



INSTALLATION MANUAL

Updated: March 2025

16

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O&M REQUIREMENTS

USA GROUND SCREW ADDENDUM A

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PARTS LIST

STRUCTURAL MEMBERS

[1]	ROLL BRACKET ASSEMBLY
	2X 3/8-16X1.0" PUSH-IN STUD
	1X 1/2-13X1.0" PUSH-IN STUD

- [2] N/S CHORD
- [3] E/W ZEE PURLIN
- [4] KNEE BRACE
- [5] TRANSVERSE BRACE
- [6] FOUNDATION (SCREW)
- [7] POST
- [8] CABLE BRACE

HARDWARE

- [9] 3/8-16 SERRATED FLANGE NUT
 [10] 1/2-13 SERRATED FLANGE NUT
 [11] 1/2-13X1.0" SERRATED FLANGE BOLT
- [12] 1/2-13X3.5" SERRATED FLANGE BOLT
- [13] END CLAMP ASSEMBLY

 M8X1.25 25MM HEX BOLT

 M8 LOCK WASHER

 END CLAMP (SIZED FOR PANEL)

 M8X1.25 SERRATED FLANGE NUT
- [14] MIDCLAMP ASSEMBLY

 M8X1.25 70MM HEX BOLT

 M8 LOCK WASHER

 MID CLAMP

 SPRING

GROUNDING SPACER

M8X1.25 SERRATED FLANGE NUT

- [15] KNEE BRACE CLAMP
- [16] CABLE CLAMP ASSEMBLY

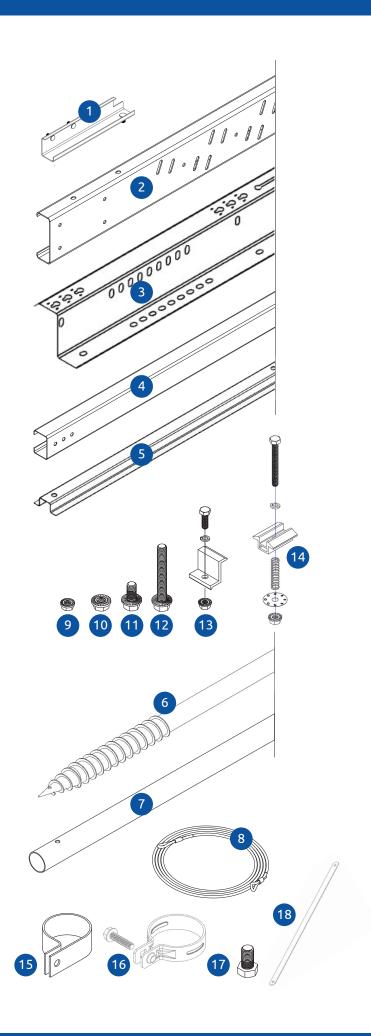
CABLE CLAMP 5/16 HEX NUT

5/16 CARRIAGE BOLT

[17] M16X2.0 30MM HEX BOLT (GROUND SCREW

SET BOLT)

[18] TRANSVERSE BRACE STRAP



CONSTRUCTION 101

All structures, regardless of how complex, are built one step at a time. Each new step builds on the previous. In order for the final structure to be complete, it is best to ensure that each step is done correctly. It is far easier, faster, and cheaper to take your time to ensure each step is done correctly before moving on. There is no remedy for an error other than a correction. Time and effort will be put forth eventually to redo steps, reconstruct, and make adjustments, but far less effort is required to correct mistakes as they appear. If errors are fixed immediately, each subsequent step will begin correct and projects will run more efficiently.

It is recommended to completely install a test row from beginning-to-end of the row, and from beginning-to-end of all steps (from layout, to panel installation, and adjustments). This will help you understand not only how to install the product, but understand how tolerances stack up, how mistakes in one step cause errors in other steps, and how to make the adjustments required to keep everything in tolerance and looking good.

SITE PREPARATION

Site preparation should be conducted prior to construction. This will typically involve grubbing, rock and debris removal, and any other preparation that will facilitate swift and unhindered installation.

UTILITIES

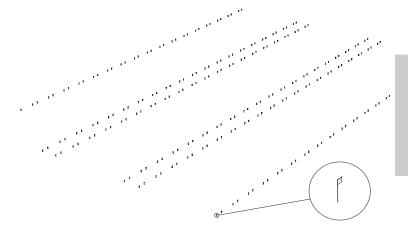
All utilities should be marked before any construction begins.

