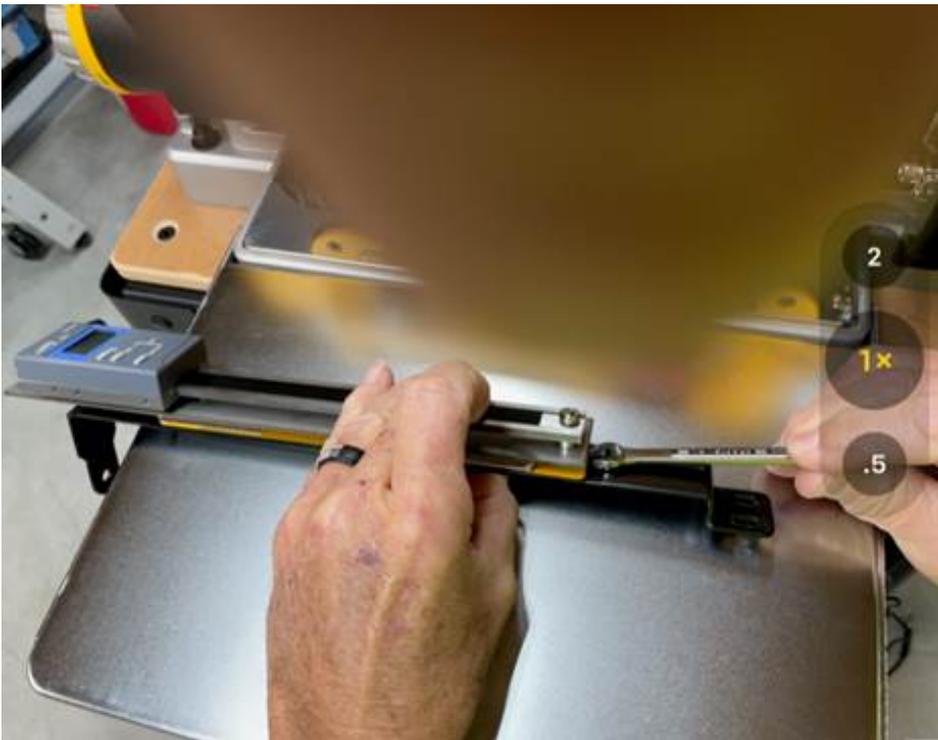
Then assemble the DRO backplate onto the six-inch scale located on the infeed table. Another word of caution: clean the back surface of the DRO with alcohol and a soft cloth to remove any oil or contamination before attaching the adhesive pads to the scale! Next, allow the edge of the DRO backplate to rest on the table as shown in the photo, which aligns the backplate and DeWalt scale.



Gently **slide** the DRO backplate onto the six-inch scale and note the **two parts' needed alignment**, as shown in the photo below. The lower edge (right-hand side in the picture) of the backplate should be aligned with the bottom edge of the DeWalt yellow six-inch scale as shown below:



Now you are ready to reassemble the DRO scale to the backplate. This part is straight forward with one exception. The lower screw and hex nut are not easily accessible when attaching the DRO onto the backplate. The assembly is best done with an 8 mm combination wrench or needle-nose pliers to hold the hex nut before tightening. Here is a photo:



The final step is to reinstall the DeWalt scale with the DRO assembly onto the planer.

I hope these ideas are useful to you!

Bob Lamb