

Scarring the highly polished piston may damage the piston seals and possibly ruin the piston. Install the plate, which will take the cable, ends and the safety plate on the threaded end of the piston, using the big locking nut provided.

Measure the cable lengths and install them appropriately. It is suggested you install the threaded end into the plate at the top of each column first with a lock nut. Then feed the cable around the respective pulleys and fit the swaged fitting at the other end of the cable into the retaining plate on the piston head. Adjust the lock nuts at the top of each column until all slack is taken out of the cable. This step will need to be repeated after you have run the lift up and down a few times and the cable has conformed to the pulleys. The adjusting nuts should be set so that the safety lock at each column trips together on its stop [so it is at the same height on each column at the same time].

Install the through rods and lock the center connector so the ends of two rods are in the correct radial position relative to each other. Install the heim-jointed link rods from the through rod plates out to the locks.

Bolt the electric motor/hydraulic pump/oil reservoir unit onto its mounting plate on one of the columns. It is very important you put the column with this mounting plate in the correct location you want before beginning lift assembly. Otherwise you will have to take the lift apart and start over, which significantly increases the time and amount of free beer and free food required for lift assembly!

Install the various hydraulic fittings and lines per the installation instructions. Make sure the lines do not contact the cylinder/piston and are clear of the lift runway nearest the motor/pump/reservoir.

Purchase a five gallon plastic pail of hydraulic fluid from your local auto parts store. The correct fluid goes by several different names and specifications. It is basically a heavy 10-weight oil, with additives to control foaming, provide protection against wear and ensure a controlled amount of piston and pump seal swell, so they do not leak. Do not use ATF [DEXTRON or equivalent]. O'Reilly's in Houston had an ISO46 fluid, a light 20W oil at a good price, \$18 plus tax for five gallons. Fill the reservoir with fluid with the piston fully extended, using a funnel. You can fill the reservoir almost to the top as oil pressure is used to retract the piston, not extend it. Pulling the cables and raising the car is done by the retracting piston.

Connect electrical power from the ceiling outlet [or other source] to the short motor cord and plug provided. Check the location on the power unit/pump assembly for both the spring-loaded button switch which controls power to the motor to raise the lift and also the lever that releases hydraulic pressure to lower the lift. Press the button switch in

and raise the lift to its top position. Then release the hydraulic pressure while turning the lock release handle [so the locks clear the lock stops on each column] and lower the lift to the ground. Repeat the lift up and down for a few cycles to ensure all air is out of the hydraulic system. While doing this, stop the lift at an intermediate point and check that the safety locks on the crossmembers at each corner of the lift are at the same relative position with respect to the safety stops on that column.

With the lift down, fit the ramps into their retaining plate on the crossmember nearest the garage door. Fit the drop-in plates at the front of each runway, which limit how far the vehicle tires can go. With another person guiding you, drive a vehicle onto the lift. Stop at a point

where the garage door will clear the vehicle. While watching the clearance between the top of the vehicle and the garage ceiling, run the lift and vehicle up as high as needed to get the other car underneath, clearing the last possible set of lock stops. Check the safety lock position at each corner relative to the three other locks to see they are at the same height relative to the lock stop on each column. On the column where the motor/pump/reservoir is located, mark the lock stop just below the safety lock so you will know next time how far to raise the lift while still clearing the garage ceiling. If you use the lift for more than one vehicle, you may want to mark the lock stop position appropriate for each.

Use the release lever to bleed off hydraulic pressure in the system, so the lift lowers to sit with the safety locks on the lock stops at each corner. Check the



safety lock position at each corner again.

You may want to clean up the 110V wiring and the hydraulic hose routing using nylon tie straps. Otherwise, the installation is complete. Enjoy your new "three car" garage!

**NOTE:** Lift manufacturers and marketers include Eagle Equipment, Back Yard Buddy, and Stinger by AXE Equipment and others.

- JOE FOSTER, South Central Region

## TECHNICAL TIPS

The July NEWSBULLETIN published a Tech Tip entitled FERRARI TOUCHUP PAINT. Several members tried to access the website mentioned to no avail. It appears that the company and the website are no longer in business. - Editor