SURVEYING

To ensure that the solar array is installed according to customer plans, the site should be surveyed according to the scope of work. This includes the North and South foundation locations for the TITAN Duo system. For projects with significant topography, survey points should be checked with a tape measure. Typically, the TITAN Duo system requires a 100% survey.

TOOLS

The M16 ground screw set bolts require a minimum 400 ft/lb impact gun. 1/2" hardware requires a minimum 300 ft/lb impact gun to have enough torque to tighten fully. 3/8" hardware requires a standard Dewalt impact driver or similar. Use a 15" spud handled tool for alignment of E/W rail. For module installation, use a standard impact gun with a maximum of 154 ft/lb torque.



NOTE

Foundation locations should be surveyed by a professional surveyor, who can stake out row locations to the highest precision.

REVIEW & INSTALLATION PREPARATION

After site preparation has been completed and the site surveying is done, the foundations are ready to be installed. It is the responsibility of the site lead to review and understand the site foundation layout, surroundings, installation procedures, and to manage the installation to completion. Each project has different requirements (embedment depths, spans, etc.) that need to be met according to site testing and data gathered prior to the start of the project. The site lead must verify that the foundations on site match the order and project requirements.

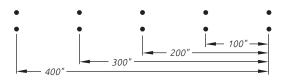
Dimensions in the East-West direction will change depending on row length, row location, and location within the row. Closely follow the construction plans and if there are any questions or discrepancies, bring them up to the site lead or project manager before installing any foundations.

UNEVEN GROUND

For sites with ungraded or rolling topography, it is important to ensure that the foundations are set to the correct depths. In cases where post locations can not be marked on the ground (uneven terrain), it is advised to check the survey points with a steel tape measure.

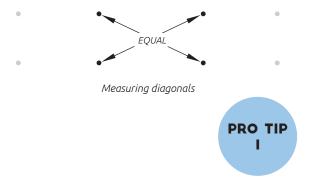
MEASURING

All measurements in the East-West direction must be made with a steel tape measure, and made from the start of the row, not foundation-to-foundation. For example, if the plans were to call for the first 4 spans to be 100" each, the tape should be staked to the ground, and the ground should be marked at 0", 100", 200", 300", 400".



Measuring from foundation-to-foundation allows tolerances to stack up. In this case, a 2" tolerance would have stacked up to be 8" off by only the fifth foundation, and will cause major installation issues further down the road. If necessary, tape measures should be marked prior to use or prints should be marked up to indicate additive measurements (ie. 0", 8'4", 16'8", 25'0", 33'4").

For TITAN Duo systems, the North and South points must remain in line with each other (one should not "chase" the other). Ensure the points are square every few sets by measuring diagonals. If marks are found to be out of square, make adjustments to correct.



FOUNDATION INSTALLATION

- **1.** Preinstall the set bolts to ensure the integrity of the welded nut.
- **2.** Drive the foundation with a single point, starting at one end of the site. The string line method is best for ensuring a straight line and a perfect plane of the array. Foundations are typically installed 6" above grade.
- **3.** Ensure the foundation is held plumb and in the proper location using a level.
- **4.** Drive the foundation to the correct depth as indicated by the construction documents.
- **5.** Install all remaining foundations, using a string line as a guide for placement and height if necessary. Use a tape measure as described in the preparation process.

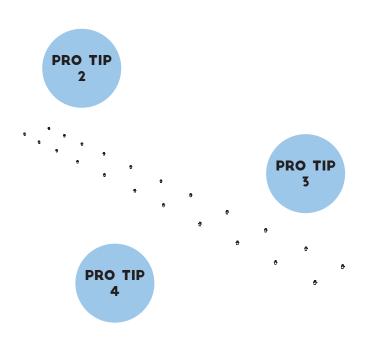
ALTERNATE FOUNDATION INSTALLATION

For sites with medium-to-heavy rock or bedrock, holes may need to be piloted and backfilled prior to foundation install. When required, perform the following steps prior to the steps above.

- **1.** With an auger or rock drill, drill a pilot hole to correct depth and diameter.
- **2.** Fill the hole with stone as indicated by APA. The amount of stone varies based on the site's soil type.

