



**NORTHERN**<sup>®</sup>  
TOOL + EQUIPMENT

## **BONE-STER™ Mechanic's Creeper**

Owner's Manual



**⚠ WARNING:** Read carefully and understand all ASSEMBLY AND OPERATION INSTRUCTIONS before operating. Failure to follow the safety rules and other basic safety precautions may result in serious personal injury.

Item #39604

**SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS**

Thank you very much for choosing a Northern Tool & Equipment™ product!

For future reference, please complete the owner's record below:

Serial Number/Lot Date Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Save the receipt, warranty, and this manual. It is important that you read the entire manual to become familiar with this product before you begin using it.

This BONE-STER Mechanic's Creeper is designed for certain applications only. Northern Tool & Equipment is not responsible for issues arising from modification or improper use of this product such as an application for which it was not designed. We strongly recommend that this product not be modified and/or used for any application other than that for which it was designed.

For technical questions, please call **1-800-222-5381**.

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## Intended Use

The Northern Tool & Equipment BONE-STER may be our smallest creeper, but its double-ribbed body gives it an incredible 400 pound capacity! The 3-inch diameter wheels with gripping tires glide smoothly over shop floors-even if the surface is less than perfect.

## Technical Specifications

Property	Specification
Overall Dimensions	43"x 24"x 5-1/4"
Casters	3"
Material	Engineering-grade Co-polymer
Net Weight	13 lbs.
Weight Capacity	400 lbs.

## Important Safety Information

### ⚠️WARNING

- Read and understand all instructions. Failure to follow all instructions may result in serious injury or property damage.
- The warnings, cautions, and instructions in this manual cannot cover all possible conditions or situations that could occur. Exercise common sense and caution when using this creeper. Always be aware of the environment and ensure that the tool is used in a safe and responsible manner.
- Do not allow persons to operate or assemble the creeper until they have read this manual and have developed a thorough understanding of how it works.
- Do not modify this creeper in any way. Unauthorized modification may impair the function and/or safety and could affect the life of the product. There are specific applications for which the product was designed.
- Use the right tool for the job. DO NOT attempt to force small equipment to do the work of larger industrial equipment. There are certain applications for which this equipment was designed. It will do the job better and more safely at the capacity for which it was intended. DO NOT use this equipment for a purpose for which it was not intended.
- Industrial or commercial applications must follow OSHA requirements.

### ⚠️WARNING

- This product may contain chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm.
- ~~Some dust created by power sanding, sawing, grinding, drilling, and other construction activities contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm. Some examples of these chemicals are:~~
  - ~~— lead from lead-based paints,~~
  - ~~— crystalline silica from bricks and cement and other masonry products, and~~
  - ~~— arsenic and chromium from chemically-treated lumber.~~
- ~~Your risk from these exposures varies, depending on how often you do this type of work. To reduce your exposure to these chemicals: work in a well-ventilated area, and work with approved~~

~~safety equipment, such as dust masks that are specially designed to filter out microscopic particles.~~

- ~~• Handling power cords on corded products may expose you to lead, a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Wash your hands after handling.~~

## **⚠WARNING**

### **WORK AREA SAFETY**

- Inspect the work area before each use. Keep work area clean, dry, free of clutter, and well-lit. Cluttered, wet, or dark work areas can result in injury. Using the creeper in confined work areas may put you dangerously close to other cutting tools and rotating parts.
- ~~• Do not use the creeper where there is a risk of causing a fire or an explosion; e.g., in the presence of flammable liquids, gases, or dust. The product can create sparks, which may ignite the flammable liquids, gases, or dust.~~
- ~~• Do not allow the creeper to come into contact with an electrical source. The creeper is not insulated and contact will cause electrical shock.~~
- Keep children and bystanders away from the work area while operating the tool. Do not allow children to handle the creeper.
- ~~• Be aware of all power lines, electrical circuits, water pipes, and other mechanical hazards in your work area. Some of these hazards may be hidden from your view and may cause personal injury and/or property damage if contacted.~~

## **⚠WARNING**

### **PERSONAL SAFETY**

- Stay alert, watch what you are doing, and use common sense when operating the creeper. Do not use the creeper while you are tired or under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or medication. A moment of inattention while operating the creeper may result in serious personal injury.
- Dress properly. Do not wear loose clothing, dangling objects, or jewelry. Keep your hair, clothing and gloves away from moving parts. Loose clothes, jewelry, or long hair can be caught in moving parts. Air vents on the tool often cover moving parts and should be avoided.
- Wear the proper personal protective equipment when necessary. Use ANSI Z87.1 compliant safety goggles (not safety glasses) with side shields, or when needed, a face shield. Use a dust mask in dusty work conditions. Also use non-skid safety shoes, hardhat, gloves, dust collection systems, and hearing protection when appropriate. This applies to all persons in the work area.
- Do not overreach. Keep proper footing and balance at all times.
- ~~• Secure the work with clamps or a vise instead of your hand when practical. This safety precaution allows for proper tool operation using both hands.~~

## **⚠CAUTION**

### **CREEPER USE AND CARE**

- Do not force the creeper. Products are safer and do a better job when used in the manner for which they are designed. Plan your work, and use the correct product for the job.

