



## Cobra Jet Steering Installation Instructions

### *Mercury Optimax Jet Drives*

The Mercury steering consists of two fins attached to a curved base plate. The base plate has eight holes to accommodate mounting the steering on the steering nozzle.

*NOTE: Place the shift levers in the forward position this will move the reverse gates up and out of the way to give access to the steering nozzles.*

1. Find dead center on the bottom of your nozzle and mark it with a pencil.
2. Find dead center between the two fins and mark that on the base plate.
3. Clamp the base plate to the nozzle using a Vice-Grip. The rear of the base plate should be mounted as close to the rear exit of the nozzle as possible, with the two center marks aligned.

*NOTE: The base plate will flex to fit the nozzle as it is attached so it is important to do the four screws in the center first. Do not pre drill any holes.*

4. Attach screws one at a time going from side to side.
5. Once the four screws are in place and tight, move the vice grip to the outer edge of the base plate on either side and attach the two screws. There are two methods of attaching the screws:
  - a. Drill 3/16" holes in the nozzle and place the screw in from the inside of the nozzle attaching a nut and washer to the outside of the base plate and tightening the nut while securing the screw with an Allen wrench.
  - b. Drill a 5/32" pilot hole and tap the hole with a standard 10/32" tap, insert the screw from the outside using locktight and trim any excess screw from the interior of the nozzle using a small grinding wheel on a drill or similar device

to trim the screw end. This method provides a nicer look but does require a little more time and some extra tools.

***IMPORTANT: Never over tighten the screws! They will snap off if excess pressure is applied when tightening the nut using the first installation method.***

6. Then repeat this on the opposite side.

*NOTE: In some cases the base plate may have tweaked from welding the fins and may not always be perfectly even with the rear of the nozzle, however as long as the fins are evenly spaced from dead center, the base plate is not an issue.*

7. Be sure to place the reverse hood in the down position and turn the nozzle from full right to full left and insure that it does not bind up with the fins in any place prior to operation. Slight contact may occur and will not cause a problem. When the engine is pumping water the reverse hood is usually pushed back a small amount holding it in a slightly different position than when the engine is off. Should contact occur you might need to readjust the throw on your reverse hood.

Prior to drilling any holes in the installation process, feel free to e-mail me with any questions, [Jeff@cobrajetssteering.com](mailto:Jeff@cobrajetssteering.com).