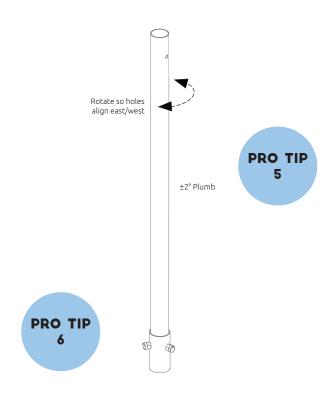
POST INSTALLATION

- **1.** Insert the short post at the first point on the south set of foundations.
- 2. Measuring from the ground to the top of the post, ensure the post is at the correct height according to the construction plans. Also ensure the upper bolt holes are rotated to align in the East-West direction. Temporarily secure the post in place with a quick clamp or similar tool.
- **3.** Repeat further down the south side of the row with another foundation to create the next attachment point for the string line, once again measuring and ensuring plumbness. When topography is present, additional transition posts must be installed at transition points so that the string line can flow through hills and valleys at a moderate rate. Although the racking will follow terrain, it has limitations. Therefore, ensuring smooth flow will greatly aid the installation process.



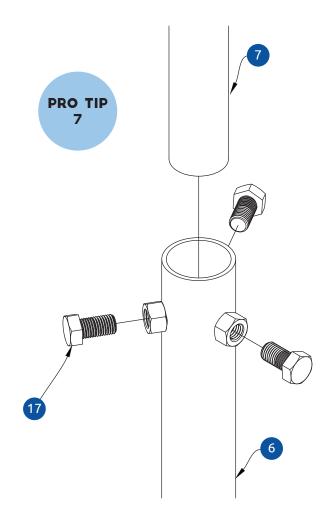
NOTE

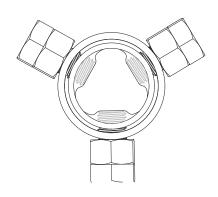
Check all survey points before pilot drilling.



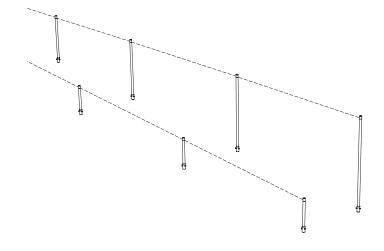
POST INSTALLATION (CONTINUED)

- **4.** Continue to the end of the row as required to set a string line.
- **5.** Run a string line between all foundations at the same height. For consistency, string line should run along the same side of the foundation for the entirety of the site (for example, always wrap counterclockwise, then install new foundations on the south side of the string). This will help prevent zigzagging.
- **6.** Ensure the heights of all posts are correct and flow with the terrain in the method indicated in the construction plans.
- **7.** Secure the transition posts at the foundations with three (3) bolts and remove the temporary clamps.
- [6] SCREW FOUNDATION
- [7] POST
- [17] M16X2.0 30MM HEX BOLT (GROUND SCREW SET BOLT)
- **8.** Once heights are verified correct and rotation is correct, bolts can be tightened. Every post should be checked to ensure the bolts are fully seated.
- **9.** Once the south side posts are installed, set the north side posts by adjusting the height to the designed tilt angle per foundation set (check the build plans for the correct tilt angle). Use a steel guide and angle finder to determine the tilt. Repeat the string method for the north side posts.





Top view of post and fully tightened bolts



ROLL BRACKET-TO-N/S CHORD

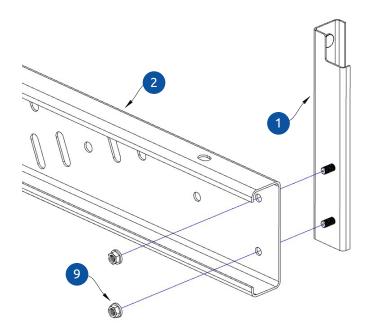
- **1.** Along the flat side of the N/S chord, with the slots on the N/S chord pointing up, attach a roll bracket assembly.
- 2. Match the two (2) studs in the roll bracket assembly in the correct hole set at the front of the part. Refer to site build plans to determine which set to use. Correct usage is based on specifications provided by the module manufacturer, and will remain consistent on each project (assuming only one module model is used).
- 3. Secure both studs, each with a nut.
- **4.** Repeat steps for all remaining roll brackets. There are four (4) roll brackets per N/S chord.
- [2] N/S CHORD
- [1] ROLL BRACKET ASSEMBLY
- [9] 3/8-16 SERRATED FLANGE NUT