- Check for damaged parts before each use. Carefully check that the creeper will operate properly and perform its intended function. Replace damaged or worn parts immediately. Never operate the creeper with a damaged part.
- Store the creeper when it is not in use. Store it in a dry, secure place out of the reach of children. Inspect the tool for good working condition prior to storage and before re-use.
- Use only accessories that are recommended by the manufacturer for use with your creeper. Accessories that may be suitable for one product may create a risk of injury when used with another tool. Never use an accessory that has a lower operating speed or operating pressure than the tool itself.

## Specific Operation Warnings

### **⚠WARNING**

- Do not place under automobile tires to move or reposition a vehicle.
  - Do not exceed the rated load capacity.
  - Ensure that vehicle is properly supported with jack stands and wheels are chocked before going under vehicle.
  - Do not use as a toy or skateboard.
  - Do not stand on or use as a stepping device.
  - Inspect for damages or defects before using.
  - Do not use if any part of the support structure is damaged, split or cracked.
  - When not in use, store in a secure place.
  - Always store in an upright position.
  - Keep out of reach of children.
- ~~• Do not eat any part of this product!~~
- ~~• Do not use this creeper as a step or ladder!~~

## Safety Labels

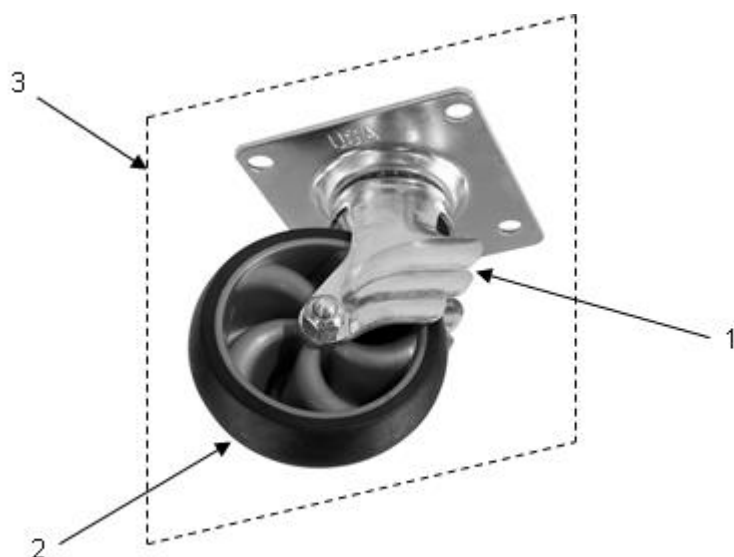
**Serial # SFA - 0516000042201**

WARNING: Do not eat any part of  
this product!

Do Not use this product as a step or  
ladder!

After 1 hour of use, and every 1 month  
thereafter, please ensure the tightness of  
the center swivel nut on your casters.  
Failure to do this will VOID your warranty.

## Parts Diagram



## Parts List

Reference	Part Number	Item Description
1	1500	Caster Fork
2	4033-1	Caster Wheel Only
3	4033	Caster Assembly
4	4035-C	Hardware Kit (not shown)

## Assembly Instructions

Place the creeper body decal side-up on a table or the floor. Insert the sixteen 1/4" bolts into the holes in the body, and then place a piece of tape on each wheel pod to secure the bolts to the body. Flip the creeper over and slide the casters onto the bolts. Thread the nuts onto the bolts and hand-tighten. With a 7/16" wrench or socket, carefully tighten the nuts just until the star washer is crushed. If the bolt spins while you turn the nut, you can use a 3/16" allen wrench to hold the bolt in place.

### **⚠ CAUTION**

Over-tightening the nuts will crack the creeper body and void your warranty.

Be sure to occasionally check the tightness of the nuts, as vibrations from rolling can cause them to gradually loosen.



## After Each Use

After using your creeper for a couple hours (and every month thereafter), please check the tightness of the center swivel nut. After the break-in period the swivel can become loose which will result in the loss of ball bearings. This is not covered under warranty.

## Maintenance

We are very proud of our American-made casters. We feel our design is improved by not using a center rivet for the caster swivel assembly. Consequently we use a bolt and lock nut so the pre-load can be set properly on the bearings. You may have to adjust the pre-load from time to time. You will need a 1/2" socket or wrench to fit on the center nut. To do this, remove the wheel from the fork (using a 7/16" wrench) and torque the nut until the swivel becomes tight (will not spin), then back off slowly until the swivel spins smoothly without any "slop". Tighten then loosen the same as you would a wheel bearing to make sure the ball bearings are properly seated. There will be a bit of a "break-in" period when your casters are new – if you find the swivel is a bit stiff it will loosen up with a bit of use.

