

# FESTOOL

## ***CT Series Dust Extractors***



***CT Mini, CT Midi, CT 26 E, CT 36 E, CT 48 E, CT 36 AC***

## ***Supplemental User's Manual***



**WARNING** To reduce the risk of serious injury, read and understand all safety precautions and instructions in this manual before using this tool.

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## Limited Warranty<sup>1</sup>

### 30 Day Money Back Guarantee

Buy with confidence. If you are not completely satisfied, return your tool<sup>2</sup> to the selling dealer within 30 days and you will receive a refund of either your purchase price or the lowest retail price at which the same item has been offered since your date of purchase. Freight charges are not refundable.

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### Service All-Inclusive® Warranty

Festool USA warrants that all new Festool power tools<sup>3</sup> purchased from authorized dealers in the U.S. and Canada will be free from defects in materials and workmanship for a term of three years from the date of original retail purchase.

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### Conditions of Service All-Inclusive Warranty

This warranty applies for three years from the date of original retail purchase. Proof of purchase is required. This warranty is void if the tool is not used, operated, repaired and maintained in accordance with the tool's instruction manual.

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### Excluded from this warranty's coverage are:

- ▶ Accessories and/or attachments, including, but not limited to, saw blades, drill bits, router bits, sanding discs and apparel
- ▶ Tools purchased from outside of the U.S. or Canada
- ▶ Repairs or replacements not performed by an authorized Festool Service Center, outside of routine maintenance as set forth in the instruction manual
- ▶ Parts or components not supplied by Festool or that have been modified
- ▶ Damage caused by misuse, abuse, accident, impact, abnormal wear and tear, improper storage and/or exposure to the elements, or neglect
- ▶ Damage caused by anything other than defects in materials and workmanship
- ▶ Normal adjustments and recommended maintenance as set forth in the tool's instruction manual
- ▶ Damage from the operation of the tool at a voltage or frequency different from the tool's rating, including the use of transformers

1 The following is an exemplar Festool limited warranty. The actual warranty that comes with your power tool is controlling.

2 Tool must be returned in complete and whole condition as supplied to include Systainer, cutter, blade, power cord, etc.

3 For purposes of this warranty, power tools are defined as any Festool branded product that bears a serial number (S.Nr. or M.Nr.).

4 To determine if your application is excluded from the warranty under this condition, please contact the Festool Service Center at 800.554.8741

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## Repairs

If your Festool power tool requires repair, whether it be warranty or non-warranty, you must contact our Service

- ▶ Damage resulting from the use of any non-Festool accessories or attachments
- ▶ Tools used in high volume industrial applications<sup>4</sup>

Should any failure covered by this Limited Warranty occur, the purchaser must contact Festool through our website, [www.festoolusa.com/SAI](http://www.festoolusa.com/SAI), or call 888.337.8600 for authorization and shipping information. For purchases made in Canada, contact our website, [www.festoolcanada.com/SAI](http://www.festoolcanada.com/SAI) or call 613.363.0169. Festool, in its sole discretion, may elect to repair, replace or refund the purchase price of any tool covered by this Limited Warranty that is found to be defective, at no cost to the purchaser. Warranty returns will be processed by Festool according to normal work flow and availability of replacement parts and components. Festool will issue a prepaid shipping label for return of the tool to the Festool Service Center and will also return the repaired tool freight prepaid, if the repair or replacement is covered under this Limited Warranty.

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With the exception of any warranties implied by state or province law as limited above, the foregoing limited warranty is exclusive and in lieu of all other warranties, guarantees, agreements, and similar obligations of Festool. No agent, representative, distributor, dealer, or employee of Festool has the authority to increase or otherwise modify the obligations or limitations of this warranty.

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### Warrantor:

Festool USA  
Festool Canada

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[festoolcanada.com/SAI](http://festoolcanada.com/SAI)

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## Liability Statement

This product has been built to the high standards of Festool. Please do not attempt to operate or repair this equipment without adequate training. Any use, operation, or repair in contravention of this document is at your own risk. By acceptance of this system you hereby assume all liability consequent to your

use or misuse of this equipment. Festool assumes no liability for incidental, special, or consequential damage of any kind. Equipment specifications, applications, and options are subject to change at the sole discretion of Festool without notice.

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## About This Manual

### Save These Instructions

It is important for you to read and understand this manual. The information it contains relates to protecting YOUR SAFETY and PREVENTING PROBLEMS. The symbols below are used to help you recognize this information.



**WARNING!** Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury.



**CAUTION!** Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in minor or moderate injury.



**NOTICE:** Indicates a potential situation which, if not avoided, can result in property damage or damage to the tool.



**Note:** Indicates information, notes, or tips for improving your success using the tool.

### Tool Symbols

V	Volts
W	Watts
Hz	Hertz
~	Alternating Current (AC)
n	No-load Speed
□	Class II Double Insulated

# General Power Tool Safety Warnings



**WARNING! Read all safety warnings and instructions.** Failure to follow the warnings and instructions may result in electric shock, fire, and/or serious injury.

**Save all warnings and instructions for future reference.**

## Work Area Safety

- ▶ Keep your work area clean and well lit. Cluttered or dark work areas invite accidents.
- ▶ Do not operate power tools in explosive atmospheres, such as in the presence of flammable liquids, gases, or dust. Power tools create sparks which may ignite the dust or fumes.
- ▶ Keep children and bystanders away while operating a power tool. Distractions can cause you to lose control.

## Electrical Safety

- ▶ Power tool plugs must match the outlet. Never modify the plug in any way. Do not use any adapter plugs with earthed (grounded) power tools. Unmodified plugs and matching outlets will reduce risk of electric shock.
- ▶ Avoid body contact with earthed or grounded surfaces such as pipes, radiators, ranges and refrigerators. There is an increased risk of electric shock if your body is earthed or grounded.
- ▶ Do not expose power tools to rain or wet conditions. Water entering a power tool will increase the risk of electric shock.
- ▶ Do not abuse the cord. Never use the cord for carrying, pulling, or unplugging the power tool. Keep cord away from heat, oil, sharp edges or moving parts. Damaged or entangled cords increase the risk of electric shock.
- ▶ When operating a power tool outdoors, use an extension cord suitable for outdoor use. Use of a cord for outdoor use reduces the risk of electric shock.
- ▶ If operating a power tool in a damp location is unavoidable, use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protected supply. Use of a GFCI reduces the risk of electric shock.
- ▶ Never use an extension cord that is damaged, including cuts, exposed wires, or bent/missing prongs. Damaged extension cords increase the risk of fire or electric shock.
- ▶ Use only extension cords rated for the purpose.
- ▶ Use only extension cords rated for the amperage of this tool and the length of the cord. Using too small of an extension cord can cause the cord to overheat.

### Extension Cord Ratings

Cord Length	Size (AWG)
<50 Ft.	14
50-100 Ft.	12
>100 Ft.	Not recommended

## Personal Safety

- ▶ Stay alert, watch what you are doing, and use common sense when operating a power tool. Do not use a power tool while tired or under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or medication. A moment of inattention while operating power tools may result in serious personal injury.
- ▶ Use personal protective equipment. Always wear eye protection. Protective equipment such as dust mask, non-skid safety shoes, hard hat, or hearing protection used for appropriate conditions will reduce personal injuries.
- ▶ Prevent unintentional starting. Ensure the switch is in the off-position before connecting to power source, picking up, or carrying the tool. Carrying power tools with your finger on the switch or energizing power tools that have the switch on invites accidents.
- ▶ Remove adjusting key or wrench before turning the power tool on. A wrench or a key that is left attached to a rotating part of the tool may result in personal injury.
- ▶ Do not overreach. Keep proper footing and balance at all times. This enables better control of the tool in unexpected situations.
- ▶ Dress properly. Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry. Keep your hair, clothing, and gloves away from moving parts. Loose clothes, jewelry, or long hair can be caught in moving parts.
- ▶ If devices are provided for the connection of dust extraction and collection facilities, ensure these are connected and properly used. Use of dust collection can reduce dust-related hazards.
- ▶ Always wear safety glasses complying with ANSI Z87.1. Ordinary glasses are not proper protection.

## Power Tool Use and Care

- ▶ Do not force the power tool. Use the correct power tool for your application. The correct power tool will do the job better and safer at the rate for which it is designed.
- ▶ Do not use the power tool if the switch does not turn it on and off. Any power tool that cannot be controlled with the switch is dangerous and must be repaired.
- ▶ Disconnect the plug from the power source before making any adjustments, changing accessories, or storing the tool. Such preventive safety measures reduce the risk of starting the tool accidentally.
- ▶ Store idle tools out of reach of children and do not allow persons unfamiliar with the power tool or these instructions to operate the power tool. Power tools are dangerous in the hands of untrained users.
- ▶ Maintain power tools. Check for misalignment or binding of moving parts, breakage of parts and any other condition that may affect the power tool's operation. If damaged, have the power tool repaired before use. Many accidents are caused by poorly maintained power tools.
- ▶ Keep cutting tools sharp and clean. Properly maintained tools with sharp cutting edges are less likely to bind and are easier to control.
- ▶ Use the power tool, accessories, and tool bits etc. in accordance with these instructions, taking into account the working

conditions and the work to be performed. Use of the power tool for operations different from those intended could result in a hazardous situation.