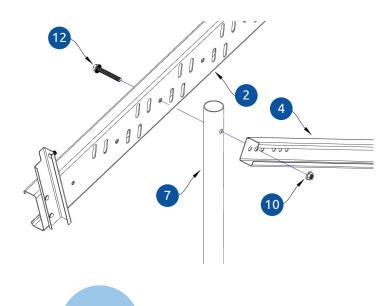
KNEE BRACE & N/S CHORD-TO-FRONT POST

- **1.** Refer to the construction drawings for the correct nominal attachment holes/slots in both the knee brace and the N/S chord. Additional holes/slots can be used for adjustments.
- **2.** Ensure the flat side of the N/S chord and knee brace are against the post. The N/S chord should have the flange with the slots pointing upwards, and be placed on the West of the post. The knee brace should be on the East side of the post.
- **3.** Attach the N/S chord and the knee brace to the front post (south) at the same time.
- **4.** Secure with a bolt and nut through the single hole in the post. Fasten loosely.
- [2] N/S CHORD
- [4] KNEE BRACE
- [7] POST
- [10] 1/2-13 SERRATED FLANGE NUT
- [12] 1/2-13X3.5" SERRATED FLANGE BOLT

N/S CHORD-TO-REAR POST

1. Slide the brace clamp over the rear post prior to attaching the N/S chord or stretch the clamp apart, fit it around the post, and squeeze it back to its original shape. Install the cable clamps as required.







NOTE

Images are for reference only. Ideal hole/slot connection points may vary.

N/S CHORD-TO-REAR POST (CONTINUED)

- 2. Ensure the long, flat side of the clamp is facing the East so it can mate flush with the knee brace, as shown.
- 3. Confirm that the N/S chord is on the West side of the post, with the flat side against the post, and that the smaller flange with the slots pointing upwards, as shown.
- **4.** Secure with a bolt and a nut through the single hole. Fasten loosely.

KNEE BRACE-TO-BRACE CLAMP

- 1. Secure through the nominal hole as indicated in the construction documentation with a bolt and a nut. Fasten loosely.
- [11] 1/2-13X1.0" SERRATED FLANGE BOLT
- [15] KNEE BRACE CLAMP

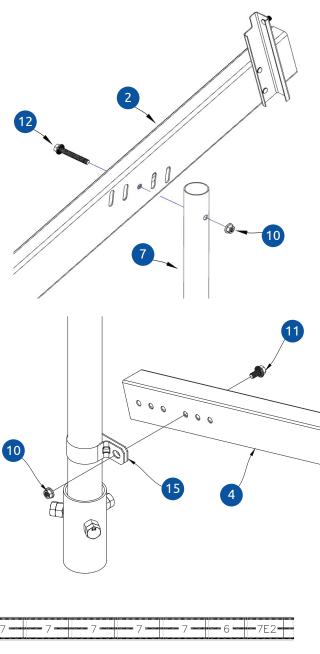
ADJUSTMENTS

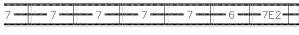
1. Adjust the N/S chord to align, ensuring that the front of the row is straight and follows the terrain. Fully tighten all fasteners once adjustments have been made.

ZEE PURLIN STAGING

Stage the zee purlins by setting them on the N/S chord and resting above the roll brackets.

- 1. Refer to the build plans to ensure the correct zee purlins are in the correct position. There are differences in either length or hole patten in the zee purlins, so ensure the correct part number is used. There typically are multiple zee purlins of the same length, with only slightly different hole patterns.
- 2. Ensure the zee purlins are in the correct orientation, as shown, with the slotted side facing up and towards the front of the rack.







Example zee purlin layout

TRANSVERSE BRACE-TO-ZEE PURLINS

Note: at no point is drilling of the transverse brace permitted. If the holes do not align, it indicates an error in a previous step.

