



## Bowducer Installation Instructions



**THANK YOU** for ordering our Bowducer assembly!  
If you need assistance or clarification during assembly, please give us a call at  
719-284-2220

## Table of Contents

Preface: Typical parts in a Bowducer Kit.....	3
Assorted Downrod Ends.....	3
Installation/Setup of Baseplates:.....	4
Installation of Sub Plates and Pedestals .....	4
Installation of Rail mounts .....	5
Movable pedestals.....	6
Baseplate accessory parts.....	6
Rubber Bumpers .....	7
Installation of Downrods.....	7
Handle Assemblies: all scanning sonars.....	8
Installation of the Transducers .....	9
General Instructions:.....	9
Connecting the transducer to the downrod ends.....	10
Lowrance Transducers .....	10
Lowrance LSS, TotalScan and Structure Scan & 3in1 .....	10
Lowrance Livesight.....	11
Lowrance Active Target.....	11
Fishing Specialties Alternative Active Target Transducer Mounting .....	12
Humminbird Transducers: .....	13
Humminbird XHS & XTM 9 HDSi series .....	13
Humminbird Mega Series .....	13
Garmin Transducers.....	14
Garmin GT2x, 4x, 5x, Series Transducers .....	14
Garmin Livescope.....	14
Dual Garmin Transducers.....	15
Fishing Specialties Garmin LVS32 Perspective Mounting .....	16
SPECIAL ACCESSORIES.....	17
Strain Relief Ring.....	17
Extra Downrod Cone .....	18
Downrod Extensions .....	18
Index Piece .....	18
Warranty .....	19
QUESTIONS/Assistance:.....	19

Preface: Typical parts in a Bowducer Kit



Baseplate Assembly



Index Piece (Si/Di only)

**Titelok Downrigger Bracket.**



**Excellent for Utility boats and gunnel top rail**

Clamping Mount Bracket



Subplate



Pedestals



Rail Mount brackets

**ONLY USE 2 Nylon THUMBSCREWS WITH ALL MOUNTING SYSTEMS!**

Downrod with cone assembly:

Solid or Telescoping

1" OD, 1.25 OD or 1.5 OD

Refer to your Transducer section in this manual for setup.



Assorted Downrod Ends (specific to your transducer):



Transducer to  
(Style may vary)



downrod adapter for your transducer  
depending on transducer)



## Installation/Setup of Baseplates:

### **Special note: Securing Bowducer to Sub plates, Pedestals, Mounting brackets, etc.**

The Bowducer is set up with a 4 hole pattern for **thumbscrews**. In actual use, 4 thumbscrews are too strong for the marine board baseplates (and not quite so “handy” for aluminum baseplates). **Instead of using all 4 mounting holes, USE ONLY 2 THUMBSCREWS DIAGONALLY from one another.** This lowers the holding strength of the thumbscrews to be below the strength of the marine board baseplates. It also allows the user to immediately remount the baseplate should the thumbscrews break away, as intended, when the downrod hits an underwater obstacle. The immediate replacement of the baseplate will keep you fishing until you get back and can deal with the broken stubs of the thumbscrews.

### **REMOVAL of Broken Thumbscrew Stubs**

Broken thumbscrew stubs are generally easy to remove however should one be somewhat stuck in the mounting, the easiest removal method is to heat the tip of a small screwdriver and melt a groove in the top of the stub. Once that cools, you should be able to turn out the thumbscrew using the screwdriver.

### **Positioning the Bowducer Assembly on the boat.**

When selecting the downrod location there are several things to consider:

1. Ensure that the downrod will be over the edge of the boat. Do not place it directly behind the trolling motor propwash as this may interfere with the sonar returns. Try to be at least 12 to 18 inches away from prop wash.
2. If you have scanning sonar (Livescope or Active Target) make sure that the handle will clear potential obstacles – fences on pontoons, displays, etc.
3. Check to be sure that the baseplate assembly will not cause interference with stowage of trolling motor or other items.
4. It is recommended to dry fit the assembly to the boat to make sure that everything clears nicely!

## Installation of Sub Plates and Pedestals:

1. Pre-assemble the baseplate and mounting system (sub plate, pedestal, bracket, etc.). Use 2 thumbscrews to hold the 2 parts together. Place the downrod into the baseplate cup and hold it in the cup with the top latch.
2. Place the completed assembly on the boat at your desired location.

3. Ensure that the downrod clears the rub rail of the boat and that the downrod will be in a good location for use.
4. Outline the mounting location for sub plate/pedestals with masking tape.
5. Utilize the mounting plates as a drill guide (pedestal users see below) and secure these items to the boat.

#### Installation of Rail mounts (Tracker/Lund):

Rail mounted Bowducer assemblies use appropriate hardware/plates to secure to the rail of your boats. Installation is generally very straightforward with the bracket mounting to the rail and the Baseplate assembly mounting atop the brackets with nylon thumbscrews.

**Do NOT** replace the nylon thumbscrews with stainless screws. The nylon is a strain relief point and will prevent damage to your baseplate and downrods.