- To reduce the risk of serious injury, never alter or misuse the power tool.

## Service

- Have your power tool serviced by a qualified repair person using only identical replacement parts. This will ensure that

the safety of the power tool is maintained.

## Specific Safety Rules for Dust Extractors

- The dust extractor uses a 3-prong grounded plug. Never connect the dust extractor to an ungrounded electrical outlet. Never defeat or bypass the ground prong. Do not use the dust extractor if the ground prong is broken or missing.
- Take care when using the dust extractor on stairs or elevated work areas.
- Do not vacuum toxic, carcinogenic, combustible or other hazardous materials such as asbestos, arsenic, barium, beryllium, lead, pesticides or other health endangering materials.
- Do not pick up anything that is burning, smoldering, or smoking, such as cigarettes, matches or hot ashes.
- Do not use to pick up flammable or combustible liquids, such as gasoline, or use in areas where they may be present.
- Take care when disposing of fine sanding dust. Fine particle dust may become explosive. Do not throw sanding dust on an open flame.

## Respiratory Exposure Safety Warnings

Substantial or repeated inhalation of dust and other airborne contaminants, in particular those with a smaller particle size, may cause respiratory or other illnesses. Various dusts created by power sanding, sawing, grinding, drilling and other construction activities contain chemicals or substances known (to the State of California and others) to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm. Some examples of these chemicals/substances are: lead from lead-based paints; crystalline silica from bricks, cement, and other masonry products; arsenic and chromium from chemically-treated lumber; and some wood

dusts, especially from hardwoods, but also from some softwoods such as Western Red Cedar.

The 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 use a properly functioning dust extraction system. When the inhalation of dust cannot be substantially controlled, i.e., kept at or near the ambient (background) level, the operator and any bystanders should wear a respirator approved by NIOSH for the type of dust encountered.

## Dust Extractor Overview

### Intended Use

The dust extractor is designed for use for the suction and evacuation of non-noxious dusts, dirt, sand, shavings etc., for both dry and wet conditions. With the appropriate filter and collection configuration, this dust extractor may be used for vacuuming water. The dust extractor is designed for both household and commercial use, and for both workshop and household applications.

The dust extractor should not be altered or used for any other purpose, other than as specified in these operating instructions. Using the tool in contravention to this manual will void your warranty and may lead to injury. The user shall be responsible and liable for damages and accidents resulting from misuse or abuse of this dust extractor.

## Technical Specifications

	CT Mini	CT Midi	CT 26 E	CT 36 E	CT 36 AC	CT 48 E
Power Consumption	400-1200 W		350-1200 W			
Max Connected Load	1200 W					
Maximum Air Flow	222 m³/h (130 cfm)		234 m³/h(138 cfm)			
Maximum Vacuum	24 kPa (3.48 psi)					
Sound	62-72 dB(A), (IEC 60704-2-1)					
Filter Surface	0.5 m² (5.4 ft²)		0.6 m² (6.8 ft²)			
Dimensions: LxWxH mm / inch	430x330x420 16.9x13.0x16.5	430x330x470 16.9x13.0x18.5	630x365x540 24.8x14.4x21.3	630x365x596 24.8x14.4x23.5	630x365x596 24.8x14.4x23.5	740x406x1005 29.1x16.0x39.6
Weight	8.7 kg (19.2 lb)	9.0 kg (19.8 lb)	13 kg (28.6 lb)	13.5 kg (29.7 lb)	15.2 kg (33.5 lb)	16.2 kg (35.9 lb)
Collection Capacity	10 L (2.6 gal)	15 L (3.9 gal)	26 L (6.9 gal)	36 L (9.5 gal)	36 L (9.5 gal)	48 L (12.7 gal)
Ingress Protection	IPx4					

*These specifications are subject to change without notice.*



Functional Description



Item	Name or Description	Ref. Page(s)
A	Power Switch/Mode	12
B	Speed Control Dial	12
C	AutoClean Dial (AC Model Only)	10
D	Tool Receptacle	12
E	Vacuum Inlet	8
F	Collection Canister	8,9,10
G	Motor Housing	8,9
H	Hose and Cord Storage	11
I	Carrying Handle	---

Item	Name or Description	Ref. Page(s)
J	Canister Latch	8
K	Caster Wheel	---
L	Brake Release	11
M	Brake Foot	11
N	Systainer Latch	11
O	Optional Transport Handle	13
P	Optional Boom Arm	15
Q	Optional Tool Holder	17
R	Accessory Module	19

# Setup and Operation

## Usage and Configurations

The CT-series dust extractor is a true multi-purpose vacuum cleaner with a broad range of capabilities. In its standard configuration it is excellent for routine house cleaning, workshop cleaning, and very effective for power tool dust control. With a couple of quick changes, the vacuum is ready for damp, wet, or full liquid collection. Even though all models are capable of handling ultra-fine caking dusts such as drywall sanding, the AutoClean models are specifically suited to the task to maximize operation time without clogging.

### Manual and Automatic Modes

The main power switch has three positions: Off, Manual, and Automatic. In the Off or Manual positions, the electrical receptacle on the front of the vacuum is disabled. In the Automatic mode, the receptacle will have power, and the vacuum will automatically turn on when the vacuum detects that the connected tool is turned on.

### Variable Power

The CT-series vacuums have variable suction power by reducing the speed of the blower motor. Most tasks are best suited for full power, but some uses, such as dust collection with sanders, are best suited for lower powered suction.

### Self Cleaning Bags

Typical paper-based collection bags tend to cake with fine dusts. This reduces the air flow through the bag. The self cleaning, woven fiber, Cleantex bags are designed to break up the caked dust and reduce the amount clinging to the bag surface.

### Long Life Bags

Long life filter bags are available for the CT-26 through CT-48 vacuums. The long life bags are best suited for the collection of large volume, non-fine dusts. The bag can be emptied and reused.

### Dust Liners (CT-AC Only)

Vacuums equipped with the AutoClean feature do not rely on the first-stage filtering normally afforded by collection bags. Instead, they permit the ultra-fine dust to reach the main filter, where it can be periodically and automatically shed from the filter. The dust liners line the interior of the canister for easy disposal of ultra-fine dust without picking

up and dumping the canister.

### Damp and Wet Extraction

It is important to isolate dry and non-dry collections. More specifically, avoid extracting wet or even damp material if the vacuum already contains dry dust or dirt. The incoming moisture will dampen the existing dust inside the collection bag and main filter, and create a mud-like hard cake on the surfaces. This will reduce the usable life of both the collection bag and the main HEPA filter. (Refer to "Wet-vac Setup" on page 9.)

### Full Unit HEPA Certified

All CT models except the AutoClean models are Full Unit HEPA Certified in accordance with 40 CFR Part 745 for EPA Lead Renovation, Repair, & Paint (RRP) activities. The vacuum will maintain certification as long as the HEPA filter and filter seal are properly maintained in accordance with this manual.

### AutoClean Operation

CT-AC (AutoClean) models function like any other model, but they are also specifically designed for use with ultra-fine dusts, such as drywall dust. Under normal conditions, drywall dust would cake the inside of a filter bag long before the filter bag was full. Instead, the AC models permit the fine dust to reach the main filter element, where it can be automatically sluffed off.

In AutoClean mode, the vacuum will periodically reverse flow through the filter with a high-speed impulse of air to dislodge the caked material. The frequency of cleaning cycles can be automatically controlled or manually controlled.

When a cleaning cycle is initiated, the CT-vac will abruptly release vacuum pressure on the clean-side of the main filter. Because the collection canister has a negative pressure (a vacuum), air will quickly rush into the canister backward through the main filter. This sharp backflow of air through the filter will dislodge caked on dust from the filter.

During a manual cleaning cycle, the vacuum's inlet should be blocked for best results. This creates a stronger vacuum inside the canister, which results in a larger backflow pulse. The AutoClean function will also cycle several times, making the manual cleaning cycle more aggressive deeper filter cleaning.



## Initial Setup

Your new CT-series dust extractor does not require any special setup before use. However, some components may be shipped inside the canister and need to be removed before use, and the collection bag needs to be installed.

1. Release the latches and lift the motor housing off the canister, as described below.

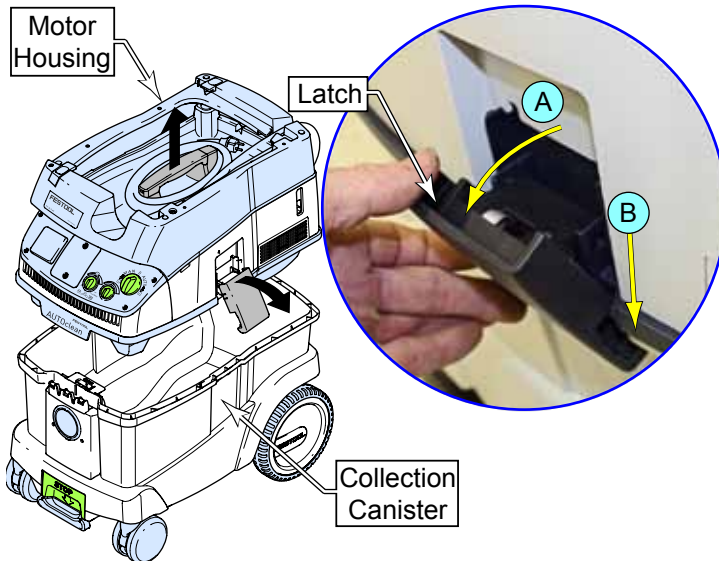
2. Remove any components from the canister.
3. Inspect the filter element to ensure it is properly installed and undamaged from shipping. (See [page 9](#)).
4. Install the collection bag as described below.
5. If desired, install the "[Power Cord Bracket \(Reel\)](#)" on [page 12](#) (CT 26, 36, & 48 models only).