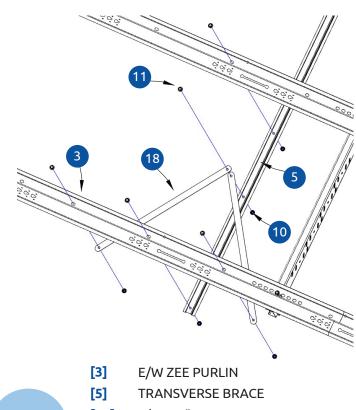
- **1.** Beginning at the lowest zee purlin (#1), loosely fasten the transverse brace to the purlin at the location indicated in the construction plans.
- **2.** Loosely attach the two (2) squaring straps at the transverse brace and zee purlin locations as indicated in the construction plans.
- **3.** Once all four connections are in place, securely torque all fasteners as indicated in the construction plans. This ensures that the transverse brace is perpendicular to the lowest zee purlin.
- **4.** Continue to the next lowest zee purlin (#2), aligning the loosely staged zee purlin with the corresponding hole in the transverse brace. Once aligned, securely fasten and torque the connection.
- **5.** Repeat this process for the remaining two (2) zee purlins (#3 & #4), moving up the transverse brace.
- **6.** Once all of the transverse brace to zee purlin connections have been made, the first bay should be square to the end of the row as shown.
- Repeat this process at all bays requiring transverse braces according to the construction plans.

NOTE

Transverse braces are not for squaring the structure, but to minimize transverse movement (racking) and keep the rack square. If the rack is not square to be-gin with, the transverse braces will not fit or function correctly. If different holes than outlined here must be used, the rack is not square and further installation of the panels will not be correct. Ensure transverse braces are installed prior to panels installation.

In addition to the transverse bracing, A 4' framing square should be used to ensure all (4) Zee Purlin's are square and in line with one another in each bay.

Zee to N/S connection points may vary, the N/S Chord should not be forced to be square with the Zee Purlins. Multiple mounting holes are provided to avoid lateral strain to the N/S Chord.



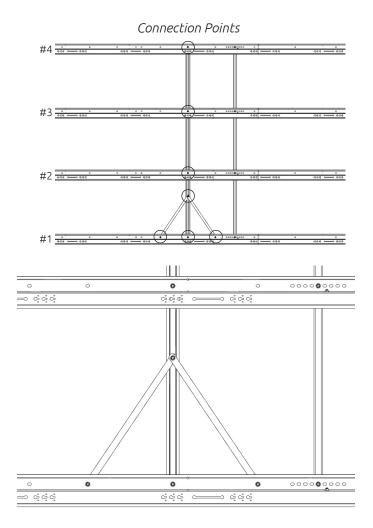
[5] L/W ZEE FOREIN

[5] TRANSVERSE BRACE

[11] 1/2X1.0" SERRATED FLANGE BOLT

[10] 1/2-13 SERRATED FLANGE NUT

[18] TRANSVERSE BRACE STRAP



ZEE PURLINS TO ROLL BRACKET

- 1. Ensure the stud goes through both zee purlins.
- **2.** The stud should typically go through the center slot (4th slot) on both purlins. Occasionally, the other slots may need to be used to resolve foundation installation errors.
- 3. Secure with a nut. Fasten loosely.
- **4.** Repeat at all locations for each N/S chord. There are four (4) roll brackets and connections required per N/S chord.
- [2] N/S CHORD
- [3] E/W ZEE PURLIN
- [1] ROLL BRACKET ASSEMBLY
- [10] 1/2-13 SERRATED FLANGE NUT
- [11] 1/2-13X1.0" SERRATED FLANGE BOLT

ZEE PURLINS-TO-N/S CHORD

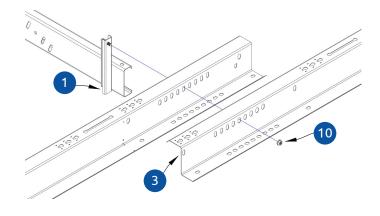
- **1.** The zee purlins should already be in the correct location and loosely fastened by now.
- **2.** Fasten the zee purlins to the N/S chord with a bolt and nut. Ensure the bolt is facing down (to keep wire tray clear). Fasten loosely.

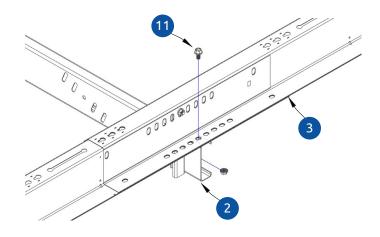
Note: the lower slots are matched to the middle slots, so there is no choice in slots at this point. See note about nominal slots in the ZEE PURLIN STAGING step.