#### Pedestals:

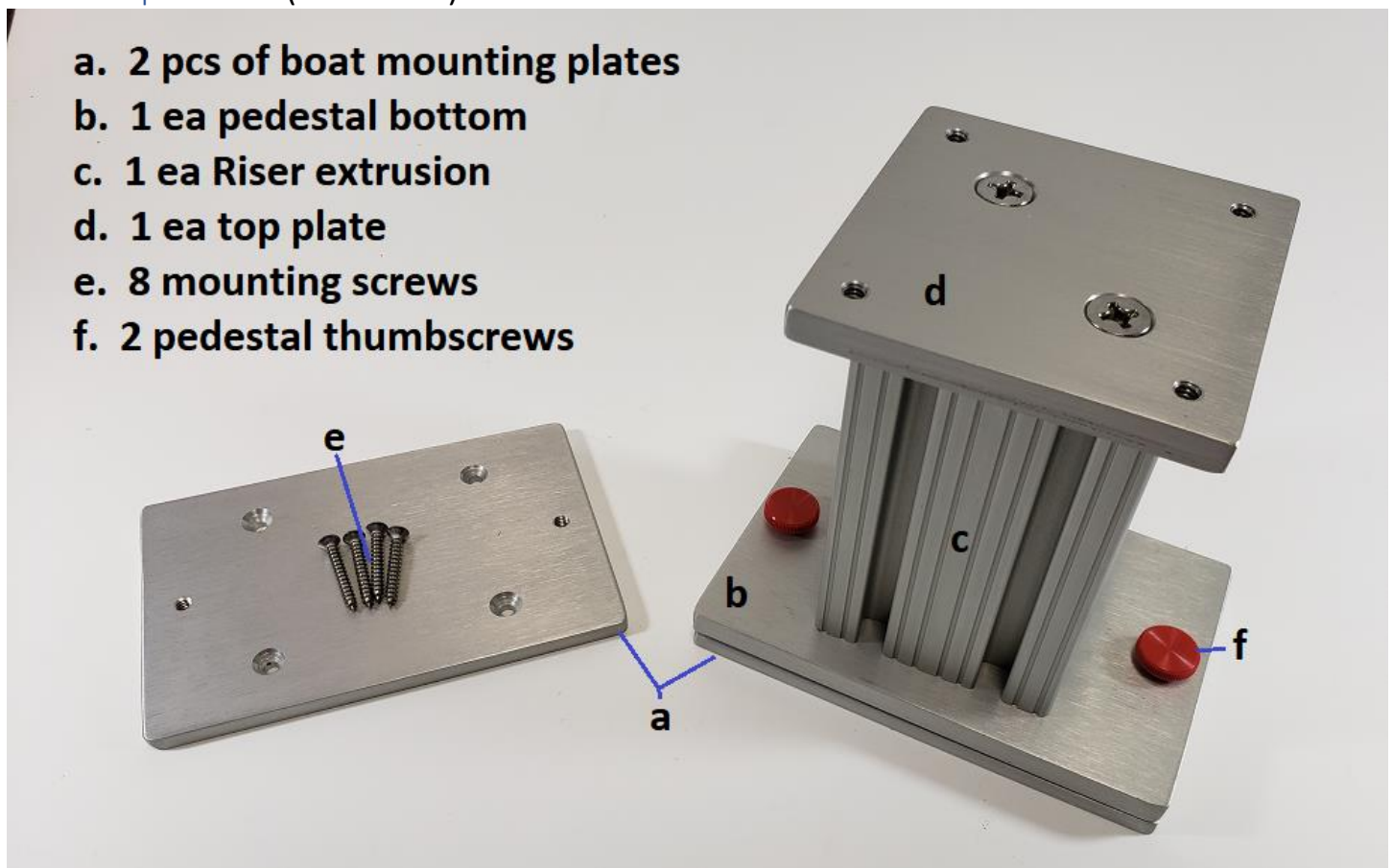


Pedestals are available in single location versions or optional movable versions.

It may be necessary to assemble the pedestal:

1. The top plate has 4 threaded holes for the thumbscrews.
2. Bottom plates have 4 holes close to the corners for mounting to the deck.
3. Assemble the bottom plate to the center extrusion and then mount to the deck. Finally, add the top plate.
4. Users with very tall pedestals > 6 inches, should consider the use of a through bolt and nut with fender washers mounted under the deck. Use # 10 stainless steel hardware.

Movable pedestals (OPTIONAL):



Movable pedestals utilize two mounting plates (a) on either side of the boat. The pedestal/baseplate assembly can thus be used on the most advantageous side of the boat. Secure the mounting plates to the boat and then use the red thumbscrews to hold the pedestal to the mounting plates.

Baseplate accessory parts:



### Baseplate Tether Kits (MUST INSTALL)

Baseplates with removable sub plates, track and rail mounts, and pedestal mounts are supplied with a tether. The nylon thumbscrews will tend to snap when an obstacle is accidentally hit. Baseplates will flip into the water. The tether will hold it to the boat and prevent you fishing the baseplate from deep or murky water. One end of the tether cable is uncrimped so you can decide what length may be best for your boat. To crimp the ferrule simply slide it on and crimp use your fishing pliers or flatten the ferrule with a hammer!



