Top-of-Pole Mount for 9 Modules (TPM9)
For Module Types C, D, E, F, G, & H
ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

step-by-step assembly and installation
A few words about the product

The TPM9 for module types C, D, E, F, G & H is designed to mount on 6 or 8 inch SCH40/80 galvanized steel pipe (installer supplied).

Pipe size and foundation requirements are based on several factors including the array surface area, maximum design wind speed, exposure category, soil type, steepest expected tilt angle, and above-ground clearance.

For foundation and pipe size recommendations on a specific installation, please contact us at:

Phone: 800-260-3792  
Email: info@plpsolar.com

About these Assembly Instructions

These instructions...

- Are intended to be used by individuals with sufficient technical skills for the task. Knowledge and use of hand tools, measuring devices and torque values is also required.

- Include various precautions in the forms of Notes, Cautions, and Warnings. These are to assist in the assembly process and/or to draw attention to the fact that certain assembly steps may be dangerous and could cause serious personal injury and/or damage to components. Following the step-by-step procedures and these precautions should minimize the risk of any personal injury or damage to components while making the installation not only safe but an efficient process.

Required Tools

- 7/16 inch wrench or socket for 1/4 inch module hardware
- 9/16 inch wrench or socket for 3/8 inch hardware
- 3/4 inch wrench or socket for 1/2 inch hardware
- 1-1/8 inch wrench or socket for 3/4 inch Pivot Bolt hardware - or - 1-1/2 inch wrench or socket for 1 inch Pivot Bolt hardware (when mounting sleeve is for 8” pipe)
- Torque wrench
- Ratchet wrench
- Ratchet extension bar
- 3 to 6 foot level
- Tape Measure
- Square
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/4&quot; x 3/4&quot; Bolt, lock &amp; flat washers (2 flat washers)</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Strongback</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Support Bar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3/8&quot; or 1/2&quot; x 1 3/4&quot; Bolt, lock &amp; flat washers (2 flat washers) *</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mounting Sleeve</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3/4&quot; or 1&quot; x 5-1/2&quot; or 6-1/2&quot; Pivot Bolt, lock &amp; flat washers (2 flat washers) **</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Module Rail</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>3/8&quot; x 1&quot; Bolt, lock &amp; flat washers (2 flat washers)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 3/8" hardware used with Mounting Sleeve for 8" pipe while 1/2" hardware used with Mounting Sleeve for 8" pipe.

** 3/4" Pivot Bolt used with Mounting Sleeve for 6" pipe while 1" Pivot Bolt used with Mounting Sleeve for 8" pipe. All 6" pipe uses a 5-1/2" long Pivot Bolt. For 8" pipe, the Pivot Bolt length depends on the width of the Strongback; as such, a 3" wide Strongback uses a 5-1/2" Pivot Bolt and a 4" wide Strongback uses a 6-1/2" Pivot Bolt.
Step 1: Install the Mounting Sleeve on Vertical Pipe

Before installing the Mounting Sleeve, verify that the Mounting Pole is plumb to the ground and hasn't shifted or leaned while the concrete footing has cured. The Mounting Sleeve slips on top of the Mounting Pole and has four 1/2” Set Bolts which are used to secure it to the Mounting Pole. (See Figure 1-1)

A. Slip the Mounting Sleeve on top of Mounting Pole and slide it down until it rests/bottoms out on top of Mounting Pole.
B. Rotate the Mounting Sleeve so the Support Bar Pivot Tab is pointing north and the Strongback Vertical Towers are leaning south.
C. Secure the Mounting Sleeve by tightening the four 1/2” Set Bolts. Torque each Set Bolt to 55-60 ft.-lbs.

Step 2: Install the Strongback to the Mounting Sleeve

The Strongback is attached to the Mounting Sleeve using the Pivot Bolt that passes through its two Vertical Towers and the Support Bar. The Support Bar is attached to the Strongback on one end and the Support Bar Pivot Tab of the Mounting Sleeve on the other end using 3/8” or 1/2” hardware.

A. Remove the Support Bar from the Strongback and re-install in the 15° elevation set point. Secure with the 3/8” or 1/2” hardware and finger tighten. (See Figure 2-1)
B. Remove the Pivot Bolt from the Mounting Sleeve and also collect the 3/8” or 1/2” x 1-3/4” bolt, flat washers and lock washer needed to secure the Support Bar to its Pivot Tab on the Mounting Sleeve. (See Figure 2-2)

C. Orient the Strongback to the Mounting Sleeve with its Lower Support Bar positioned on the same side of the Mounting Sleeve as the Support Bar Pivot Tab.

D. Slide the Strongback between the two vertical mounting tabs, aligning the thru-hole of the Strongback with the holes of the two Vertical Towers.

