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Building bridges to meet your needs
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BRIDGE HANDLING PROCEDURES

PRIOR TO INSTALLATION AND OPENING

1. Provide a level and uniform bearing surface at each end of the bridge.
2. Inspect the area between the double hinge plates to ensure it is free of mud or debris. Any foreign matter located between these plates will prevent the bridge from opening fully.
3. Ensure lower hinge pins are removed.

OPENING THE BRIDGE

1. Ensure the area to be occupied by the section being opened is completely clear of any obstructions, as well as personnel.
2. Place rigging around exterior stringer/towbar on the folded half (at either end), using a basket hitch (see attached photo). Nylon straps are ideal, although chains will also work. Approximately 3' of strap/chain above the stringer is required to maintain clearance between the machine and the guide rail as the bridge is folded open.
3. Swing the folded half open in a smooth, controlled manner. The rigging should slide/rotate as the section is unfolded.

COMPLETING THE INSTALLATION

1. Once unfolded, install the lower hinge pins. Install the pins starting on the side of the crossing opposite the equipment, and work back towards the machine. If the bridge is not sitting perfectly level, one section (half) may need to be raised/lowered to allow the hinges to align properly. This is accomplished by lifting (via rigging around the towbar) either an exterior (guide rail side) corner of the bridge, or the interior corner of the double hinge half. The lifting point is dependent upon the direction of movement required to effect proper hinge alignment.
2. Install center panels using the "T-handles" provided. The panels are interchangeable with the exception of the (two) panels located at each end of the bridge. These panels are easily identified by the centering pins (which are not present on any of the other panels).

SKIDDING THE BRIDGE

The bridge skids/drags best when it is in the open position. Regardless of whether the bridge is being skidded folded or open, care should be taken to ensure hinges and diaphragms are not damaged during the process.

REMOVAL

1. Remove mud/debris from deck surface.
2. Place tires on double hinge half in front of vertical guard post(s) at each end of the bridge for shock absorption.
3. Remove center panels and lay them out in the **CENTER** of the double hinge half. The end panels with the centering pins should be removed first and placed immediately “inboard” of the tires, with subsequent panels placed partially overlapping the previous panel (see attached diagram and photo). If the panels are too close to the guide rail or too close to the hinge, the bridge will not fold shut properly and damage to center panel, hinges, and decking may result.
4. Remove lower hinge pins and place in adjacent ring for storage during transport to prevent damage/loss.
5. Fold single hinge side shut by rigging bridge in the same manner as used to open the bridge.
6. Ensure the center panels are not contacting the deck surface or guide rail of the folded half. If they are, re-open the bridge and reposition the center panels to provide the required clearance, then re-fold the bridge.

RIGGING LOCATION FOR FOLDING BRIDGE OPEN/CLOSED





Center Panel Layout Schematic