### Rubber Bumpers

15 inch **Marine Board** baseplates are supplied with small rubber standoffs as there will likely be some flex in the baseplate assembly. The rubber standoffs are to protect the boat gunwale. Aluminum 15 inch baseplates are supplied with stick on bumpers.

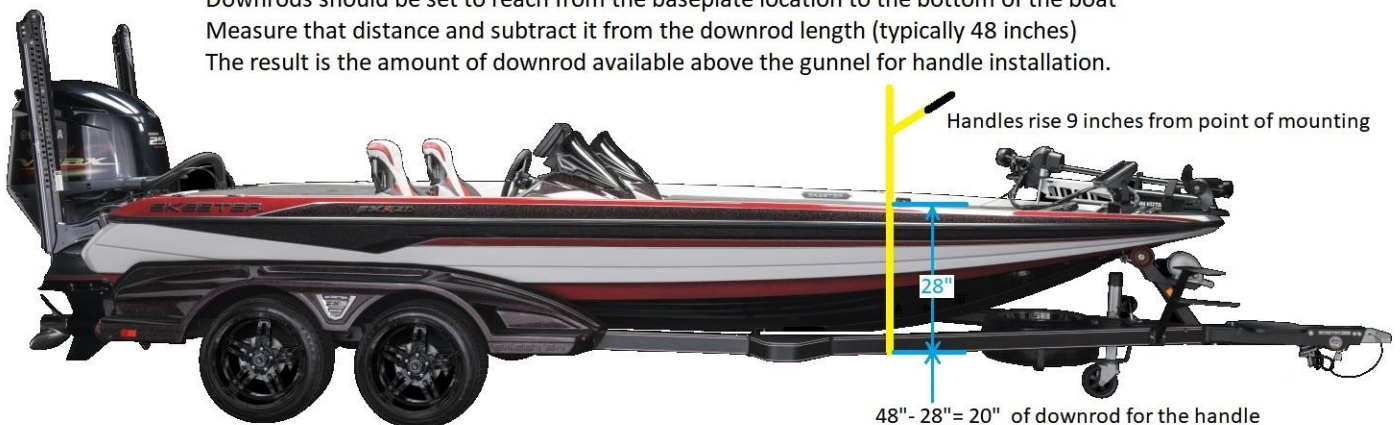
---

### Installation of Downrods

Downrods utilize a bushing that sits in the baseplate. That bushing sets the depth of the transducer. To get a good depth for your transducer it should be deep enough to see past the boat without being blocked by the hull. The transducer also should not be so deep as to be likely to hit underwater obstacles.

### How to Determine Downrod Length

Downrods should be set to reach from the baseplate location to the bottom of the boat  
Measure that distance and subtract it from the downrod length (typically 48 inches)  
The result is the amount of downrod available above the gunnel for handle installation.



Transducers are typically mounted at the bottom of the downrods and so will give added depth to look under the boat. Deeper installations of the downrods are not recommended as the downrod would be more likely to hit underwater obstacles.

Thank you to Skeeter Boats for the photo!

Once the baseplate is installed. Measure from the keel (or bottom) of the boat to the baseplate. Then, measuring from the bottom of the downrod tube (without transducer

mounted), set the cone at the measured distance to the keel. Test fit the downrod on the baseplate to make sure it is at the proper depth and adjust if necessary.

It is perfectly acceptable to drill additional mounting holes for the cone. We predrill a series of holes for convenience however, if you need a different setting, then just use a 3/16 drill bit to add another hole for the cone anywhere on the downrod.

Once the depth is set, evaluate the remaining section of downrod (portion above the baseplate) for a proper handle location. It is good to get in the boat and test the handle location to ensure it will be convenient to use while fishing.

If you feel the downrod is excessively long for your boat it can be shortened. To shorten the downrod it is recommended you remove material from the bottom half of the downrod. A chop saw works very well for this. Removing material from the bottom of the downrod will preserve the pre drilled cone adjustment holes at the top.

Handle Assemblies: [all scanning sonars](#).

**Installation of handles, while mentioned here, are the last step in assembly.** Handle assemblies slip over the downrod and are held in place with a set screw. Install the Handle prior to installing the strain relief ring as the ring will block the handle bracket. You will need to drill a 1/8 inch dia hole to securely set the handle on the downrod.



1. The existing holes on the downrod are not drilled for the handle! Drill a 1/8 inch dia hole in the side of the downrod and attach the screw in that hole so that it is tight.
2. Typically for Livesight/Livescope, the handle should point in the same line as the transducer is facing.
- 3.