The BONE-STER is a high quality, 100% American-made product. However, like all fine tools, it requires a bit of care to ensure a lifetime of reliable use. Below you will find some tips to make sure that this will be the last creeper you will ever buy!

- Keep it clean! Using a creeper on a dirty floor will cause dirt and grease to build up on the casters. Over time this can cause the ball bearings to get jammed up with grit, as well as speed up possible tire degradation from rolling in grease and oil that can soften up the material. Also, a dirty creeper body will stain clean clothes! If you keep your creeper washed top and bottom with a light degreaser like Simple Green, it will perform like new for years. Be sure to clean around the swivels and axles of the casters.
- Do not drop your creeper! Set it down carefully on the ground. The BONE-STER creeper is made to be tough, but repeated abuse can cause the plastic on the body and wheels to crack or break, and such abuse is NOT covered by warranty! In addition, be aware that plastic becomes brittle in cold temperatures, so be extra careful if you are using your creeper in a cold shop or outside in the winter.
- Do not use your creeper as a ladder or stepping stool. If you stand on the top of the creeper with the wheels on the floor, you run the risk of the creeper rolling out from under you, which could result in serious injury!

We stand behind our products with a limited one year warranty on the creeper body and lifetime on the wheels, but keep in mind that these only apply against manufacturer defects. Running over, dropping, hitting, overloading, allowing the casters to get too dirty, or otherwise abusing your creeper will void these warranties!

Maintenance Interval	Maintenance Point
Monthly	Check the tightness of the center swivel nut of the casters. The swivel nut can become loose which will result in the loss of ball bearings which is not covered under warranty. Keep casters clean and add a few drops of oil to the ball bearings to ensure proper lubrication

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## Troubleshooting

Use the table below to troubleshoot problems before contacting service personnel or your local dealer. If the problem continues after troubleshooting, call your local dealer for assistance.

Failure	Possible Cause	Corrective Action
Casters don't swivel	Dirty casters	Wash with solvent/lubricate bearings
	Add content	Add content

## Replacement Parts

- For replacement parts and technical questions, please call Customer Service at **1-800-222-5381**.
- Not all product components are available for replacement. The illustrations provided are a convenient reference to the location and position of parts in the assembly sequence.
- When ordering parts, the following will be required: item model number, Item Serial Number/Item Lot Date Code, Item Description, and the Replacement Part Reference Number.
- The distributor reserves the rights to make design changes and or improvements to product lines and manuals without notice.

## Limited Warranty

Northern Tool and Equipment Company, Inc. ("We" or "Us") warrants to the original purchaser only ("You" or "Your") that the NTE product purchased will be free from material defects in both materials and workmanship, normal wear and tear excepted, for a period of one year from date of purchase. The wheels have a lifetime warranty. The foregoing warranty is valid only if the installation and use of the product is strictly in accordance with product instructions. There are no other warranties, express or implied, including the warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. If the product does not comply with this limited warranty, Your sole and exclusive remedy is that We will, at our sole option and within a commercially reasonable time, either replace the product or product component without charge to You or refund the purchase price (less shipping). This limited warranty is not transferable.

### Limitations on the Warranty

This limited warranty does not cover: (a) normal wear and tear; (b) damage through abuse, neglect, misuse, or as a result of any accident or in any other manner; (c) damage from misapplication, overloading, or improper installation; (d) improper maintenance and repair; and (e) product alteration in any manner by anyone other than Us, with the sole exception of alterations made pursuant to product instructions and in a workmanlike manner.

### Obligations of Purchaser

You must retain Your product purchase receipt to verify date of purchase and that You are the original purchaser. To make a warranty claim, contact Us at 1-800-222-5381, identify the product by make and model number, and follow the claim instructions that will be provided. The product and the purchase receipt must be provided to Us in order to process Your warranty claim. Any returned product that is replaced or refunded by Us becomes our property. You will be responsible for return shipping costs or costs related to Your return visit to a retail store.

### Remedy Limits

Product replacement or a refund of the purchase price is Your sole remedy under this limited warranty or any other warranty related to the product. We shall not be liable for: service or labor charges or damage to Your property incurred in removing or replacing the product; any damages, including, without limitation, damages to tangible personal property or personal injury, related to Your improper use, installation, or maintenance of the product or product component; or any indirect, incidental or consequential damages of any kind for any reason.

### Assumption of Risk

You acknowledge and agree that any use of the product for any purpose other than the specified use(s) stated in the product instructions is at Your own risk.

### Governing Law

This limited warranty gives You specific legal rights, and You also may have other rights which vary from state to state. Some states do not allow limitations or exclusions on implied warranties or incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitations may not apply to You. This limited warranty is governed by the laws of the State of Minnesota, without regard to rules pertaining to conflicts of law. The state courts located in Dakota County, Minnesota shall have exclusive jurisdiction for any disputes relating to this warranty.



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