## Changing Collection Bags

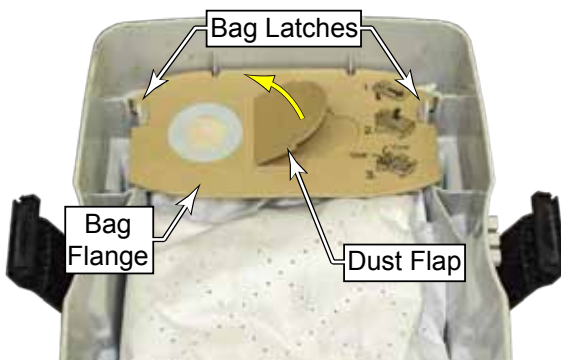
Collection bags make the disposal of dust and dirt easier, but they also act as a first-stage filter by capturing the majority of coarse and fine dust before it reaches the main filter. (Refer to [page 10](#) for dust liner installation.)

1. Release the 2 latches that hold the motor housing to the collection canister, and lift the motor housing off the canister.

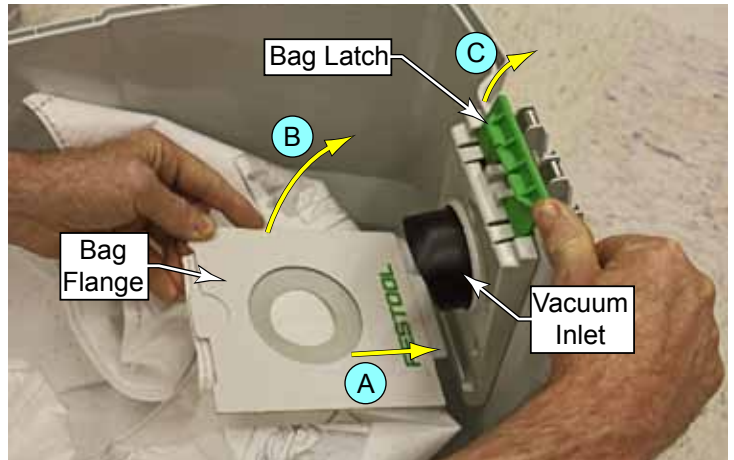
- ▶ During replacement, make sure the motor housing is squarely seated on the canister before closing the latches.
- ▶ The motor housing contains a sealing gasket for the canister. Periodically inspect the gasket for tears or damage.



2. To install the collection bag in a CT-Mini or CT-Midi:
  - a. Unfold the bag and place it in the bottom of the collection canister.
  - b. Align the bag flange with the bag latches, and press the flange down until the latches snap into place.
  - ▶ When the bag is full, close the dust flap to keep the dust from escaping during disposal.



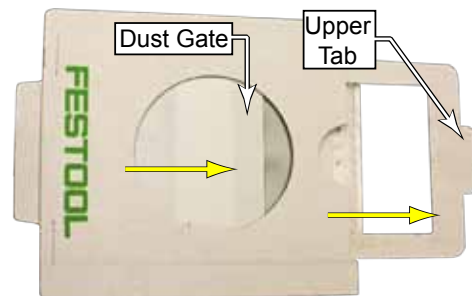
3. To install the collection bag in a CT-26 through CT-48:
  - a. Insert the lower tab of the bag flange into the slot below the vacuum inlet.
  - b. Tilt the flange onto the vacuum inlet.
  - c. Raise the bag latch, press the bag flange against the vacuum inlet, and release the bag latch.



- ▶ To prevent dust from escaping the bag during disposal, you can close the bag's dust gate by pulling out on the upper tab of the bag flange.



**NOTE:** Don't close the dust gate on an unused bag. The dust gate cannot be easily reopened once closed.



4. Make sure the bag is not pinched between the canister and motor housing, and replace the motor housing.

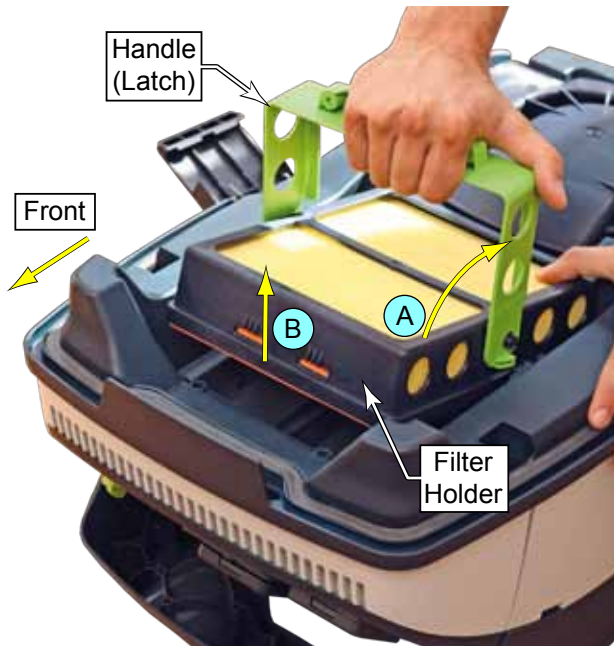




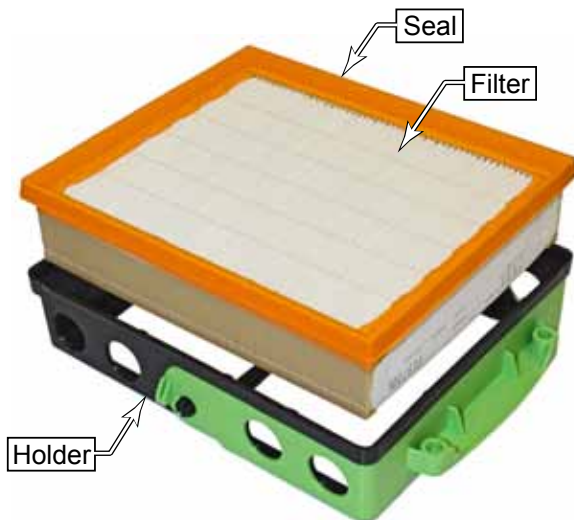
## Changing the Filter Element

The main filter element should be changed if it becomes clogged or damaged. The main filter should also be removed for wet collection and the wet filter should be installed as describe to the right. Note that running the vacuum without a filter installed will result in a significant loss of suction as the collection bag gets drawn to the motor inlet.

1. Remove the motor housing from the collection canister as described on [page 8](#), and turn the motor housing upside down.
2. Raise the green handle (which also serves as the latch) on the filter holder, and remove the filter and holder.



3. Remove the filter from the filter holder.
4. Insert a new filter into the filter holder. Make sure the seal is facing toward the vacuum motor housing.



5. Clean and inspect the motor housing where the filter seal compresses. Make sure there are no scratches, gouges, or foreign materials that can impede the effectiveness of the seal.
6. With the handle raised and facing toward the front of the vacuum, reinsert the filter holder into the motor housing.
7. Lower the handle to lock the filter holder in place.

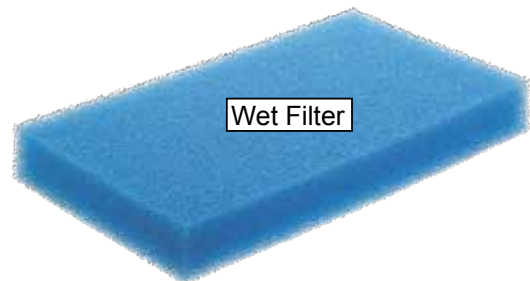
Supplemental Owner's Manual

## Wet-vac Setup

When using the CT-vac for damp or wet extraction, it is important to configure the vacuum for wet collection. It is also important to reconfigure the vacuum for dry extraction afterward.

If the collection bag is not removed from the collection canister, incoming moist air will cause the existing dust in the collection bag to get wet and cake to the inside of the bag. This will reduce the air flow through the bag and diminish the suction of the vacuum. Likewise, if moist air reaches the main filter, it will cause the filter to clog, and reduce suction.

When returning to dry collection, it is important to replace the wet filter with the dry filter. The wet filter is not designed to capture fine dusts, which would then pass through the filter into the blower. It is also a good idea to dry the interior of the vacuum and the collection hose so that incoming dry dust does not adhere to the remaining water inside the canister.



1. Remove the motor housing from the collection canister as described on [page 8](#).
2. Remove the dust collection bag. (Don't close the dust gate unless you intend to dispose of the bag. However, for a CT-Mini or CT-Midi, the dust flap can be closed and reopened.)
3. Replace the dry filter with the wet filter as described in the procedure to the left.