## Installation of the Transducers

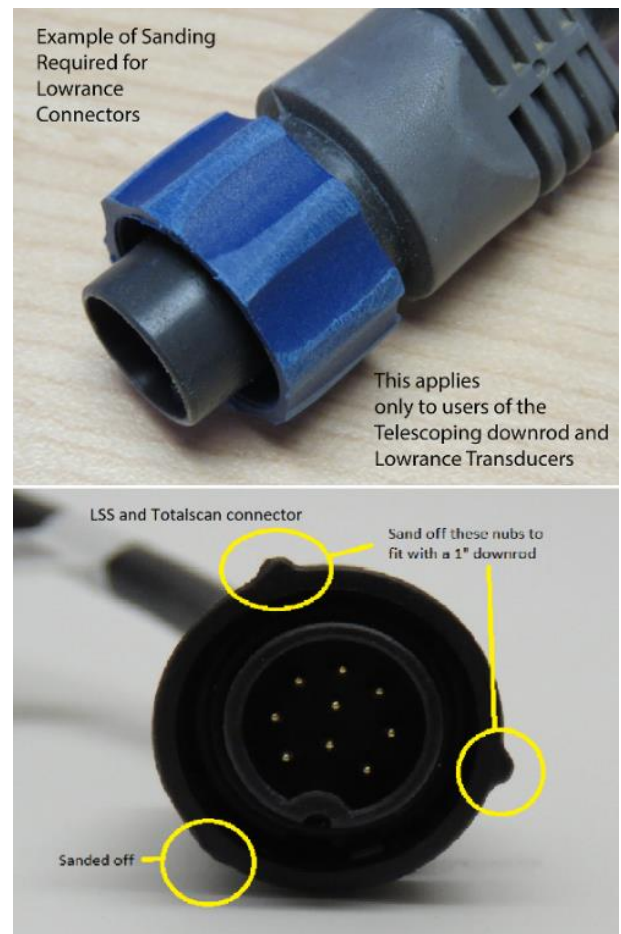
### WHEN ASSEMBLING DOWNROD PARTS, ALWAYS REMOVE ALL SCREWS SO YOU CAN EASILY LOCATE SCREW HOLES

The downrods come in several styles. You may have a solid or telescoping version and there are also 2 standard diameters: 1.5" or 1.25" OD and this is dependent on the transducer system which was specified on your order. There are also a couple options which may have been ordered: A second downrod cone or perhaps a telescoping handle assembly.

#### General Instructions:

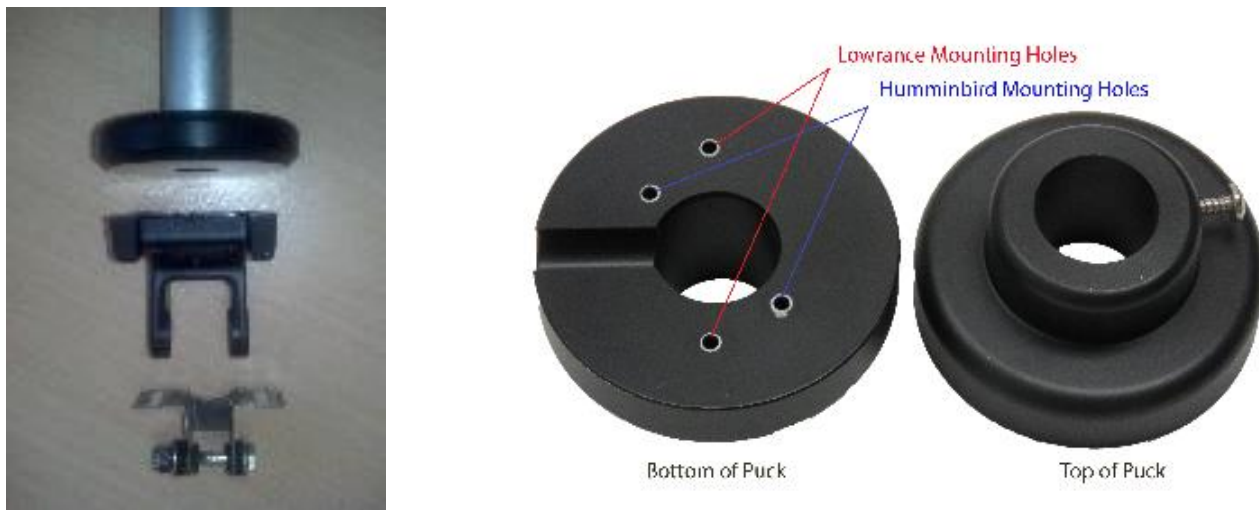
1. Place all items (cones, strain relief, handles, etc.) onto the downrod – do not secure them. This includes the transducer mounting end, the cone, handles, and spare cone if ordered and the strain relief ring.
2. Remove the screw for the downrod cone to prevent interference with the connector.
3. Feed the cable through the transducer mounting end.
4. Secure the transducer to the downrod end using the general instructions on the following pages.

**Lowrance:** If you have a Lowrance transducer with the blue or black connector, it is possible to use it with a 1 inch OD downrod with a bit of modification. You will need to sand the nubs of the connectors in order to get it through the downrod as shown.



## Connecting the transducer to the downrod ends

### Lowrance Transducers:



For “conventional” transducers from Humminbird or Lowrance, the Mounting disk shown is supplied. “Conventional” are defined as those using the transom bracket assemblies shown in the photo above.