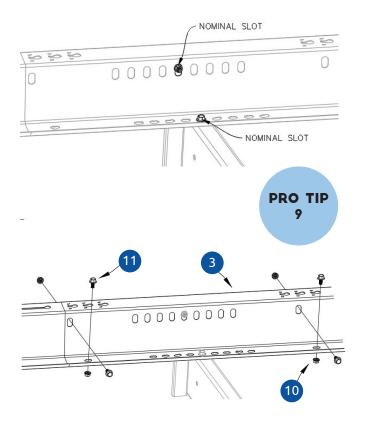
3. Repeat at all locations for each N/S chord. There are four (4) connections required per N/S chord.

ZEE PURLIN-TO-ZEE PURLIN (SPLICE)

- **1.** Splice the zee purlins together once the transverse braces are installed and the purlins are attached to the N/S chords.
- **2.** The direction of the overlap (which zee purlin is on top) is not important, and either order is acceptable.
- **3.** Each splice should have four (4) additional bolts at each location. Ideally, these should be at the outer most slots at the center web and on the lower flange of the zee purlins.
- **4.** If the splice is already connected at the lower flange with a transverse brace, only the two (2) connections in the center web are needed. If the N/S chord is located at either outer most hole, those splice bolts should be moved inward one (1) set. All splices should have six (6) connections in total.

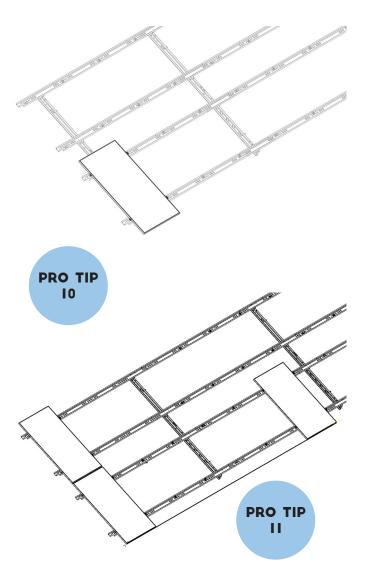






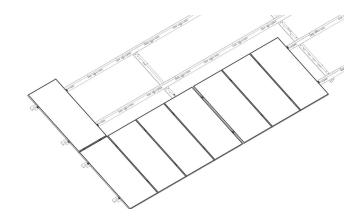
PANEL INSTALLATION

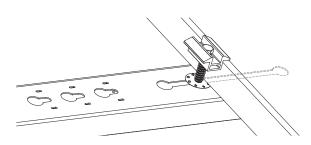
- **1.** Beginning at one end, start setting the panels by squaring the first panel to the bottom zee purlin. Refer to the construction documentation to determine the correct orientation of the panel.
- **2.** Place the top panel after squaring the bottom panel. Make sure the spacing between the top and bottom panel is correct. Note: use a fixture to create the proper gap, such as a piece of wood and spare clamp from the site.
- **3.** Place the panels periodically throughout the row, squaring them to the rack as you go. Once these transition panels have been placed, run a string across them to create your leading edge for the row. This is done to provide the best aesthetics while keeping the panel placement within specification.
- **4.** Check the construction plans to determine the correct panel placement. For example, a 4W section will have four (4) panel sets, then a break with an end clamp. Following this correctly will allow your panels to be placed in the pre-punched holes on the zee rail.
- **5.** Stage mid clamps and end clamps in the correct locations based on the build plans.



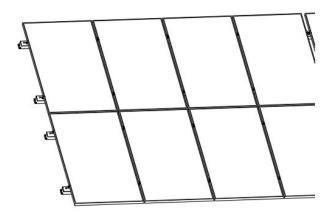
PANEL INSTALLATION (CONTINUED)

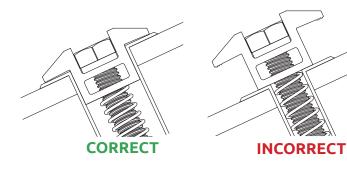
- **6.** Stage panels throughout the row in preparation to be set to the string line.
- 7. When starting panels, mid clamps can be placed in any area of the long keyslot, except for the entry point. Note that starting in the middle will be the nominal selection, however terrain and any adjustments made at the breaks will make the placement vary in the long keyslot.
- **8.** Tighten the clamps square to the panels and ensure the grounding teeth are coming into contact with the panel frame.
- **9.** If adjustments are needed, work within the tables on a given rack (for example, 4W, 7E, 5W) by adjusting placement in the long keyslot and gaps between the resets on the continuous rack.
- **10.** Repeat steps down the row, moving transition panels as you reach them if necessary.