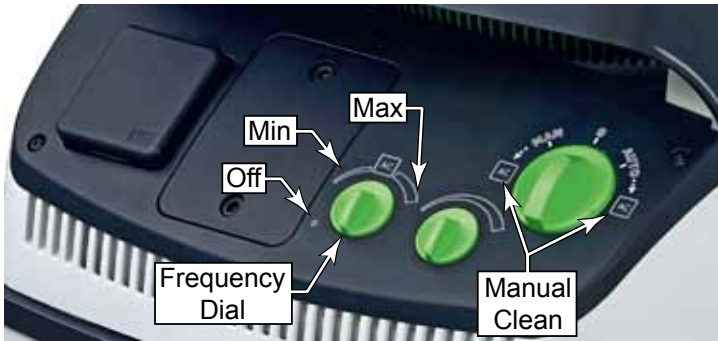
4. After wet collection is complete, empty the water from the collection canister.
5. To facilitate drying, you may wish to run the vacuum for a few minutes before replacing the collection bag and dry filter.

## AutoClean Setup

The CT-AC series of vacuums have the optional AutoClean function. When enabled, the AutoClean function sends a pulse of air backward through the main filter to dislodge caked dust from the filter, as described on [page 7](#).

The purpose of the AutoClean function is to circumvent the frequent clogging of a normal filter bag when ultra-fine dusts are collected. Therefore, the AutoClean function is intended for use without a filter bag installed in the vacuum. (Even though a bag could be installed, it would diminish the effect of AutoClean.) To aid in emptying the collection canister, a dust liner is recommended.

For AutoClean mode, it is recommended to use the CT AC High-Performance filter (496 172). This filter is rated for 1-micron filtration, instead of the 0.3-micron filtration of a HEPA filter, and is designed for the AutoClean back-flow pulses. A HEPA filter should be used only when the AutoClean function is disabled.



### Non-AutoClean Mode

The CT-AC vacuum may be used as a typical shop and household vacuum by disabling the AutoClean feature and installing a normal filter bag. To disable the automatic cleaning cycle, turn the frequency dial to the "0" (Off) position.

### Manual AutoClean Mode

A manual cleaning cycle may be initiated by turning the main power switch to either of the two "AC" (AutoClean) positions momentarily. The vacuum will produce several AutoClean pulses in succession. A manual AutoClean cycle should be performed periodically to perform a deeper cleaning than the automatic AutoClean timing. It should also be performed prior to emptying the collection canister.

Ideally, the vacuum inlet or hose inlet should be blocked before the cleaning cycle to provide the deepest cleaning. The optional VS-CT-AC blast gate allows you to block the inlet without having to disconnect the hose or the tool.



1. Block the inlet to the vacuum or the end of the hose.
2. Momentarily rotate the power switch to either of the two "AC" positions. The switch may be released to either the "Man" or "Auto" positions, or it may be turned to the off position.
3. After the vacuum has stopped pulsing, unblock the inlet.

### Automatic AutoClean Mode

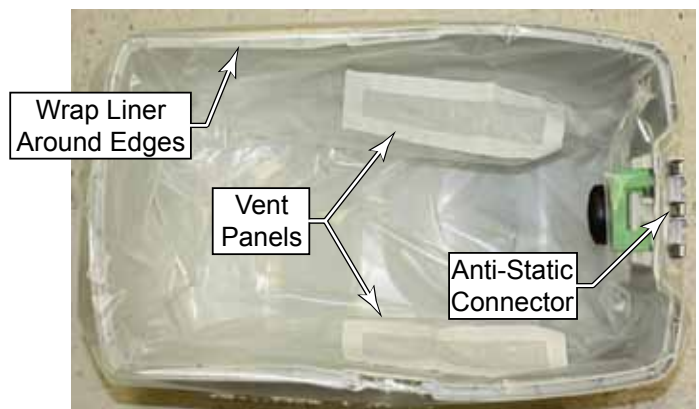
In automatic AutoClean mode, the vacuum will initiate AutoClean cycles without interrupting the operation of the vacuum, with only a brief reduction in suction at the hose. The frequency of the AutoClean pulses is controlled by turning the frequency dial. Turning the dial clockwise increases the frequency of the pulses, and turning the dial counterclockwise decreases the frequency. Turning the dial all the way counterclockwise will disable the automatic AutoClean system.

### Using Dust Liners

Dust liners are not bags, but are open-faced to line the bottom of the collection canister to make emptying the canister easier. The liners have two vents on the side. These are not for normal airflow, but instead, are to equalize the air that would otherwise be trapped under the liner, and allow the liner to lay flat in the bottom of the canister.

Changing the dust liner is similar to changing a collection bag. Refer to "[Changing Collection Bags](#)" on page 8 for additional details.

1. Place the liner in the bottom of the collection canister and secure the flange to the vacuum inlet in the same manner as a collection bag.
2. Wrap the edges of the liner around the lip of the collection canister, so that when the motor housing is replaced, it holds the liner in place.
  - ▶ Make sure the 3 electrical contacts near the vacuum inlet are not covered by the plastic liner. The center electrical contact is the grounded connection for the anti-static hose.
  - ▶ Make sure the two vent panels are inside the canister. If the vent panels are not inside the canister, the dust liner will balloon up when the vacuum is turned on.
3. When emptying the full liner, use the attached tie wrap to seal the top of the liner.





## Hose and Cord Storage

All CT-series vacuums have integral hose and cord storage in the top of the vacuum, called the hose garage. The hose garage permits the power cord and vacuum hose to be stored in the top while simultaneously allowing for a tool's Systainer to be stacked on top of the vacuum (see below). The hose garage has a slot in the rear for the power cord to pass through, and a slot in the front for the hose to pass through. (Also refer to [page 12](#) for installing the optional [Power Cord Bracket \(Reel\)](#).)



## Systainer Storage

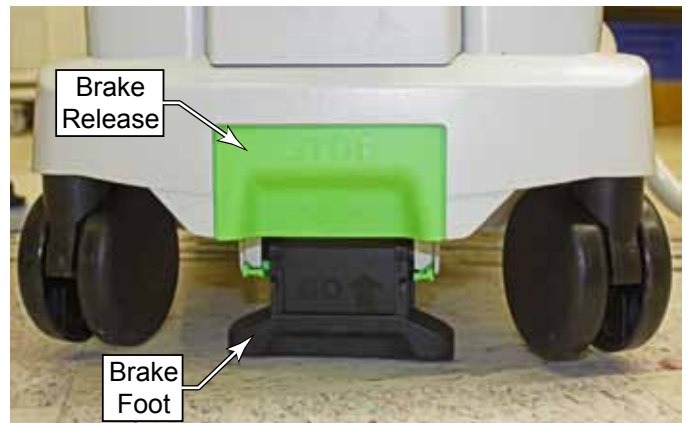
All of the CT-series vacuums allow for storage and transportation of Systainers on top of the Vacuum. The latches accommodate both new T-Lok and older latch style Systainers. The CT-Mini and CT-Midi mount a T-lok style Systainer differently than the larger vacuums, and have a T-lok handle for securing them.



## Using the Parking Brake

All CT-series vacuum have a parking brake to keep the vacuum stationary when you don't want it to move.

- ▶ To activate the brake, press down on the brake foot until the front wheels are off the ground.
- ▶ To release the brake, press in on the brake release button.



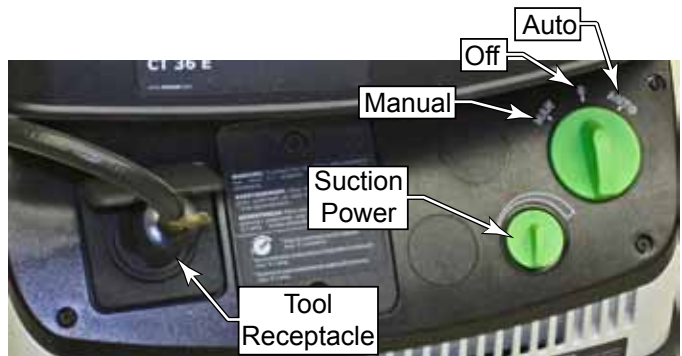
## Turning the Vacuum On

The vacuum has two modes of operation: manual and automatic. In manual mode it turns on and off like a typical vacuum. In automatic mode, the vacuum will sense when the connected power tool is turned on, and start and stop automatically. The vacuum will continue to run for a couple seconds after the tool is turned off in order to clear remaining dust from the hose.

- ▶ In off or auto modes, the tool receptacle is disabled and has no power.
- ▶ In automatic mode, the tool receptacle has power and the vacuum is turned on and off when the tool is turned on and off.
- ▶ The variable suction power can be adjusted with the vacuum running or off.



**NOTE:** Tools with very low power consumption may not draw enough power from the tool receptacle to be detected by the vacuum. For variable speed tools, it may be necessary to turn the speed up to trigger the vacuum, and then back down for normal operation.