### Lowrance LSS, TotalScan and Structure Scan & 3in1

1. Remove the disk from the plate.
2. Run the cable through the disk and the downrod (make sure cones are on the downrod as well as the strain relief ring and handle if purchased).
3. Reattach the plate to the disk puck – there is an alignment mark for proper mounting. Do not attempt to mount the transducer yet. Dress the cable so it is short but can still be routed through the channel and up the downrod.
4. Secure the transducer to the plate. Make sure that the transducer cable is tight to the assembly, so it does not catch underwater obstacles.
5. Finally secure the finished assembly to the downrod.



### Lowrance Livesight:

The Livesight transducer is only designed for side pole mount. Simply attach the transducers bracket to the post end the same as if it were a trolling motor shaft. Align the handle with the transducer and it is ready to go.



### Lowrance Active Target **Downrod End**

Note: As the downrod is pointed in the direction that the user wants to search, **port and starboard mounting is not relevant to the assembly**. The handle is ultimately aligned with the transducer so the handle intuitively points in the direction the transducer is facing.

The user should keep in mind during assembly that the back of the transducer is where the wire exits the transducer, and the transducer emitters are thus “forward”. Align the handle along the axis of the transducer to point the transducer in the proper direction.



1. Run the cable through the downrod. Ensure that the depth bushing, handle and strain relief for the top of the tube are all installed.
2. Install the post end and make sure that the cable cleanly goes through the wire channel. Secure the post end.
3. It will be necessary to leave a loop of about 10 inches to allow the transducer to be moved to the 3 different views.
4. Attach the Lowrance transducer bracket to the post. The wire channel should be facing roughly 45 degrees toward the forward view position.

### Special Note:

**An alternative mount** is available that presents less water resistance. This alternative mounting uses a specially made RAM mounting system. While it does not click into the three view positions, it does allow for smoother downrod operation in the water where it counts. Further information is available on the following page:

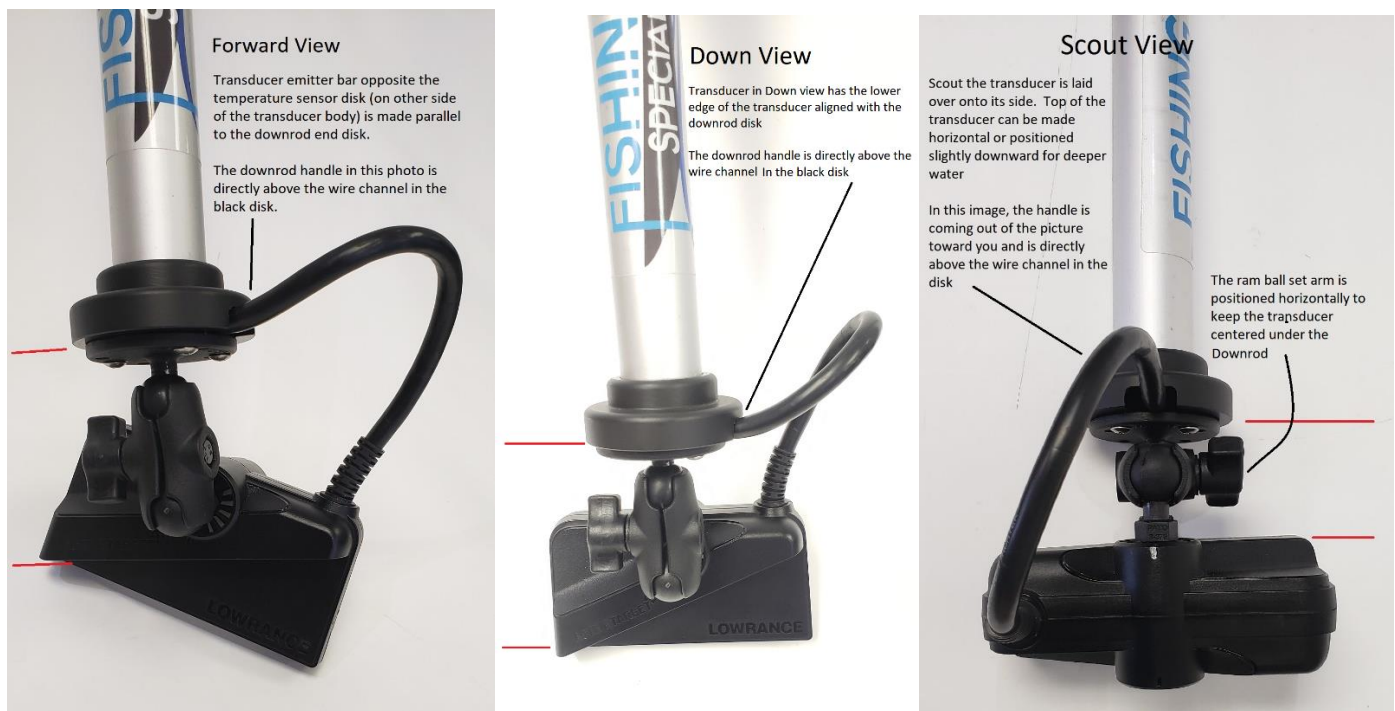
## Fishing Specialties Alternative Active Target Transducer Mounting

In an attempt to minimize water resistance, we have developed a simpler mounting system for the Active Target Transducer. Customers buying this bracket will receive a disk end and a small Ram mounting system that works with the transducer. This small Ram mounting allows for all 3 available views.

