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Inkra Mast-R-Lift II Maintenance

Lift mechanics –

1. Take the motor out and check [again] that each of the four motor blocks is bolted into the correct holes for your router.
2. Loosen the 4 motor clamping block bolts just enough to let them pivot, ensuring they'll self-align with the motor. Leave them loose... they won't go anywhere once the carriage is tightened on the motor.
3. Be sure the carriage is not over tightened on the motor (this is common). Tighten the main clamping bolt until it's finger-tight with the crank, then tighten another 1/3 to 1/2 further.
4. With the motor installed, put the lift into the table. On the top of the plate, loosen all 6 large Allen bolts – 2 at each guide post and 2 bolts near the crank sockets.

With the bolts loose, move the lift almost to max height, turn the crank a couple of turns in each direction, and then tighten all 6 bolts. This allows the parts to settle into the best relationship with each other.

5. This would be unlikely, but where the two guide posts bolt into the bottom of the plate, make sure there is no debris trapped in this area by sighting along the underside of the plate. A metal shaving, for example, trapped between the plate and the fittings where the guide posts attach can force them out of alignment.

Maintenance –

1. The welding aisle at hardware stores / Lowes / HD will have fine, toothbrush-sized steel or brass brushes... grab a couple, they have dozens of uses. A stiff, new toothbrush can work.
2. Compressed air is a good start, but it's important to brush off the lift screw's threads, removing anything black-ish with light pressure so the brush bristles stand up instead of folding over.
3. Lubricate the now-clean lift screw with only 2 drops of heavier oil, one drop above and below the carriage, and run the lift up & down a few times. Motor oil, automatic transmission fluid, or gun oil are good choices.
4. Put some heavy oil on a rag and wipe down the two guide posts, leaving them feeling slick and mostly dry.

The oil will attract some dust, but the carriage nuts mostly push it out of the way. I'd check and/or clean & re-oil it every 30-40 router bit changes, which is probably every 3 or 4 big projects for hobbyists.