Midclamps may be pre-installed from either side of the long keyslot





WARNING

DO NOT stage an entire row of panels. Only stage enough panels required to properly adjust them left to right (East to West). **DO NOT** leave panels unattended with untightened clamps, as wind may blow them off and cause damage.

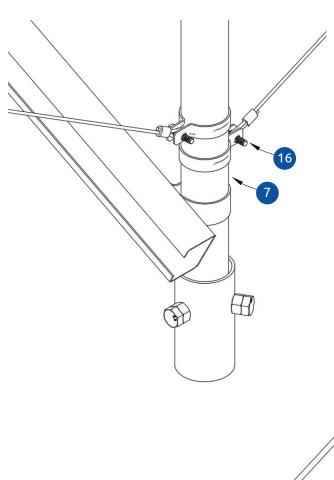
CABLE BRACE-TO-POST

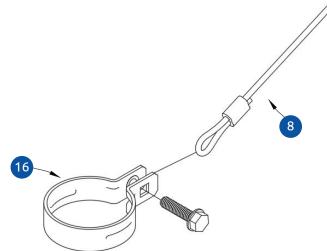
Depending on the array and project parameters, a set of posts may get multiple sets of cable braces to limit movement and reduce fatigue. Refer to the construction documentation for locations and frequency of cable bracing.

- **1.** If clamps were not installed prior to installing the N/S chord (highly recommended), spread the clamp apart, slide around the post, and re-compress it. Install clamps on the North and South posts as required.
- **2.** Once clamps are installed, string a cable between the two clamps (note: there may be multiple lengths of cables on one job; refer to construction documentation to use the correct one).
- **3.** Secure with bolts, loosely. Ensure that the bolts are pointing to the interior of the rack.
- **4.** Position one clamp slightly above the knee brace clamp and fasten tightly.
- **5.** Slide the opposite clamp as far as possible and fasten the bolt tightly. Cables should be taut and have no noticeable slack or sag.
- **6.** Repeat for all remaining cables as indicated in the construction documentation.
- [7] POST
- [8] CABLE BRACE
- [16] CABLE CLAMP ASSEMBLY

NOTE

Cable braces are not used to induce static tension, like trusses of a bridge, but instead only to keep the posts from spreading or shifting.





PRO TIPS

PRO TIPS are pieces of advice from installation experts. They are intended to provide practical solutions to real-world problems that you may encounter. But before implementing any of the below tips, make sure to request approval from APA's Engineering team, as not all solutions are allowed on every site.

- [1] Use a steel tape rather than a fiberglass tape to measure distances over the length of the row. Fiberglass can stretch over time and affect layout and installation lengths.
- [2] With extreme topography, every foundation must be marked and the string line must be attached to every foundation in order to ensure that the racking will flow at every high and low point.
- [3] Install the beginning, middle and end foundations about half of the way to depth (typically until threads are not showing). Then attach a string line to these installed foundations, creating a straight line for the installation process. This will give the installer a guide and ensure that the foundations are plumb.
- [4] If holes are pre-drilled, they must be filled with aggregate immediately, ensuring debris or water doesn't fall into the holes. If this happens, a void can be created causing the foundations to possibly sink in the future.
- [5] While it is very difficult to make every post perfectly plumb and at the correct height, care should be taken to keep them within the tolerances specified in the plans in order to ensure that the system fits and functions as intended.

- [6] When dealing with extreme topography, addition-al transitions will have to be added to make the rack-ing flow with the terrain.
- [7] Use grip clamps when setting post transitions. This is the best technique to use so that no improper dimpling is done to the posts if adjustments are needed. Once desired flow is reached, then tighten the set bolts.
- [8] Use a grip clamp to squeeze and close the clamp shut while installing the clamp bolt. Connect the knee brace to the knee brace clamp with a squeeze vise. This process takes less effort as the clamps are very rigid.
- [9] Use a spud wrench to align keyhole slots while installing the overlapping zee purlins. Use a spud wrench/alignment punch to pry onto the stud. At times, due to topography, the opposite side of the zee purlin will have to be lifted in the air to properly seat onto the previously installed zee purlin.
- [10] When staging panel clamps, tighten the bot-tom nut until the spring is slightly compressed. This will help the panel installer free up one hand. If the spring is not compressed prior to staging, the clamp will spin and another installer will have to hold the panel.
- [11] To square the panel, measure the distance from the edge of the panel to the flat part of the zee purlin on both sides, ensuring equal distance.
- [12] If zee purlins become out of square to the point the long key slots no longer align, they can be shifted East and West to re-square them. APA engineering will need to give prior approval as bolt locations will change.