### Installation:

1. Install the downrod disk end to the downrod
2. Install the Ram ball with stud end to the transducer – be sure to use the star washer between the transducer and ball – **Ball is mounted to hole on opposite side of the temperature sensing disk.**
3. Run the cable through the disk end and downrod (be sure to have all accessory parts installed – depth bushing or cone, handle, and top strain relief ring).
4. Leave about 7-8 inches of free transducer cable.
5. Ram ball with disk end is mounted so that the RAM logo is centered over the wire channel on the disk.
6. Attach the center arm to the disk ball and the transducer ball.

The transducer is positioned as follows for the 3 views:

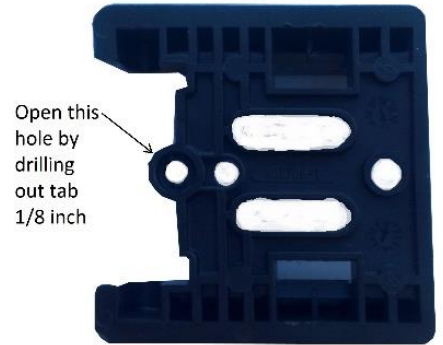


**Special note: The ram ball with stud end is mounted onto the transducer on the opposite side of the temperature sender disk.**







## Humminbird Transducers:

Humminbird users need to modify the lower transom mount plate. Drill out the little tab shown in the photo to the right. The tab allows for the proper span to the mounting hole.

Some HBird transducers have a smaller bracket with no tab. It will be necessary to drill mounting holes for that bracket.



To secure the transducer follow the steps shown below. Similar assembly for all transducers using this Humminbird transom mounting kit.

<p>1. Secure ½ in long screw lightly so plate swivels.</p> 	<p>2. Swivel and secure the hinged piece. Adjust cable length and position into cable slot.</p> 	<p>3. Turn into position, tighten screw and snap closed.</p> 
<p>4. Insert second screw ¾ in long to tab location</p> 	<p>5. Tighten the screws</p> 	<p>6. Secure transducer to its assembly.</p> 

## Humminbird XHS & XTM 9 HDSI series

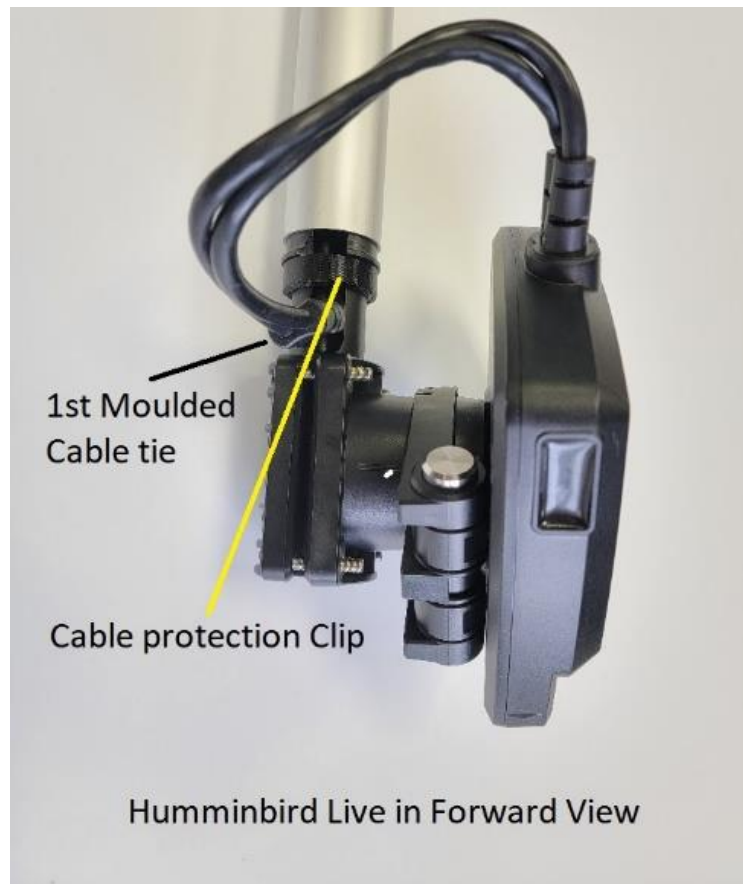
1. Lock washers are included to be inserted between the tabs of the transducer and the tab on the mounting puck (only need to use if transducer remains loose after tightening the bolt).
2. Transducer should be mounted so its body is under the mounting puck and downrod.
3. Mount the assembly to the downrod.

## Humminbird Mega Side view Gen2 and Gen3 Series

1. Run the cable through the downrod.
2. Ensure the cable feeds through the cable slot in the disk.
3. Use the four forward mounting points of transducer to attach to the bottom of the disk with the supplied 8-32x1 inch machine screws.