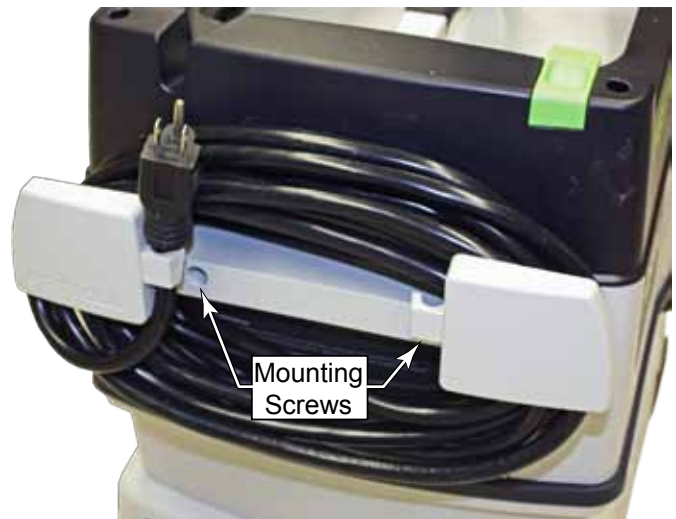
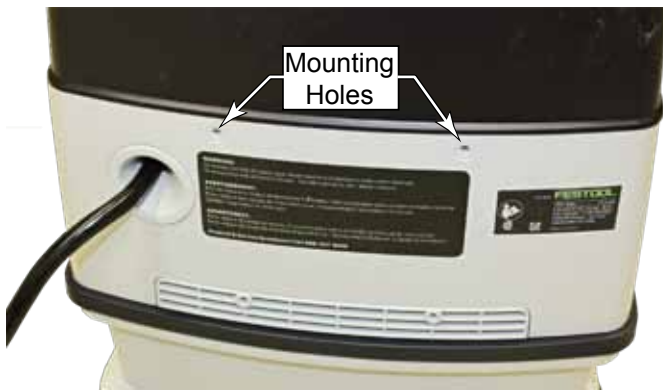


## Optional Accessories

### Power Cord Bracket (Reel)

CT-26 through CT-48 models come with an optional cord reel for storing the power cord on the back of the vacuum. This gives the added feature of being able to store the power cord either in the hose garage or on the cord reel. Note however, that the cord reel isn't compatible with the optional boom arm. So if you are going to install the boom arm, you should skip this procedure.

Using the provided screws, secure the cord bracket to the motor housing of the vacuum, as shown.





## Transport Handle

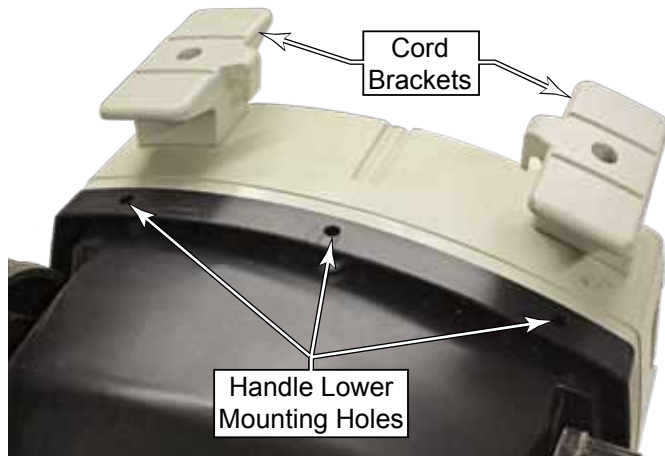
A transport handle can be added to the CT-22 through CT-55 vacuums. The handle aids in moving the vacuum around the shop or to project sites. It is also required in order to install the optional boom arm (see “[Boom Arm](#)” on page 15).

### CT-22/33/44/55 Handle Installation

1. Remove the motor housing from the collection canister.
2. Carefully prop the collection canister up with the front facing down. Make sure it is stable so it doesn't fall over while you work.



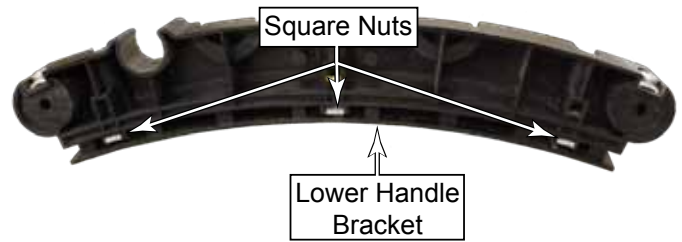
3. Remove the two screws that secure the existing cord brackets, and remove the brackets. Keep the screws, nuts and brackets for reuse.



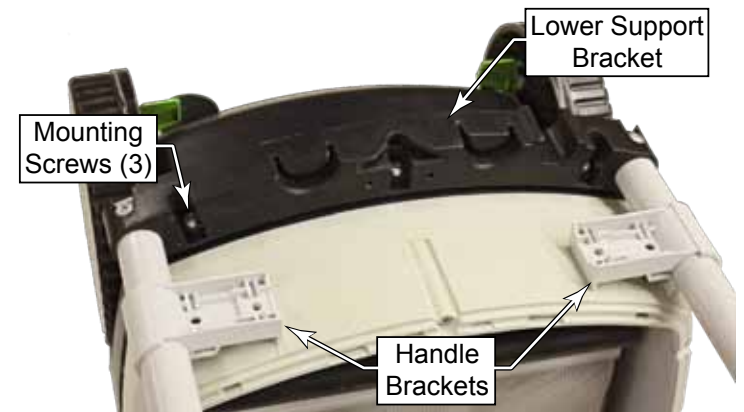
4. Insert 4 square nuts into the slots on the collection canister.



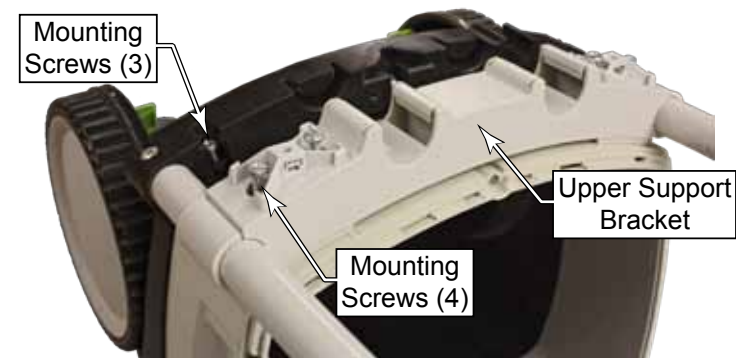
5. Insert 3 square retaining nuts into the slots in the handle's lower mounting bracket. Make sure they are inserted all the way into the deep slots.



6. Place the handle on the collection canister slightly below the lower flange, and then slide it upward until the three mounting holes line up with the three screw locations in the lower support bracket.
7. Slide the two handle brackets down the handle until their mounting holes line up with the upper holes in the collection canister. (Make sure the 4 square nuts haven't fallen out of position.)

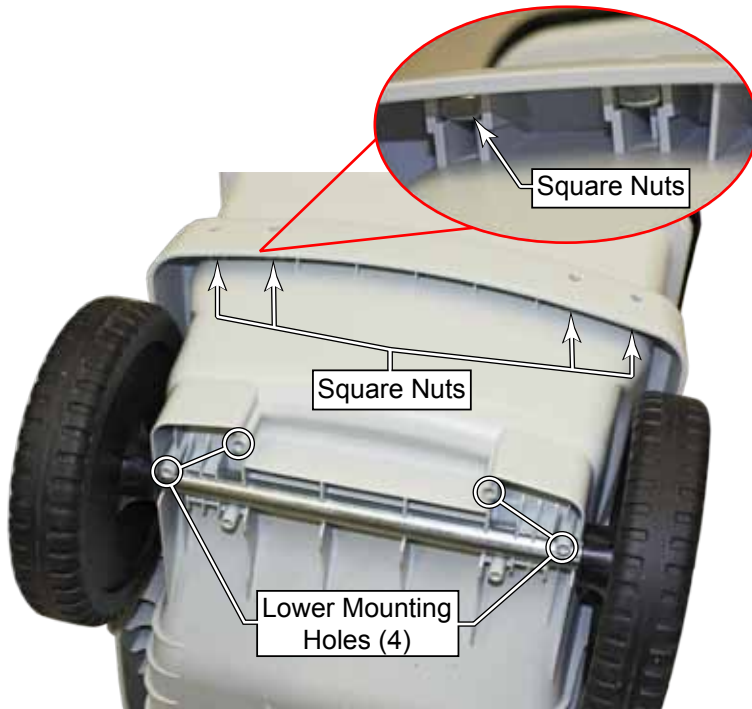


8. Place the upper support bracket over the handle brackets.
9. Tighten the 3 screws on the lower support bracket, and 4 screws on the upper support bracket.
10. Install the cord brackets to the upper support bracket using the original 2 screws and square nuts.