OPERATION & MAINTENANCE

Regular inspections and proper maintenance are essential to maintain the design life and warranty of the TITAN solar racking system. Solar racking is exposed to many elements from initial construction to seasonal changes and can even be susceptible to severe weather conditions. The following Operation and Maintenance procedures should be followed and performed on an annual basis to ensure the warranty for the racking system remains active. The procedures below highlight the critical points to be examined and maintained for a properly functioning solar racking system.

BOLTED CONNECTIONS

Bolted connections need to be visually inspected annually to ensure the components are properly joined together. There are torque marked nuts/bolts at the beginning, middle, and end of each row per the APA QA/QC process. These marked locations should be visually inspected to confirm no movement of the bolted connections have occurred. If loose hardware is found, re-tighten to the specifications noted in the plan set for the racking system.

SOLAR PANEL CLAMPS

Clamps need to be visually inspected annually to ensure modules are properly secured. If loose clamps are found, retighten to the specifications noted in the plan set for the racking system.

GALVANIZE COATING

The galvanized coating ensures that the steel components are protected from corrosion and that the solar racking system will last for the entire project life. The solar racking system should be inspected annually for any areas of corrosion or rust. If areas are found, they should be repaired in a timely manner by cleaning the area, then generously applying cold galvanizing compound.

The cut, slit and sheared edges of the racking system are exposed steel that are expected to show corrosion or rust. This is normal and should be expected, but does not affect the structural integrity of the system.

Copper should be isolated and cannot touch the galvanized coating, as it will expedite corrosion.

CROSS BRACING CABLE WIRE

If applicable to your project, the bracing needs to be visually inspected on an annual basis to ensure that it has not become loose. Cables are required to be taut for limiting motion, but do not need to be tensioned.

SYSTEM DAMAGE

The solar racking system should be visually inspected for other types of damage. Examples include damage from mowing equipment, maintenance equipment, falling trees or branches, storm damage, system lean, soil erosion, etc. Any components that are damaged or deformed should be replaced as they may be weaker or corrode faster than intended. Some components may be able to be repaired onsite if replacement is not practical. Contact APA for assistance with replacement parts or instructions on repairing a component.

GENERAL OPERATION

It is important to maintain the solar racking system to ensure the design lifespan.

Keep all vegetation managed and off of the racking system and solar modules.

Check that module cleaner solution, weed killer, or other chemicals used on or around the solar racking system are not corrosive to galvanized or stainless steels.

Check electrical wiring to ensure it is managed properly and protected.

Take note and log when inspections were performed and if any corrective actions were taken or need to be taken in the future.

FOUNDATION INSTALLATION

- [1] EARTHLOCK OR USA GROUND SCREW FOUNDATION
- [2] FOUNDATION COLLAR ASSEMBLY
- [3] DRIVE HEAD & PIN
- **1.** Insert the drive pin into the foundation and slide the drive head over the end of the foundation.
- **2.** Drive the foundation with a single point, starting at one end of the site. The string line method is best for ensuring a straight line and a perfect plane of the array. Foundations are to be installed with a maximum reveal of 6" above grade.
- **3.** Ensure the foundation is held plumb and in the proper location using a level.
- **4.** Drive the foundation to the correct depth as indicated by the construction documents.
- **5.** Install all remaining foundations, using a string line as a guide for placement and height if necessary. Use a tape measure as described in the preparation process.
- **6.** Once foundations have been installed, slide the collar over the screw and tighten in accordance with the racking system's installation process. Note: the collar can be slightly tightened to hold it in place but if it is over tightened, it can interfere with the racking installation.

ALTERNATE FOUNDATION INSTALLATION

For sites with medium-to-heavy rock or bedrock, holes may need to be piloted and backfilled prior to foundation install. Refer to the Ground Screw Install Procedure - Drilled Hole.

NOTE

Check all survey points before drilling.

NOTE

This addendum covers the installation of EarthLock™ (multi-part) Foundations and USA Ground Screws.