## Humminbird Mega Live

The mega live transducer is easy to mount using the standard post downrod end. The post end slips inside the downrod and is held with a set screw. Once mounted, the wire channel will determine the “back side” of the downrod. If you move up the downrod to the handle, it will also be above the wire channel and the transducer will be looking opposite the wire channel in forward view.



## Garmin Transducers

Garmin GT2x, 4x, 5x, Series Transducers:

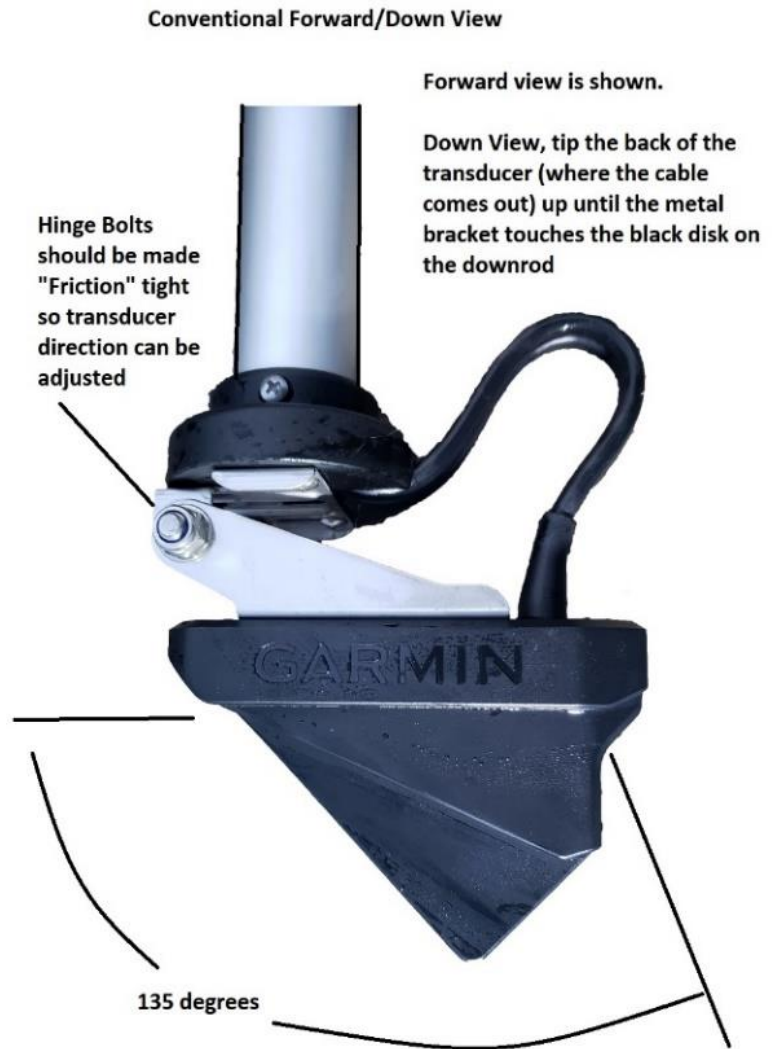
1. Slide disk onto the downrod - do not attach with screw.
2. Run the transducer cable through the disk.
3. Mount the transducer directly to the disk so that the cable at the top of the transducer runs straight into the disk hole. It will be necessary to massage the cable into the downrod but once in the downrod it doesn't move. Use only the 4 mounting holes surrounding the wire exit on the transducer.
4. Mount the assembly to the downrod.

Garmin Livescope

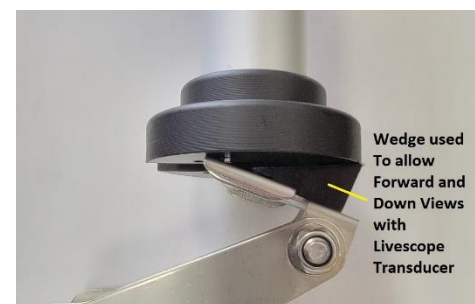
**(We STRONGLY suggest bottom of Downrod mounting to keep transducer vertical and stable when moving through the water)**



1. Run the cable through the disk, downrod, and handle if supplied.
2. Install Garmin Transom bracket (inside your Livescope box) to the disk **using the supplied Wide head #8 x 1/2 screws**. Ensure that the bracket is forward (away from the wire channel) to allow for as much clearance near the wire channel as possible. Note: leave a bit less of a wire loop than shown in the photo.
3. Mount the metal transducer bracket to the Livescope and mount that bracket/transducer assembly to the transom bracket on the disk. Dress the cable to allow it to move above the disk when in down view. It should curve without causing excessive bending at the transducer itself. Align the transducer and tighten the Hinge bolts. Ensure that the hinge bolts are **“friction”** tight to allow the transducer to be moved from FORWARD view to DOWN view.



- To allow Down view with the new Garmin brackets, add the supplied wedge spacer to the disk at the front mounting screw.
  - Forward view position, Top of transducer is parallel to the disk.
  - Down View position, push the back of the transducer up until it contacts the tabs of the upper bracket.