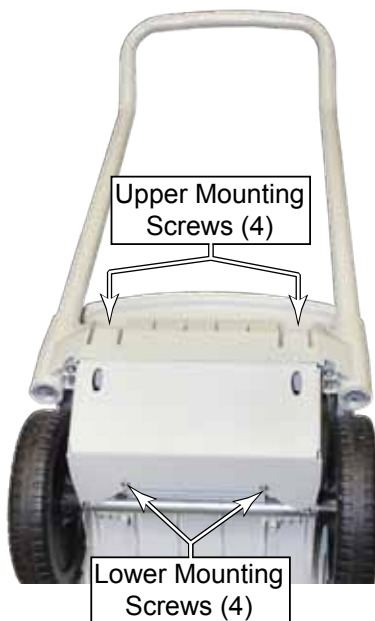


## CT-26/36 Handle Installation

1. Remove the motor housing from the collection canister.
2. Carefully tilt the collection canister forward so it is resting on its front face. Prop it up so it doesn't tip over while you are working.
3. Slide the 4 square retaining nuts into the pockets under the flange that is just above the rear wheels of the canister.

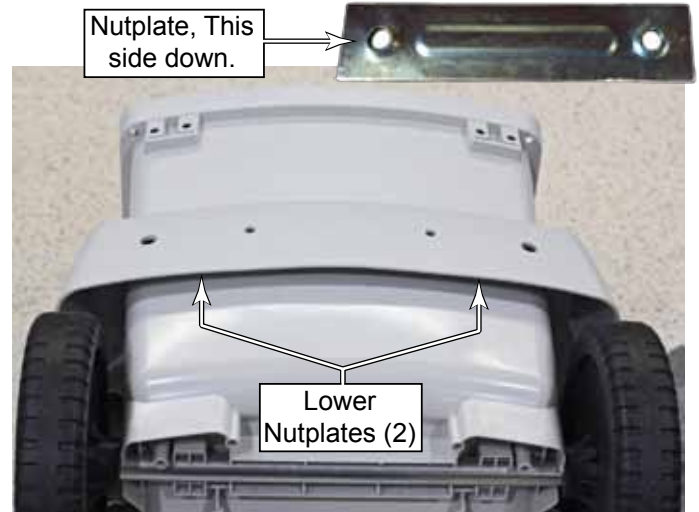


4. Using the 4, M6 x 30mm machine screws, secure the upper bracket to the square nuts inserted into the canister's flange.
5. Using the 4 self-tapping screws, secure the lower bracket to the underside of the collection canister.



## CT-48 Handle Installation

1. Remove the motor housing from the collection canister.
2. Carefully tilt the collection canister forward so it is resting on its front face. Prop it up so it doesn't tip over while you are working.
3. Slide the two nutplates under the lower flange of the collection canister so they line up with the screw holes in the flange. The ridge on the nutplate should face down, toward the inside of the collection canister.



4. Slide the 4 square retaining nuts into the pockets above the upper flange that is just below the motor housing.



5. Install the handle using 4 screws into the nutplates and 4 screws into the square nuts.





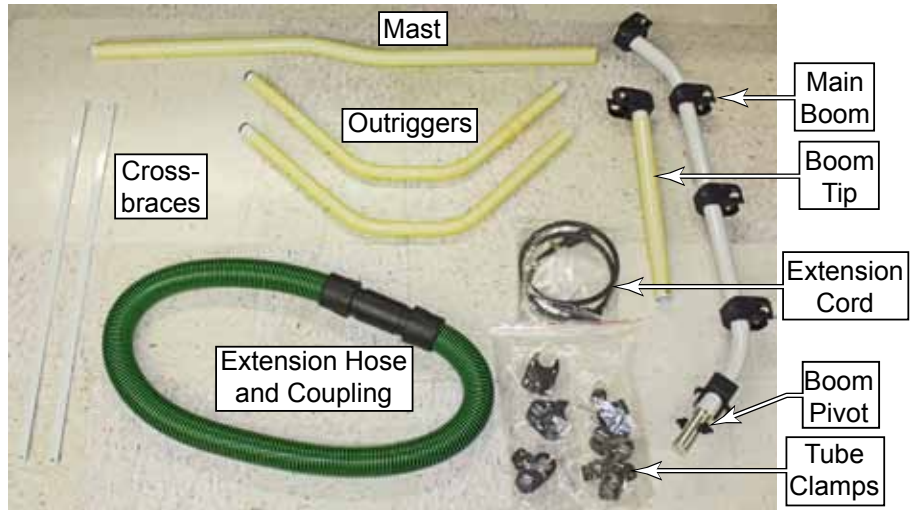
## Boom Arm

The optional boom arm may be installed on any CT-series vacuum except for the CT-Mini and CT-Midi. The boom arm is an overhead carrier for the vacuum hose and power cord for your power tool to keep them above your working area. The boom arm may be installed facing toward the front of the vacuum or toward the rear of the vacuum, depending on your preferences and work area setup. (Refer to "[Changing Forward/Rearward Direction](#)" on page 19.)

The boom arm is universal and fits all of the applicable CT-series vacuums. However, a prerequisite to installing the boom arm is that the optional transport handle is installed on the vacuum, and the handles will vary for different vacuum models. (Refer to "[Transport Handle](#)" on page 13 for the procedure to install the handle on your specific vacuum model.)

The boom arm may be ordered separately or as a complete kit specific to the vacuum model. Kits are specific to the vacuum model, and include the transport handle and any other components necessary to install the boom arm.

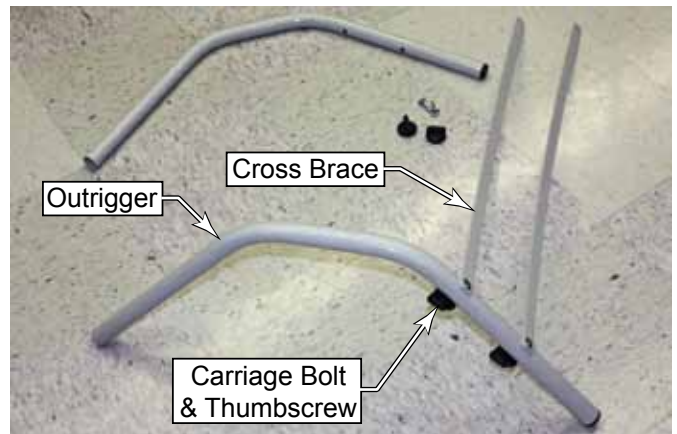
1. Unpack the boom arm components. Remove and discard the protective web/netting from the tubes.
2. Install the [Transport Handle](#) for your specific model CT-series vacuum as described on [page 13](#).
3. For CT-26/36/48 models, remove the "[Power Cord Bracket \(Reel\)](#)" on page 12 and replace it with the boom arm support bracket shown below. (The power cord reel interferes with the position of the mast.)



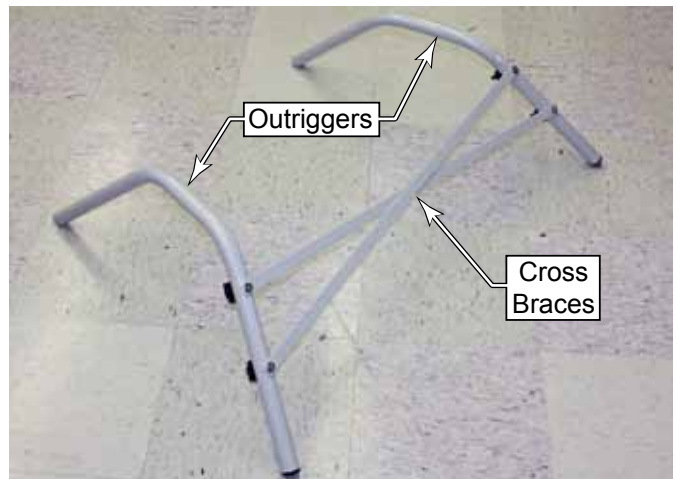
### Assembling the Outriggers

The outriggers stabilize the vacuum to prevent it from tipping from the weight of the boom arm. They should be installed in the same direction (forward or rearward) that your boom arm will face.

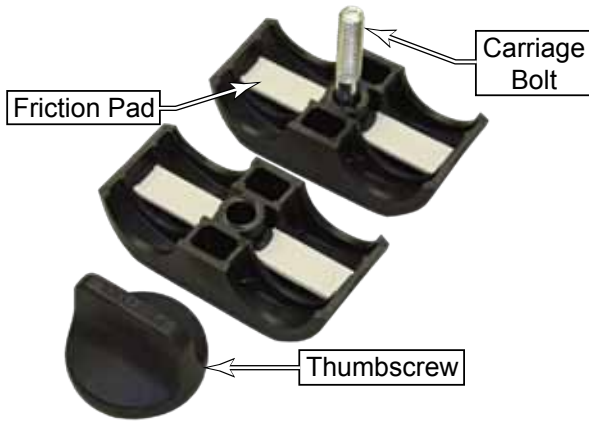
1. Assemble two cross braces to one of the outrigger tubes using 2 carriage bolts and thumbscrews. Insert the carriage bolt through the cross brace so the square shank of the bolt fits in the square hole in the cross brace. Leave the thumbscrews slightly loose.