E. Insert the Pivot Bolt along with one flat washer through the one Vertical Tower and the Strongback exiting the second Vertical Tower on the opposite side. Secure with the remaining flat washer, lock washer and hex nut. For now, finger tighten only to allow movement for the next step.

F. Pivot the Strongback and the Support Bar to align the mounting holes of the Support Bar with its Pivot Tab on the Mounting Sleeve. Slide the Support Bar over the Pivot Tab. Insert the 3/8” or 1/2” x 1-3/4” bolt and one flat washer thru the Support Bar and Mounting Tab and secure it with the remaining flat washer, lock washer and hex nut. **Torque hardware on both ends of Support Bar at 32-34 ft.-lbs. for 3/8” hardware or 72-80 ft.-lbs. for 1/2” hardware.** (See Figure 2-3)

G. Return and tighten the Pivot Bolt. The Pivot Bolt cannot be left loose - the Mounting Sleeve Vertical Towers must be firmly clamped to the sides of the Strongback eliminating any gaps between the Vertical Towers and the Strongback. **Torque to 125-150+ ft.-lbs. for 3/4” hardware or 330-350 ft.-lbs. for 1” hardware.** (See Figure 2-4)

---

**CAUTION:**
This is a two person activity. The Strongback must be held in place by one person while the second person aligns it and secures it to the Mounting Sleeve using the Pivot Bolt and the 1” hardware. Failure to do so could lead to serious personal injury.
Step 3: Install the Module Rails to the Strongback

Module Rails run in an E-W direction and are secured to the mounting tabs of the Strongback using 3/8” x 1” bolts and hardware. There are six Rails to install. The orientation of the Module Rails to the Strongback is critical to the successful installation of the PV Modules. In Figure 3-1, the location and orientation of the Module Rails are identified using the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. Match the Rail number within Figure 3-1 to properly orient the Module Rails to the Strongback.

Start by installing the inboard sections of Module Rail first and work outward

A. Referring to Figure 3-1 for orientation of the Module Rails, position and align the Module Rail mounting holes with the holes of the Strongback mounting tabs and secure with 3/8” x 1” bolts and hardware. Finger-tighten for now. (See also Figure 3-2)
Next, install the outboard sections of Module Rail.

A. Referring to Figure 3-1 for orientation of the outboard Module Rails, position and align the Module Rail mounting holes with the holes of the Strongback mounting tabs and secure with 3/8" x 1" bolts and hardware. Finger-tighten for now. (See also Figure 3-3)
Step 4: Installing PV Modules to Module Rails

PV Modules are secured to the Module Rails using 1/4” x 3/4” bolts and hardware. Start with the southern most PV Modules and work in a northern direction. This provides a measure of safety as the previously installed southern Modules can help to hold the next in-line northern Module in place during installation.

A. Place the southern most PV Module in place on the Module Rails. Align the mounting holes and secure with 1/4” x 3/4” bolts and hardware. Each Module has four attachment points. Finger-tighten for now. (See Figure 4-1)

B. Continue in this manner to install all southern most PV Modules first and then work in a northern direction installing the remaining Modules.
Step 5: Now return and tighten mounting hardware.

A. Return and tighten each set of the 3/8” mounting hardware, securing the Module Rails to the Strongback. Torque all at 32-34 ft.-lbs.
B. Return and tighten each set of 1/4” mounting hardware, securing the PV Modules to the Module rails. Torque all at 6-8 ft.-lbs.

Step 6: Adjust the Tilt Angle of the Rack

To adjust the tilt angle, loosen the Pivot Bolt hardware and removing the Support Arm upper hardware attaching the Support Arm to the Strongback. Use great care in this procedure as it can be dangerous if the procedure is not completed as described with a minimum of two people. (See Figure 6-1)

A. While one person holds the south edge of rack, the other loosens the Pivot Bolt and removes the upper 3/8” or 1/2” hardware attaching the Support Bar to the Strongback.

B. Tilt the rack to the desired elevation angle (15°, 25°, 35°, 45°, 55°, or 65°) and re-attach the Support Bar to the Strongback placing the 3/8” or 1/2” hardware in the appropriate hole matching the desired elevation. Torque at 32-34 ft.-lbs. for 3/8” hardware or 72-80 ft.-lbs. for 1/2” hardware. (See Figure 6-2)
C. Re-tighten the Pivot Bolt. After changing the tilt angle and tightening the Support Bar hardware, the Pivot Bolt must be re-tightened. The Pivot Bolt cannot be left loose - the Mounting Sleeve Vertical Towers must be firmly clamped to the sides of the Strongback eliminating any gaps between the Vertical Towers and the Strongback. **Torque to 125-150+ ft.-lbs. for 3/4” hardware or 330-350 ft.-lbs. for 1” hardware.** (See Figure 6-3)

![Figure 6-3: Tighten and Torque the Pivot Bolt](Image)