Dual Garmin Transducers on a Livescope Downrod: (not generally recommended)

If mounting **dual transducers (ie a GT56 and a Livescope)**, mount the Livescope to the side of the downrod using the Garmin Bracket. Mount the GT series to the bottom of the

downrod using the metal transom bracket assembly which is located inside the livescope transducer box (it is a smaller profile).

**See handle assemblies information** for further relevant information.

### Fishing Specialties Garmin LVS32 Perspective Mounting

If you have purchased the add on kit for Perspective view for the Livescope system, the small Ram Mount bracket is included allow the user to move the transducer between the three view modes:

<p>In first photo Handle is on left and transducer is looking to the right</p>	<p>In second photo, Handle is on the right and transducer is looking downward</p>	<p>In this 3<sup>rd</sup> photo the handle is to the right and transducer is in perspective view looking to the left</p>
--	---	--



#### Step 1

Install the ball onto the transducer. Install tightly and use the internal tooth lockwasher between the ball stud and the transducer.





## Step 2

Ensure there is about 9.5 inches of cable from the edge of the mounting disk to the transducer.



## Step 3

Install the disk end ball to the downrod end using the screws provided. The RAM logo should be centered over the wire channel. **Be sure to use the supplied #8 wide head screws (1/2 inch long).**



## Step 4

Connect the center arm to the two balls.

### Perspective mount Hints:

- To allow easier alignment of the transducer with the handle while in perspective view use index marks on the downrod disk.
- Always try to center the transducer under the downrod to minimize the potential rotational effect of moving water on the downrod.
- Marine Board baseplates may see additional stress due to the added water resistance of the perspective bracket. Test carefully to ensure that undue stress is not placed on the baseplate when moving the boat faster than 3mph.

*IMPORTANT HANDLE INFORMATION:* When installing the handle with this bracket, the wire channel for the disk and the handle itself should be on the same side of the downrod. See handles near the end of this manual.

## SPECIAL ACCESSORIES

### Strain Relief Ring:

To protect the cable exiting from the downrod, we supply a strain relief ring. Install as shown in the photo. Be sure to run the cable with the ring installed on the downrod to prevent cable damage.

Pound the ring onto the downrod as necessary to fully seat the ring. – it is not seated in the photo to the right.



**Note:** Install handles first as the ring is slightly larger than the handle and will not allow it to pass.

### Extra Downrod Cone

**IMPORTANT:** Place cone on the downrod prior to running cables through the downrod

The Extra Downrod cone is generally mounted near the bottom of the downrod. Due to different weights of transducers, we leave it to the user to determine a proper location. Install the cone so that the downrod is bottom heavy or balanced. Remove the screw, locate the cone, drill 1/8 in hole thru the downrod, reinstall the screw. Note: **DO NOT** use the baseplate when travelling at high speed for stowage of the downrod. When the trolling motor is not being used, the downrod should be stowed safely inside the boat.

### Downrod Extensions

Downrod extensions are made to fit tightly to the downrod. They are to be placed at the top of the downrod primarily to raise the handle to a more convenient location. **DO NOT USE EXTENSIONS FOR TRANSDUCER MOUNTING!**

**Index Piece (do not use with SI. Livesight, Active Target nor Livescope):**

The index piece is the cutout portion of the cup (the slot). If you mount it on the cone (on the downrod), then the downrod can only go into the cup in one way - thus providing a means of indexing the downrod to have it aligned to the boat - no matter how the base is mounted to the boat.



If you are using Down Imaging transducer, you may want the index to be mounted to the cone/downrod. With the downrod in the baseplate, simply align the transducer with the boat and then screw the index piece into the cone. Then you can only deploy the downrod in the proper direction.

If you are using side imaging, then I suggest not using the index piece as it is very handy to be able to turn the transducer to look for schools of crappie or other structures. In this case, with the downrod in the baseplate, align the transducer with the boat. Then on the top drill a small divot (1/4 in drill) in the top of the cone, and a corresponding divot in the top of the cup (do this from inside the boat so you can see them) and then fill the divot with a bit of white paint. Then when the dots are aligned, the transducer is in line with the boat. And, if you are scanning, you will know the transducer direction based on the direction of the dot.

This Limited Warranty covers any defects in material or workmanship under normal use during the Warranty Period.

During the Warranty Period, Fishing Specialties will repair or replace, at no charge, products or parts of our product that prove defective under normal use due to bad material or workmanship.

---

**What will we do to correct problems?**

Fishing Specialties will either repair or replace the Product(s) at no charge.

**How long does the coverage last?**

The Warranty Period for products purchased from Fishing Specialties is 30 days from the date of purchase.

**What does this limited warranty not cover?**

This Limited Warranty does not cover any problem that is caused by impact, improper mounting, or other damage due to external forces.

QUESTIONS/Assistance:

**CALL (719) 284 - 2220 for Assistance**

**Fishing Specialties**

**1545 Vapor Trail**

**Colorado Springs, CO 80916**

US Patents applied for on several products in this manual.

Bowduder trademark and all other trademarks retained by Fishing Specialties.