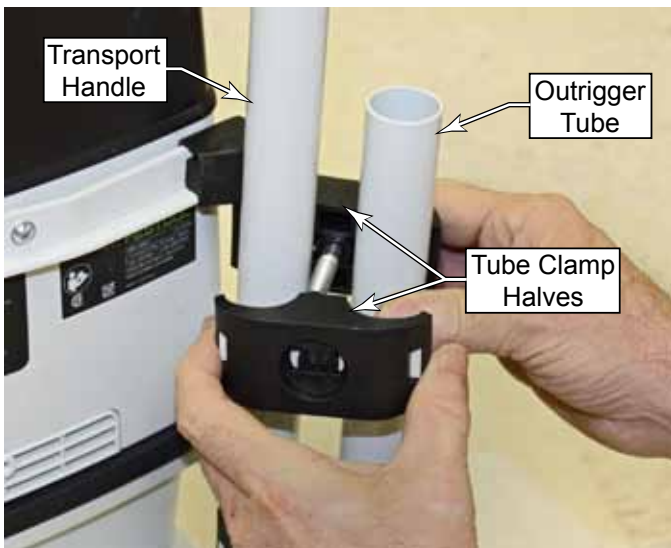
2. Cross the cross braces, and assemble them to the other outrigger tube using the remaining carriage bolts and thumbscrews.



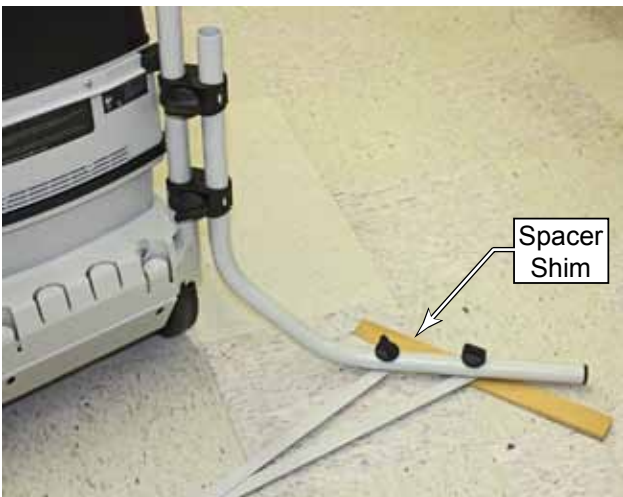
3. Inspect the 4 tube clamps to make sure each one has 4 friction pads as shown. (The kit may contain extra pads.)



4. Position the outrigger assembly adjacent to the transport handle, with the cross braces under the vacuum for a forward facing boom arm, or behind the vacuum for a rearward facing boom arm, as shown to the right.
5. Place the two halves of each tube clamp around the transport handle and outrigger tube, and loosely secure them with a carriage bolt and thumbscrew.



6. Before tightening the tube clamps, place a small spacer shim under the carriage bolt heads to space them slightly off the floor.



7. Slide the tube clamps as far to the top and bottom as they can move, and tighten the thumbscrews.
8. Tighten the thumbscrews on the cross braces that were left loose earlier.
9. Verify that the vacuum rolls freely with the outriggers almost touching the floor, but not scraping the floor.

#### Forward Facing Boom Arm

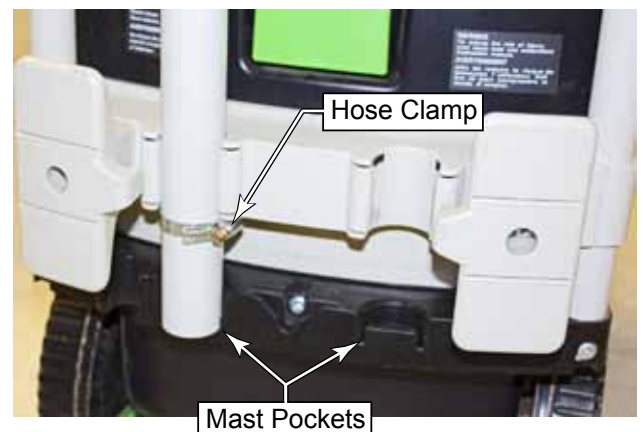


#### Rearward Facing Boom Arm



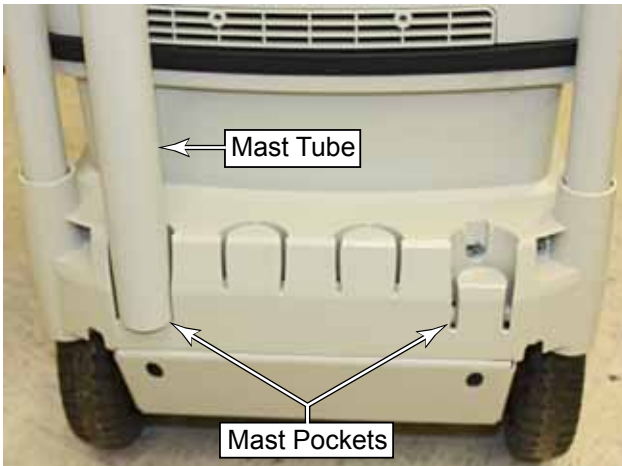
#### Assembling the Mast

1. For a CT-22/33/44/55:
  - a. Slide the included hose clamp over the bottom of the mast tube.
  - b. Insert the mast into either the right or left mast pocket of the lower support bracket.
  - c. Raise the hose clamp to the bottom of the upper support bracket and tighten the clamp. This prevents the mast from lifting out of the mast pocket.

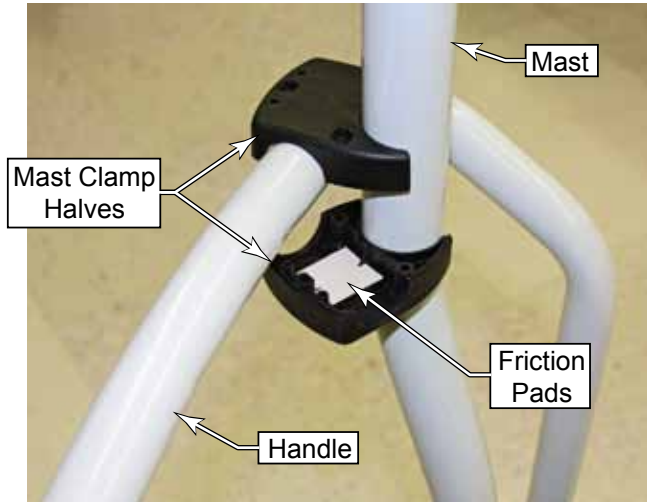




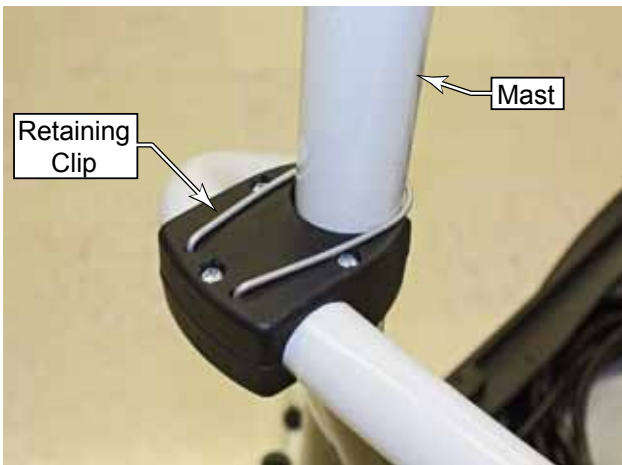
- For all other models, insert the mast into either the right or left mast pocket of the lower support bracket. (The hose clamp is not used.)



- Separate the two halves of the mast clamp. Make sure the two friction pads are in place, as shown.
- Snap the clamp halves around the mast tube and position them around the handle so that the mast stands vertical.

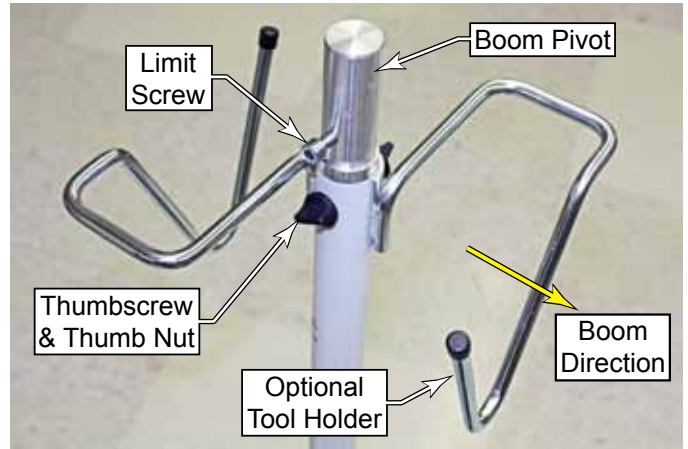


- Reassemble the mast clamp halves using the 3 screws and square nuts.
- Place the retaining clip around the mast tube and insert the two ends into the holes in the top of the mast clamp.

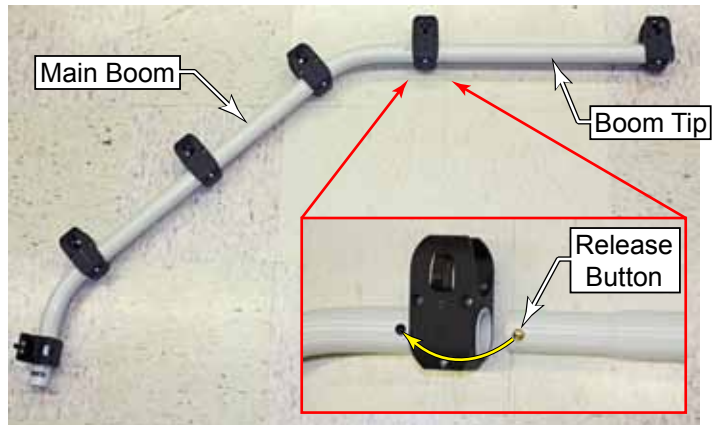


## Assembling the Boom

- Insert the boom pivot into the top of the mast and secure it with the thumbscrew, washer, and thumb nut.
  - The limit screw should point to the right for a forward facing boom, or point to the left for a rearward facing boom. (Do not install the limit screw yet.)
  - If the optional tool holder is used, install it at this time.



- Press in on the release button, and insert the boom tip into the main boom until the release button snaps into the hole in the main boom.

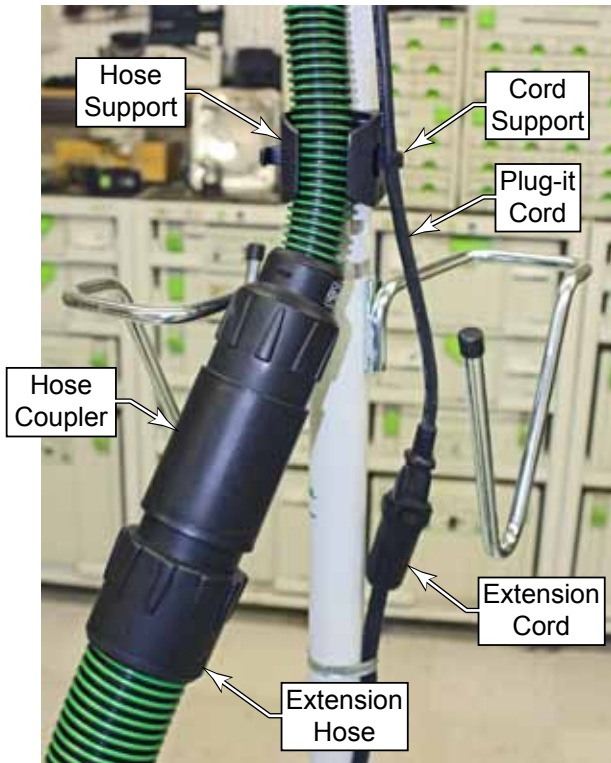


- Slide the boom onto the boom pivot and secure it with the limit screw. Note that the limit screw doesn't tighten against the boom even when fully inserted.



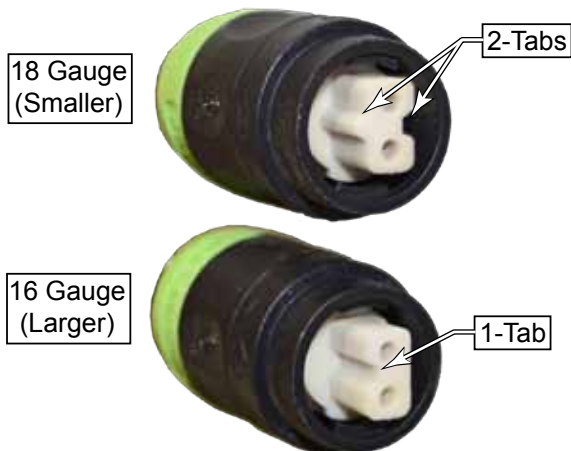
## Hose and Cord Routing

1. Route your existing vacuum hose through the hose supports of the boom arm.
  - ▶ The hose supports will accept either 27 or 36 mm hoses.
  - ▶ Squeeze the hose to fit it between the jaws of the hose support.
  - ▶ For maximum vacuum hose reach, route the end of the hose beginning just below the first hose support, as shown.

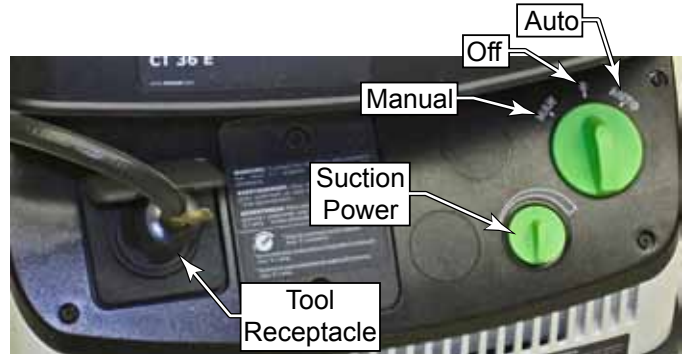


Smaller tools, such as sanders, come with 18 gauge Plug-it power cords. Larger tools, such as saws and routers, come with 16 gauge Plug-it power cords. If you have both sizes of tools, it is recommended that you use a 16 gauge cord in your boom arm because it is universal and will fit both large and small tools. These are identified by the single tab on the Plug-it connector.

2. Route your existing Plug-it power cord through each of the cord supports on the boom arm. For maximum reach of the cord, begin routing just below the first cord support.



3. Connect the 50mm extension hose from the vacuum inlet to the boom arm hose.
4. Connect the electrical extension cord from the tool receptacle on the vacuum to the Plug-it cord on the boom arm.
5. Set the vacuum power switch to "Auto" mode.



6. For a neater installation, you may choose to secure the extension hose and cord to the boom arm or transport handle using cable ties (not provided).





## Changing Forward/Rearward Direction

Sometimes you may prefer to have the boom arm facing forward, such as when the vacuum is parked under a work table. Other times you may wish to have it facing rearward for maximum reach. Changing directions requires reversing the outriggers and rotating the boom pivot limit stop.

1. Remove the cross braces from one of the outriggers.
2. Rotate the outriggers and cross braces to the appropriate direction, as shown below, and reconnect the cross braces.

**Forward Facing Boom Arm**



**Rearward Facing Boom Arm**



3. Remove the thumbscrew, washer, and thumb nut from the boom pivot.
4. Rotate the boom pivot 180°, and reinstall the thumbscrew, washer, and thumb nut.



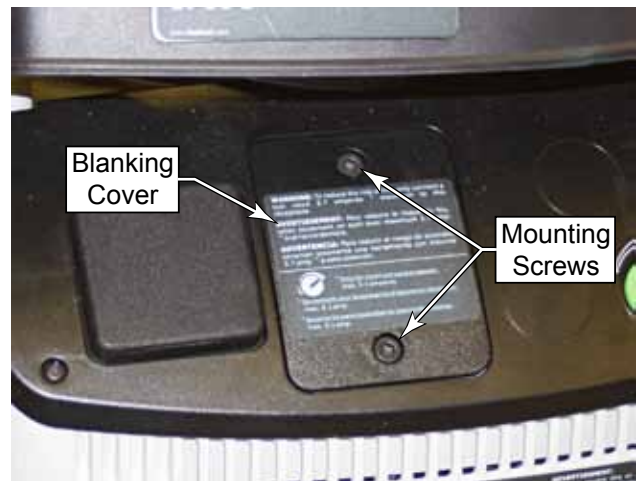
## Pneumatic Control Module

When used with pneumatic tools, such as the LEX sanders, the vacuum can be controlled to start and stop when the tool starts and stops. The optional compressed air module mounts in the auxiliary panel of the vacuum, and detects airflow through the module to trigger the operation of the vacuum. The inlet connector on the module connects to your existing compressor, and the outlet connects to the tool.

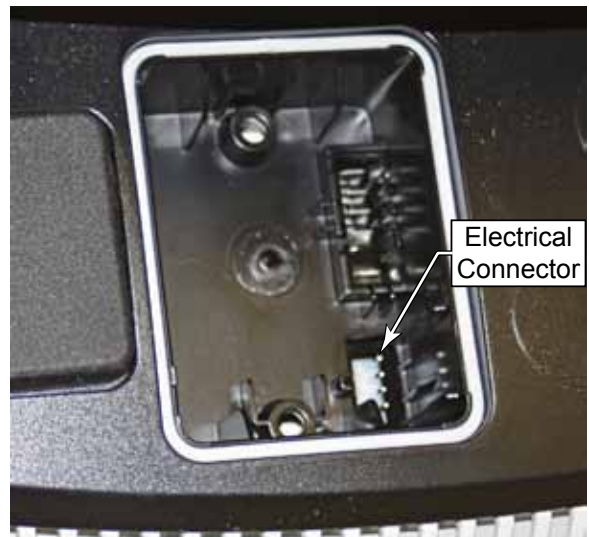


**CAUTION:** Risk of electric shock. Unplug the vacuum from electrical power before completing this procedure.

1. Unplug the vacuum for safety.
2. Using an M5 hex key, remove the two mounting screws that secure the module blanking cover to the vacuum's control panel, and remove the cover.



3. Insert the compressed air module into the auxiliary panel, making sure the moulded connector on the back of the module aligns with the electrical connector inside the panel.
4. Secure the module using the original mounting screws.





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